



Pope John Paul II takes Nelson Mandela's hand upon his arrival at the pontiff's library for a private audience at the Vatican June 15.

Pope meets with Mandela, blesses equality struggle

By John Thavis

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II met June 15 with African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and blessed the struggle for racial equality in South Africa.

Mandela, on a major foreign tour following his release after 27 years in prison, urged the pope to support Western economic sanctions against South Africa; which the African National Congress believes should not be lifted.

The pope, while avoiding public remarks on the issue of sanctions, welcomed Mandela warmly and told him: "Thanks be to God that we can meet."

Mandela later told reporters that the pope had not asked the ANC to renounce violence in its struggle against South Africa's white minority government.

The two leaders talked privately for 25 minutes in the papal library. Afterward, the pope said he hoped Mandela's release marked a new chapter in South African affairs.

Mandela, a Methodist, addressed the pope as "our father." Addressing a respected individual with that or similar terms is common in African society.

During a photo session with the pontiff, the 71-year-old South African departed from Vatican practice and gave a brief, impromptu talk.

Mandela said he had explained to the pope the ANC's position that economic sanctions should be maintained in order to pressure South Africa's white-minority government to make further reforms. The preservation of sanctions has been a theme of Mandela's tour through Europe.

Mandela said he realized the Vatican could not have a direct role in imposing sanctions, but said, "I asked them to express themselves very clearly on this. I have asked our father to bless this in-

itiative, because we are sure that his blessing would help."

The pope's positions "on issues such as apartheid and anti-Semitism have been so clear that he has won the respect of the entire world," Mandela said.

The pope, who stood nearby, responded, "God bless your initiatives."

In a statement issued after the two leaders ended their session, the Vatican press office said the meeting "confirmed the Holy See's commitment to a peaceful political evolution in South Africa" aimed at "progressively overcoming the system of apartheid."

This evolution "should allow the establishment of a society founded on pacification and reconciliation among all the components of that nation, guaranteeing and respecting the fundamental rights of each of its citizens," the statement said.

The Vatican statement appeared to encourage further steps along the road taken by South African President Frederick W. de Klerk, who freed Mandela and lifted the ban on the ANC in February. The ANC and the government have since agreed to hold talks on the country's political future.

In his meetings with European leaders, Mandela has credited de Klerk with making a "good start," but has cautioned that the reforms will not in themselves bring about the end of apartheid, South Africa's system of forced racial segregation.

"We are still governed by a white-minority government, there is still political repression and people are still dying," Mandela told the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. The parliament later approved a non-binding resolution that economic sanctions be maintained.

Vatican press spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the issue of economic sanctions was political rather than ethical, and therefore not a subject for papal pro-

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Bishop keeps pledge, leads 700 in prayer vigil at abortion clinic

BROOKLYN N.Y. (CNS) — Saying he hoped to change the hearts of clients and employees, Brooklyn Bishop Thomas V. Daily prayed in front of a Queens abortion clinic and later refused a dialogue with its founder because "the issue is not debatable."

Making good on one of his earliest

FLOSM receives grant

GENEVA — The Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry has received a grant for approximately \$69,000 from the New York State Department of Social Service's Housing Assistance Program.

Money from the grant will also be used to cover some cost overruns on the initial construction.

The funds will be used to make a number of exterior renovations to the five homes the social ministry office built in 1987-88 for low-income residents.

Work on the renovations is expected to begin this summer and to be completed by fall.

pledges after being named to head the Brooklyn diocese, the bishop led about 700 people, including New York Auxiliary Bishop Austin B. Vaughan, in saying 15 decades of the rosary outside the Choices clinic, where 15,000 abortions are performed each year.

The June 9 prayer vigil was part of a regular Saturday morning anti-abortion action at the clinic by Helpers of God's Precious Infants, a group that offers alternatives to mothers thinking about abortion.

Merle Hoffman, founder of the clinic, who called for a dialogue with the bishop on abortion, said, "Bishop Daily has chosen to make his debut into the world of New York abortion politics by leading a prayer vigil at Choices."

Later, at a press conference, the bishop said abortion was not debatable but a simple matter of life and death.

Hoffman stood about 15 feet from the bishop during the vigil, staring at him, while three police officers stood between them.

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Monday, June 25th

RTS Summer Schedules And Extended Services Go Into Effect!

On Monday, June 25th, Regional Transit Service introduces its Summer Schedule that incorporates new time tables and extended service. Since almost every route will be affected, it's important that you pick up a new schedule for the trips you take most frequently. The time tables are available at hundreds of locations around town, including the RTS Information Center in Midtown Plaza. This summer, go with a pro... RTS!

SUMMER SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Route #14 Shopper's Shuttle**
Route #14 to Long Ridge and Irondequoit Malls
- **Extended Route #6**
Extended Route #6/St. Cecilia Service to Irondequoit Mall.
- **Route #21/22 Saturday Shopping**
Extended Route #21/22 to Wegman's in Penfield. (Two additional times on Saturday—approximately 9:10 am and 2:45 pm).

For further details, call 288-1700.

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