

Mediation effort with priest fails

By Catholic News Service

Father George A. Stallings' split with the Catholic Church appeared to be hardening further by mid-October.

A fellow black priest working since July to mediate the conflict said Oct. 11 that Father Stallings "has ignored all our communications."

In the meantime, Father Stallings celebrated a first liturgy Sept. 30 of his new Kuji Temple in Norfolk, Va., the first branch church of the Imani Temple African American Catholic Congregation, which he established in Washington last June.

In his sermon at the liturgy, Father Stallings accused southern Virginia Catholics of racism and called a local black pastor too "pre-programmed" to give black Catholics "an authentic expression of African-American faith."

The stalemate in mediation efforts was reported by Father Warren J. Savage of Holy Family Parish, Springfield, Mass., in an interview with the Springfield diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Observer*.

The caucus stepped in to try to mediate the dispute shortly after Father Stallings, a Washington archdiocesan priest, formed Imani Temple and Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington suspended him from priestly ministry for celebrating unauthorized liturgies.

Father William Lori, a spokesman for Cardinal Hickey, confirmed Oct. 12 that reconciliation negotiations seemed to have reached a stalemate. He said he did not anticipate any further actions against Father Stallings by Cardinal Hickey in the immediate future.

About 300 people attended the Sept. 30 Kuji Temple liturgy in Norfolk, which was held in the auditorium of Booker T. Washington High School.

The school is near predominantly black St. Mary's Church, where Salvatorian Father Bruce Greening was stationed as principal of the local Catholic school before he joined Father Stallings. Father Greening has been suspended from priestly ministry by his order.

At Sunday Masses in St. Mary's the previous week, parishioners prayed during the prayer of the faithful "for the restoration

of our parish, both physically and spiritually."

The pastor, Father Walter C. Barrett, read a letter from Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond emphasizing that black Catholics have an "authentic place in the Catholic community and that we will not rest until we become a community in which you find yourself at home, a church in which you are full partners."

In his sermon the following week, Father Stallings accused Bishop Sullivan of "contriving to brainwash folks" to convince them that the Catholic Church "is all of a sudden concerned about black folks and wants them to be loyal."

He said that despite the bishop's words, blacks in southern Virginia face "discrimination in the house of the Lord" and receive "stares and glares" from white Catholics when they attend church.



AP Wide World Photo
Metropolitan Yuvvenaly of the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow presided on Friday, Oct. 13, over the first service to be held in the Kremlin's Assumption Cathedral since the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Mother Teresa released from Calcutta nursing home

By Bonny Correa
Catholic News Service

CALCUTTA, India — Mother Teresa was discharged Oct. 14 from the Woodlands Nursing Home in Calcutta where she had spent 40 days being treated for treat-

ment of a heart ailment.

The Telegraph, one of the city's leading newspapers, carried a cartoon showing Mother Teresa with a flickering candle, walking with faltering steps, with the caption: "I have promises to keep and miles to

go before I sleep." Mother Teresa had entered treatment in early September complaining of chest pains. She was fitted with a temporary pacemaker a few days later to control an irregular heartbeat.

The condition was described as a worsening of the nun's chronic angina. Angina is a condition that narrows the coronary arteries, restricting the supply of blood to the heart. Severe chest pains are a symptom of the ailment.

Her doctors said Mother Teresa's ailment was compounded by her hectic work schedule and her travel to the 400 homes and other facilities, which are operated by her Missionaries of Charity order worldwide.

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