

# Cuomo prepares for fight on death-penalty override

By Ed Wilkinson  
NC News

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — New York Gov. Mario Cuomo March 20 vetoed a death penalty bill passed by the state Legislature and said later he believed his position on capital punishment was the same as that held by Pope John Paul II and the U.S. bishops.

In a March 21 telephone interview with *The Tablet*, newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn, Cuomo, a Catholic, said the pope's and the bishops' opposition to capital punishment deserved "particular respect from all Catholics without binding the consciences of all Catholics."

The bill went back to the state Senate and Assembly, where its supporters claimed to be within one Assembly vote of overriding Cuomo's veto. The last year the death penalty was in effect in New York was 1976.

Cuomo told *The Tablet* that a vote for the death penalty would be wrong.

"It's a return to primitive instincts," Cuomo said. "We had the death penalty at the time of the caveman — if you wanted to deter somebody, you bludgeoned him to death with your stump of a tree."

If the death penalty were returned to New York, Cuomo said, he would look at individual cases and then decide whether to commute the sentence.

"That does not mean that the governor ought to use the commutation power in advance in a blanket way to repeal the will of the people," he said. "I think you would have to decide ad hoc and in every individual use. That, therefore, allows for the morality, if you will, of a possible execution."

Some of Cuomo's critics have said he should follow public opinion in such controversial issues as abortion and the death penalty. Cuomo, who has differed with the bishops on abortion and public policy, said he does not have much control over abortion issues.

"I can pull the switch on the electric chair, but I cannot stop abortion by my veto of a bill because abortion is a constitutional right," he said.

The day of the veto, Cuomo and Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., addressed the death penalty issue at the College of St. Rose in Albany, operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Cuomo denied that statistics prove capital punishment deters crime. The New York bishops' conference has issued a statement showing that murder rates in Florida and Texas actually rose after reintroduction of the death penalty.

1989 is the sixth consecutive year Cuomo has vetoed the death penalty. The veto was accompanied by his longstanding alternative proposal to create a prison sentence of life without any chance for parole — a measure legislators have refused to pass, saying they fear the death penalty would never be re-enacted if such a life sentence existed.

Cuomo said he felt "personally violated" by the rise in violent crime and by illegal drug use across the state, but added that he believed capital punishment amounted to revenge.

"Where will it end?" he asked. "You kill my son, I kill yours? You rape my daughter, I rape yours? You mutilate my body, I'll mutilate yours?"



Chito Sangalang (left) and Mario Castro are nailed to crosses in a literal re-enactment of Christ's crucifixion. The re-enactment is an annual service in their Philippine village north of Manila.

## Canonist says oath will change pastoral tone

By Jerry Filteau  
NC News

WASHINGTON — The daily pastoral practice of priests regarding birth control and other difficult areas could be affected by the new profession of faith and oath of fidelity issued by the Vatican, said Monsignor Frederick McManus, a U.S. canon law expert.

While most initial attention has focused on the likely impact of the new profession and oath on the Catholic academic world, Monsignor McManus said one area in which the documents may "hit people hardest" is their possible impact on pastors. Pastors are to take the profession and oath each time they are assigned a parish.

Monsignor McManus, a professor of canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, commented on the new Vatican documents in a telephone

interview March 22.

If pastors interpret the oath and expanded profession of faith strictly, it may affect their approach to pastoral counseling and confession, Monsignor McManus said — especially "to put it bluntly, in the area of *Humanae Vitae*," the papal encyclical that says all forms of artificial contraception are intrinsically wrong.

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published the new oath of fidelity and profession of faith in the Feb. 25 issue of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper.

The new profession of faith consists of the traditional recitation of the Nicene Creed plus three new paragraphs which express adherence to everything taught by the church.

**Bite The Large**  
ONE

**MR. SHOE'S PIZZA**  
THE SERIOUS PIZZA PEOPLE

---

**LARGE COMBO • FREE DELIVERY**

Large Pizza with Cheese and Pepperoni  
Large Order of Wings — 16 Pieces  
One Liter of Coke (No Substitutions)

All For **\$12.99** c.c. tax

---

**MEDIUM COMBO • FREE DELIVERY**

Medium Pizza with Cheese and Pepperoni  
Small Order of Wings (10 pcs)  
One Liter of Coke (No Substitutions)

All For **\$9.99** c.c. tax

---

**Good at all six locations:**

East Rochester 326 West Commercial St. 381-1522	Todd Mart Plaza Winton Rd. South 272-0430	Westmar Plaza Bullis & Friday Rise 247-3850	4650 Dewey Ave. New the Parkway 621-7820	Irondequoit 4384 Culver Rd. 323-1700	Rochester/Parishfield 418 Empire Blvd. Near 580 Interchange 288-6760
--	--	--	---	--	---

**COMMUNION COLLECTION**

ANNOUNCING JCPENNEY'S

Visit your nearest JCPenney children's department to see one of the area's most complete lines of Communion apparel and accessories for boys and girls. Our selection includes an array of beautiful dresses from famous names and handsome dress-up looks for boys. Accessories to complete your Communion wardrobe are also available.

*You're looking smarter than ever at* **JCPenney**

Long Ridge Mall 225-4800    Parishfield Plaza 381-4555  
Marketplace Mall 424-1010    Culver Ridge Plaza 246-9900  
Northgate Plaza 663-3440