



AP/Wide World Photos
Pope John Paul II raises his arms in blessing over a welcoming crowd whom he thanked for their "warm hearts" as he arrived at Aguascalientes airport early on Tuesday, May 8.

San Diego bishop's condition improves with second surgery to treat brain tumor

LA JOLLA, Calif. (CNS) — Bishop Leo T. Maher of San Diego was reported in good condition May 10 after undergoing further brain surgery at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla for removal of a portion of a swollen remnant of a tumor.

Surgeons removed 80 percent of the tumor April 25, and then operated again May 9 because the remainder had swollen as a result of the first surgery, doctors said, "obstructing the flow of spinal fluid ... (and) compressing part of the brain."

Dr. Thomas Waltz, the neurosurgeon attending Bishop Maher, said in a statement that the blood supply to the tissue had been cut off in the earlier operation, changing its color and making it easier to detect during the three-hour May 9 operation.

The bishop now has movement in his left leg and arm, was awake, alert and "humor has returned," according to Dan E. Pitre, diocesan spokesman.

Fewer cancerous cells were left, making them more susceptible to radiation treatment, expected to begin in about two weeks, he said.

Bishop Maher will be 75 on July 1, when he is scheduled to retire.

Discharged from Scripps Clinic April 30, he was readmitted May 8 for tests because he had not shown improvement in the functioning of his left side. Also, he was to begin radiation therapy to treat the cancerous tumor.

Pope declares McAuley, Mercy founder, venerable

Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, was declared "venerable" April 9 by Pope John Paul II. The declaration marks the first step toward canonization, the Roman Catholic Church's official designation that a person is a saint.

The next step in the canonization process is to be declared "blessed." Before this can happen, advocates must substantiate the occurrence of a miracle as a result of prayer to McAuley.

McAuley was born Sept. 29, 1778, just north of Dublin, Ireland. When she was about 41, she inherited her foster parents' great wealth.

McAuley began her social service work in Dublin on Sept. 24, 1827, by opening a House of Mercy on Baggot Street as a hospice for women without jobs or homes.

Due to pressure from clergy and because her fortune was gradually dwindling, McAuley began to look into the possibility of establishing a religious order to give stability to her work.

After a year and three months of training, on Dec. 12, 1831, they pronounced their vows as Sisters of Mercy and returned to the Baggot Street convent. That day marked the foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin.

There are now 247 Sisters of Mercy in the Rochester diocese and 16,000 throughout the world.

Pope

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He denounced the buildup of "massive fortunes" by a privileged few while the poor are "forced into sacrifice."

The pope also visited a prison in Durango May 9 and ordained 100 priests at an outdoor Mass that evening. He asked the new priests to begin "a new era of hope for Mexico." He asked lay people to concern themselves with social issues, from "the unborn" to "those who live oppressed and marginalized."

At a Mass May 10 in Monterrey, a stronghold of Mexican industry, he sharply criticized deficiencies in Mexico's "socio-economic and political organization." He cited low pay, job uncertainty, child labor and "the lack of legal and associative structures which ... protect the rights of workers against abuses and so many forms of manipulation."

In Chalco May 7 the pope made the first of several pleas to Catholics to strengthen their faith against "the advances of sects and groups which seek to separate them from the flock of the Good Shepherd."

Later that day, visiting the port city of Veracruz where the first Catholic missionaries landed in Mexico in 1523, the pope criticized "the proselytizing activities of sects" and the "ambiguities and confusion they sow."

Fundamentalist missionaries, many

originating in and financed from the United States, have made significant inroads in converting Catholics in Mexico and throughout Latin America in recent years.

In a talk May 8, the pope urged young people to find strength in their faith to overcome a sense of "helplessness" and the alienating "powers of evil."

"If you open your eyes and look around you, you will see much darkness, pain and suffering among your Mexican brothers," he said. "Can you remain indifferent?"

The pope urged them to work for a more just, Christian society, he said, and to avoid the "artificial paradises" of drugs and escapist entertainment.

In his May 12 meeting with priests, the pope called for an end to anti-clerical laws, which deny priests the right to vote or wear clerical garb in public. But he also warned the priests to earn their people's trust by being "chaste and obedient to Christ" and beyond reproach in their concern for the poor.

Pope John Paul left Mexico the morning of May 13 and made a seven-hour stop that afternoon and evening in the Netherlands Antilles island of Curacao before returning to Rome.

In Curacao he spoke about the importance of sound family life, denounced consumerism and pornography and urged social justice and solidarity with the poor.

He said the church should sell its "superfluous" goods to help the poor.

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