

World & Nation

Prelates urge agency not to do abortions

Seattle's United Way votes to deny funding to abortion agencies

Seattle (NC) — The archbishops of Seattle, saying the local United Way is "one of the strongest pro-life activities" in the Seattle area, have asked Planned Parenthood to either drop plans to provide abortion services in King County or relinquish its United Way funding.

The decision to offer abortions "has become the source of dangerous division in our community and threatens to undermine United Way and the work it does on behalf of the needy," said a July 21 letter from Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen and Coadjutor Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy.

The letter to the board of directors of Planned Parenthood of Seattle-King County said that abortion not only violates the moral principles of Catholics but "it is increasingly an agenda for many other people of good will."

Planned Parenthood announced last December that it would begin offering abortions in King County in late 1988 or early 1989.

After public protest, including concern expressed by the Archdiocese of Seattle, the board of directors of United Way voted June 20 to formalize a policy of not funding agencies which perform abortions.

The Seattle archbishops praised United Way's decision, but noted in their letter to Planned Parenthood that "in order to give the appearance of complying with United Way's stated policy," Planned Parenthood would try to set up "separate corporations" for its family planning program and its abortion services.

If the separate corporations are recognized as such by United Way, the family planning program would be eligible for United Way funds.

"In any case," Archbishops Hunthausen and Murphy wrote, "by planning to provide abortions in one corporate form or another, Planned Parenthood has, in our view, declared itself ready to become the abortion factory of western Washington."

In addition to destroying a human life, the archbishops wrote, abortion "has a profound negative effect on the fabric of society, especially upon the mother and father who are led to make destructive decisions about a human life which they have co-conceived."

Such effects go against the purpose of United Way to assist the community in addressing "the many social concerns on which all associated with United Way can agree," they said.

The archbishops said the Catholic Church always has had a cooperative relationship with United Way and several archdiocesan social service programs have received United Way funding.



UPI/Reuter NC
MASS ON THE MOUNT — A Vatican security officer offers Pope John Paul II a hand as he leaves Mount Adamello after celebrating Mass. The pope noted that the altar was situated on the site of the war front in 1915-18, during World War I.

Pope to visit five African nations

By Greg Erlandson

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II will meet with the Marxist heads of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, travel to five southern African countries and beatify a French missionary during his 10-day trip to the region this September, the Vatican announced.

However, his travels will not include South Africa, the white-ruled state that borders all five of the countries.

Bishop Wilfred Napier, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, said last year the papal avoidance of the region's most powerful country would be "a very eloquent point against apartheid," South Africa's system of racial segregation.

According to a detailed schedule of the trip released by the Vatican Aug. 1, the pope will visit nine cities in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique.

He will meet the heads of all five countries, including President Robert G. Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique. Both are Marxists whose parties led successful rebellions against their countries' colonial rulers.

Arriving in Harare, Zimbabwe, September 10, the pope will address a meeting of the Inter-Regional Meeting of Bishops of Southern Africa, which includes the bishops of South Africa.

His three-day visit to the former English colony will include a September 12 ecumenical prayer meeting in the Anglican cathedral in Bulawayo.

Following a one-day stop in Botswana, the pope will spend two days in Lesotho, a tiny country surrounded by South Africa.

While there, he will beatify Oblate Father Joseph Gerard in the capital city of Maseru, September 15.

Born in 1831 in France, Father Gerard worked in South Africa before becoming one of the first missionaries to Lesotho. He spent 50 years there, dying in 1914.

After spending a half-day in Swaziland September 16, the pope will go to Mozambique for three days of events.

He will travel to three cities in the war-torn country, visit the sick in Maputo Central Hospital and celebrate Mass on a golf course in the northern coastal town of Beira.

Ukrainian Catholics celebrate first Mass in 40 years

By NC News Service

Thousands of Ukrainian Catholics joined in the first public Mass of their banned church in more than 41 years.

Despite reported police efforts to stop the service, 6,000 Ukrainians attended the Mass July 17 at the site of one of their holiest shrines near the village of Zarvanytsia, Ukraine, said church sources. They said the Mass was organized by Bishop Pawel Wasyluk, one of two bishops who last year publicly declared they would practice their ministry in the open as part of celebration of 1,000 years of Christianity in the Ukraine.

Bishops Wasyluk and Ivan Semedi were joined in the open declaration of faith by 119 priests, religious and laity.

Sonya Darragh of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford and St. Josaphat said sources in the Mass, first made by the report of the Mass, first made by Canadian Ukrainian Father Kenneth Olsen at a press conference in Amsterdam, Holland.

In Koenigstein, West Germany, August 1,

Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky, head of the Ukrainian Catholic worldwide, said the Ukrainian church would be represented in upcoming negotiations between the Vatican and the Soviet Union on mutual relations. But he added that initiatives to reconcile with the Russian Orthodox Church have so far gone unanswered by the Moscow Orthodox metropolitan.

The cardinal was in West Germany visiting the charitable Catholic organization aiding the Church in Need.

Father Olsen held the press briefing July 27 on his way back from Ukraine where he said he participated in the illegal service.

"It was the first public gathering since the Ukrainian Catholic Church was officially outlawed in 1946," he said.

"At one point the police interrupted the service, saying it was an illegal gathering, and told us to disperse. But when no one responded, they backed off," Father Olsen added.

Ukrainian sources are interpreting the fact

that the police did not push the issue as a sign of a "little more" tolerance of the Ukrainian church by the Soviet government. But they also say it was a sign of the Catholics' determination.

The Mass was held at the site of a spring said to have been the miraculous gift of the Virgin Mary. Tales of Marian apparitions at the site emerged around the turn of the century. The spring water is considered holy by Ukrainian Catholics.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church was declared illegal in 1946 under the regime of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. Its members were forced to join the government-approved Russian Orthodox Church, but the Ukrainian church has continued to exist clandestinely.

Ukrainian church officials in Rome, the site of the church leadership in exile, estimate 4.6 million underground members in Ukraine with 10 bishops and 1,000 priests — all secretly ordained.

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