



### Sibling celebration

The Mass was still celebrated in Latin when last Mary Breslin saw her brothers and sister. On July 13, the Breslin family will reassemble for the first time in more than 50 years. Page 3.



### Summer break

As required by our second-class postal permit, the Courier-Journal will not publish an issue next Thursday, July 7. The next issue of the Courier-Journal will be published on Thursday, July 14.

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## Bishops decide to write second AIDS statement

By Jerry Filteau

Collegeville, Minn. (NC) — The U.S. bishops decided June 27 to form a committee to issue a new AIDS statement, building on the current statement by their Administrative Board and in dialogue with the Vatican.

The decision to issue a new AIDS statement came during a closed-door executive session, much of which was devoted to discussion of the Church's approach to the disease and controversy that has swirled around the board statement since it was issued December 11.

Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago made the motion to form a new committee.

A copy of his motion, released by the

bishops' press office, called for Archbishop John L. May, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, "to appoint an ad hoc committee to prepare a new, updated statement on the AIDS crisis which will respond to the new facts, fears and efforts which have emerged in recent months."

"The committee," the motion continued, "will have the benefit of the extant board statement on AIDS ('The Many Faces of AIDS — A Gospel Response'), the discussions which have taken place since its publication, dialogue with the (Vatican) Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and participation by all the bishops in open,

plenary session."

At a press conference as the bishops' meeting was drawing to a close, Cardinal Bernardin and Archbishop May said the new statement to be worked out by the whole body of bishops does not negate or replace the controversial board statement of last December.

"The statement of the board remains in place as a statement of the board ... It's an obvious indication of the trust of the bishops that they are happy to leave it that way," Archbishop May said.

He said he had not yet appointed a committee to draft the follow-up statement, but said it would almost certainly include one

or more of the members of the task force that drafted the earlier statement adopted by the Administrative Board.

He said he expects the committee to be formed and begin working soon, but he did not think any document would be ready by the next time the bishops meet in November.

Although a few bishops in the early stages of the controversy had called for retraction of the board statement, during the executive session there was no motion raised to that effect and the idea of a withdrawal or retraction was not even discussed, Cardinal Bernardin said.

Earlier in the day journalists learned of a letter to the bishops from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, warning about worldwide confusion over Church teaching caused by divisions among the U.S. bishops over the December AIDS statement. The letter urged the bishops to unite clearly and publicly in their position on AIDS, and asked them to consult with the Holy See in the future before issuing such statements of international significance.

Asked if Cardinal Ratzinger's letter had any impact on his motion or the bishops' actions, Cardinal Bernardin said he had made an "almost identical" motion to the Administrative Board back in March, two months before the Ratzinger letter. The bishops on the Administrative Board supported the idea at that time but decided to wait until June and let the whole body of bishops decide on it, he said.

When asked if the theology of the AIDS statement and that expressed in Cardinal Ratzinger's letter were consistent or if there was disagreement, Cardinal Bernardin said that "the letter expresses concern about the document" but "dialogue is needed to see whether that concern is about the content or about the way it was articulated."

The concerns of the Holy See and the U.S. bishops "are the same," he said.

In other matters, the bishops criticized "Star Wars," as the Strategic Defense Initiative is popularly known, through overwhelming approval of a report assessing the state of nuclear deterrence five years after the bishops' 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace.

The report praised improved U.S.-Soviet relations and the recently signed treaty to eliminate all U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range weapons within three years. At the same time, the report criticized some missile-development policies since 1983, and maintained the 1983 pastoral's stance that the bishops could give only a "strictly conditioned moral acceptance" to nuclear deterrence.

The report further said that the costs, risks and technological difficulties of SDI are such



Amber St. Denis, 7, lights a votive candle at Holy Name of Mary Church in Rochester, where traditionalists still celebrate the Tridentine Mass regularly and where women are required to cover their heads in church. For parishioners' views of a possible schism, see page 5.

## Archbishop's followers hesitant to rebel against pope

By Agostino Bono

Salzburg, Austria (NC) — The head of dissident Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre's Priestly Society of St. Pius X has sent a signal to Pope John Paul II that time remains for a peaceful solution to be reached before the archbishop's promised June 30 ordination of four bishops.

The Vatican has said that the ordination will provoke a schism, or split in the Church.

The signal was sent through Auxiliary Bishop Kurt Krenn of Vienna, Austria, during the pope's June 23-27 visit to the country. Bishop Krenn told journalists June 26 in Salzburg that the pope had received the message.

Bishop Krenn said the signal was sent by Father Franz Schmidberger, leader of Archbishop Lefebvre's society, who called him after arriving in Austria just before the pope's arrival. "Father Schmidberger said that they do not want a schism and that they pray for the Holy Father every day," Bishop Krenn said.

He added that Father Schmidberger said he hoped there was still time for a peaceful solu-

tion and asked the bishop to inform the pope of the society's good will.

The bishop would not comment on the possibility of a papal meeting with Father Schmidberger or whether the situation would be resolved before June 30. The ordinations, which would take place in defiance of the pope's orders, would result in automatic excommunication for Archbishop Lefebvre and those he ordained.

The society, founded by Archbishop Lefebvre, has operated since 1975 without recognition as an official Catholic organization. The archbishop was suspended by Pope Paul VI in 1976, after he ordained priests against papal orders. The dispute centers on Archbishop Lefebvre's rejection of Vatican II teachings regarding liturgical reforms, ecumenism and religious liberty.

On June 25, the pope's top adviser said he did not think many followers of Archbishop Lefebvre would stay with him after he is excommunicated.

The archbishop's decision to ordain June 30 is "a wound in the living flesh, a break which cannot be immediately repaired," said Cardinal Agostino Cassaroli, papal secretary of state and the No. 2 Vatican official. "But I am confident that he will not have a large following and that people will realize that the pope has done all that he could," the cardinal said.

Vatican press spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls estimated that "about 20 percent will stay with" Archbishop Lefebvre, and noted that most of the archbishop's followers do not want to rebel against the pope.

The Vatican estimated that the archbishop has 100,000 lay followers.

Cardinal Edouard Gagnon, a Vatican official sent by the pope to talk with Archbishop Lefebvre and report on the activities of his movement, has estimated at 500,000 the number of people who use the services of Archbishop Lefebvre's priests.

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