

Abortion issue claims worldwide attention

WASHINGTON (CNS) — From Belgian halls of state to the headquarters of the U.S. bishops and the telecommunications giant AT&T, abortion claimed widespread attention last week.

Belgium's king resigned — although only temporarily — in disagreement with a new abortion law, while AT&T said it was terminating its philanthropic support for Planned Parenthood, an advocate of legal abortion.

In Washington, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, through its Committee on Pro-Life Activities, revealed plans to hire public relations and polling firms for a U.S. communications campaign against abortion.

Bishops in Pennsylvania, meanwhile, issued a pastoral letter declaring that "every Catholic must recognize abortion as the killing of an unborn child and work at least to limit and, if possible, eradicate this evil."

An official of the U.S. bishops' pro-life agency also disputed a new research study that reported that abortions in the first trimester of pregnancy do not "pose a psychological hazard for most women."

King Baudouin of Belgium temporarily gave up his throne, saying his Catholic conscience would not allow him to sign a controversial law legalizing abortion approved by Parliament March 29.

After two late-night Cabinet meetings April 3, the government said it had declared the 59-year-old monarch unable to reign and the Cabinet promulgated the abortion law. But by April 5, the government had declared the king able to reign again.

The NCCB's effort in America to put additional money and clout behind the church's pro-life effort will involve Hill

and Knowlton, a public relations firm with headquarters in New York, and the Wirthlin Group, a public opinion polling company in suburban Washington.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, the bishops' pro-life committee chairman, in an April 3 interview with Catholic News Service, estimated the campaign would last three to five years and cost \$3 million-\$5 million, with the funds to be raised entirely from outside sources.

During the interview, he said the bishops as a body planned to emphasize persuasion rather than excommunication in their efforts against abortion.

"At this point, we are not devoting ourselves to the possibility of ecclesiastical sanctions," he said. "We are focusing on persuasion, on prayer, on information and very much on dialogue."

Cardinal O'Connor said in an April 5 statement announcing the NCCB campaign that the pro-life effort "requires a commitment no less intense than that which we have made over the years to the poor, the aged, the homeless, the handicapped, disadvantaged minorities, refugees and immigrants."

It would, he added, counteract groups which "have tried to convince America that the main issue in the abortion debate is the right to choose rather than, as it really is, what is being chosen."

AT&T said it has chosen to cancel its annual \$50,000 contribution to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The decision was criticized by Planned Parenthood officials but hailed by Vincentian Father John W. Gouldrick, executive director of the secretariat for the NCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"AT&T's business is telecommunication," he said.

Continued on page 18



AP/Wide World Photos
POPE MEETS ARAFAT — Pope John Paul II and PLO leader Yasser Arafat shake hands during their third meeting in eight years on Friday, April 6, at the Vatican.

Commission to probe kidnapping

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo has agreed to form a commission to investigate the November kidnapping and torture of an Ursuline nun from New Mexico.

The decision appeared to reverse previous statements by Guatemalan officials, who had called the kidnapping of Ursuline Sister Diana Ortiz a "self-disappearance." The April 7 announcement capped a one-week visit by a U.S. church delegation looking into the case.

Presidential spokesman Carlos Anleu said Cerezo invited Guatemalan Archbishop Prospero Penados del Barrio to help in the investigation. Other details, such as when the commission would begin work or who would participate, have not been completed.

Sister Ortiz, 31, has accused Guatemalan security forces of participating in her kidnapping Nov. 2, according to an affidavit. She claimed the captors sexually abused her and inflicted more than 100 cigarette burns on her body before she escaped the following day.

Sister Ortiz returned to the United States Nov. 5 and has since left for Mexico to continue religious work, said Sister Mary Mathias Ward, superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph in Maple Mount, Ky.

She also said that whether or not Sister Ortiz cooperated with the commission depended upon whether she was "emotionally, psychologically able to do that."

FUNERAL DIRECTORS OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

ROCHESTER

NULTON FUNERAL HOME
Penfield, New York 14526
(716) 381-3900

(716)
381-3900



Malcolm M. Nulton

ASHTON-SMITH FUNERAL HOME
Rochester, New York 14609
(716) 482-6260



Set your mind at ease...
Make your Funeral Arrangements
with our Funeral Specialists
381-3900

MATTLE FUNERAL HOME
Rochester, New York 14609
(716) 482-2440



James R. Gray

(716)
381-3900

WOOD FUNERAL HOME
Rochester, New York 14624
(716) 247-6360

PAYNE-NULTON FUNERAL HOME
Macedon, New York 14502
(315) 986-7781

The funeral Directors listed herein offer pre-need and at-need services and counseling in accordance with the Catholic faith.

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

This Space Available

BRIGHTON GATES

Anthony Funeral Chapel, Inc.
Scott B. Anthony • Mark K. Anthony • Kenneth H. Eck
2305 Monroe Avenue
(716) 244-0770

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

This Space Available

GREECE

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 Facilities"
2692 Dewey Avenue
1075 Long Pond Rd.
(716) 663-2100

WEBSTER

Smith, Lotze & Anthony Funeral Chapel
Scott B. Anthony • Mark K. Anthony • Frank L. Klick
10 Lapham Park • Webster
(716) 265-9550

IRONDEQUOIT

Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc.
Richard P. Harris Charles E. Davis
570 Kings Highway S.
(corner Titus)
(716) 544-2041

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

McLaughlin Funeral Home Inc.
John J. McLaughlin
871 Culver Road
Rochester, NY 14609
(716) 482-1847

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

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

MONUMENTS

MARRION MONUMENTS
476 State St. (corner of Jay)
Large Indoor Display
— FREE PARKING —
(716) 546-4450

MONUMENTS

HART MONUMENT CO.
2301 Dewey Avenue
Opposite Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
Since 1856

865-6746

REICHART MONUMENT CO.
348 Crestwood Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(off Buffalo Rd. one block east of Howard)

235-4490