

## World &amp; Nation

## Church leaders see new hope for Mideast peace

By Jerry Filteau  
WASHINGTON (NC) — New signs of hope and difficulty in the Middle East drew the attention in November of church leaders seeking peace in the region.

A decision by the Palestine National Council to proclaim a Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank — and in the process implicitly recognizing Israel's right to existence and security — was hailed by church leaders as a step toward eventual peace.

Lebanon, however, moved into a third month of a political crisis occasioned by Parliament's inability to elect a new president. Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah P. Sfeir of Lebanon, who has played an increasingly prominent peace-seeking role there, has been asked to nominate presidential candidates.

Pope John Paul II November 19 called for a new Italian initiative, for peace in the Middle East, saying the "conflict and division" there place "an intolerable mortgage of the future of entire peoples." The call came in a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita.

The next day at his Sunday Angelus talk in St. Peter's Square the pope urged prayers for peace and unity in Lebanon at this "particularly crucial moment in its history."

That day's issue of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, praised Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat for his "political bravery" in pushing for a Palestinian statehood resolution recognizing Israel. It called the resolution a "promising development."

The Palestine National Council, meeting in Algiers, Algeria, voted 253-46 to declare an independent state based on U.N. Resolution 242, adopted in 1967, which in part calls for "respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries."

Although the council, a kind of parliament-in-exile of Palestinian Arabs, did not explicitly recognize Israel in its action, it was the first time it had approved any measure even indicating acceptance of an Israeli state.

As part of its new program, the council also called for withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed in 1980 when it unilaterally declared an undivided Jerusalem as its capital. The council declared Jerusalem the capital of the new Palestinian state.

Israel categorically rejected the council's program.

Archbishop Renato R. Martino, papal nuncio to the United Nations, expressed guarded hopefulness about the council's actions. He said the Vatican hopes that recent "signs of good will" might lead to "the realization of hopes and also to a fresh approach to longstanding questions."

He reiterated the Holy See's support both for the right of Israel "to exist within secure, internationally recognized borders" and for the right of Palestinians to "their

homeland."

Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem, the first Palestinian to hold that position, issued a statement November 15 saying he "wished success for the new state" and "welcomed any attempts which would bring peace and bring justice to the Palestinian people."

The political stalemate in Lebanon brought a statement of "support and solidarity" for Patriarch Sfeir from Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, during the bishops' meeting in Washington.

In September, the term of President Amin Gemayel expired. Christian members of Parliament, which elects a new president, refused to accept the sole candidate which Syria and the United States had agreed on and sought to have elected.

Christians in Parliament boycotted the presidential balloting, arguing that it was unsafe for them to travel to the Parliament building in Syrian-controlled West Beirut.

## DPC

Continued from Page 1

ity, which is stewardship." People in the diocese will give when they feel a sense of direction and participation in programs, he continued, noting that "participation is the most important part."

Several other DPC members praised the con-

cept of stewardship, and asked if the diocese was doing anything to encourage it. Father Mulligan pointed out that a stewardship program already exists under the leadership of Patrick Sullivan, director of the Thanks Giving Appeal.

As discussion of the seven task force recommendations came to a close, Mancini suggested that the DPC should again focus on them in later meetings to provide input as plans for implementation are being developed.

"When I saw seven concrete recommendations, I thought this is something we know (Bishop Clark) is interested in, topics that had to do with the diocese," Mancini explained.

Mancini said that as a member of the Joint Executive Council, he had met with Bishop Clark several years ago to discuss the role of the DPC, and that the bishop had said that the pastoral council should work on what interested the bishop. "With the amount of money the diocese is talking about spending on these recommendations, it's obvious that these are things the bishop is interested in," the DPC member said.

Father Tomasso ended the discussion of the seven recommendations by noting that the Priests' Council had similarly asked "to be actively involved at a point in which their input has meaning." He added that the recommendations would be an appropriate topic for the DPC, as a consultative body, to address.

Earlier in the day, DPC members heard an update from Father Tomasso regarding the progress of the regional assemblies and parish-planning sessions. The priest reviewed some of the information he'd given to the DPC at their September 17 meeting, reporting that the program has met enthusiastic support thus far and that the four training sessions that had already taken place had been attended by 280 people — far more than expected. Parishes were asked to send five people to the training sessions, but many were sending eight to 10 people, and some as many as 12 representatives.

In addition to the eight main "training tracks" regional-assembly participants are following, Father Tomasso said a bi-lingual track for Hispanics, a track for the hearing impaired and a track for use on college campuses were being developed. Also under discussion is a track for hospital and prison chaplains.

Father Tomasso also announced that a design team was being formed to oversee the Commitment to Ministry process begun at the assemblies and the hundreds of meetings the process will involve. The first meeting of the team is scheduled for November 29. Among those invited to participate are DPC members Carolyn Schulte, Northeast Region; Edward Bell, Southeast Region; and DPC chairperson, William Spohn, Southwest Region.

The DPC also heard the executive committee decision that bingo would no longer be an agenda item for the body. Vice-chairperson Rita Goebert of the Yates/Ontario Wayne Region read a statement from the executive committee, stating that the question of parish use of bingo should be resolved by the individual parishes, not by the council.

Goebert explained that DPC members had previously asked for bingo to be put on their agenda. The DPC had discussed bingo in the past, but had come to no resolution. The executive committee decided that because of limited time for the DPC to meet and because of the complexity of the bingo issue, that the body would be wiser to spend its energies on other issues and discussions.

"To get involved in an issue that would be rather touchy with parishes is inappropriate for us in the short time that we have to meet," Goebert concluded.

## Funeral Directors

of the  
Rochester Diocese

Those who wish to have arrangements carried out in accordance with the ideals of their faith, contact the funeral directors listed below for pre-need or at-need services and counseling.

## ROCHESTER

Set your mind at ease, make FUNERAL arrangements with specialists at our home or in your home.

- NULTON
- MATTLE
- ASHTON-SMITH (716) 381-3900
- PAYNE NULTON

## ROCHESTER

## Crawford Funeral Home, Inc.

"Serving the Greater Rochester Area"  
Located at 495 N. Winton Rd.  
(Between Atlantic & Humboldt)  
(716) 482-0400

## Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc.

Edwin Sulewski  
2100 St. Paul Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14621  
(716) 342-3400

## Hedges Memorial Chapel, Inc.

Serving Rochester and it's Suburbs  
Rufus H. Hedges • Robert W. Shaver  
James A. Aiello  
770 East Main St. 454-7070

## Thomas E. Burger Funeral Home Inc.

735 East Ave., Hilton 392-7100  
Thomas E. Burger, Pres.  
"Serving St. Leo's Parish Community"

## IRONDEQUOIT

## Dreier-Giltner Funeral Home Inc.

Edward H. Dreier-Alan E. Giltner  
1717 Portland Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14617  
(716) 342-8500

## Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc.

Richard P. Harris Charles E. Davis  
570 Kings Highway S.  
(corner Titus)  
(716) 544-2041

## Arndt Funeral Home

1118 Long Pond Rd.  
(south of Maiden Lane) Parking for over 100 cars.  
Greece, N.Y. 14626  
Ronald John Arndt  
(716) 225-6350

## Vay, Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home Inc.

"Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facility"  
2692 Dewey Avenue  
Greece, N.Y. 14616  
(716) 663-5827

## GATES

## May Funeral Home

George L. May Jr., Raymond L. Welch  
2793 Culver Rd.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14622  
(716) 467-7957

## Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc.

Edwin Sulewski  
2100 St. Paul Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14621  
(716) 342-3400

## Alvah Halloran and Son, Inc. Funeral Home

H. Daniel Halloran  
2125 Chili Avenue  
(716) 247-7590

## DiPonzio Funeral Home, Inc.

(Across from St. Theodore's Church)  
219 Spencerport Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14606  
254-6672

## Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home

1270 Norton Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14621  
(716) 544-5000  
If no answer 342-9300

## Gabello Funeral Services

2309 Culver Road  
(near Norton)  
467-3210  
A.J. Gabello, Jr.

## REICHAUT MONUMENT CO.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT  
348 Crestwood Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624  
(off Buffalo Rd. near the Diocesan Pastoral Center)  
(716) 235-4490

## HART MONUMENT CO.

2301 Dewey Avenue  
Opposite Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

Since 1856

865-6746