

Catholics urged to oppose gay-rights amendment

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (CNS) — Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy of Miami has urged Catholics of Broward County to vote against a referendum to add a gay-rights amendment to the country's Human Rights Act.

The amendment would ban job or housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In a letter sent to parishes, the archbishop said the amendment is "morally unacceptable" because it would leave parents "legally defenseless to protect their children from the influence and example of the homosexual lifestyle of teachers and counselors."

He sent the letter to all pastors of the

county's 49 Catholic churches in mid-August with instructions to read it from the pulpit at weekend Masses Sept. 1-2, just before the Sept. 4 vote on the referendum.

He described the proposed amendment as introducing "an extended and far-reaching range of rights to homosexuals in our community."

The amendment would ban discrimination against homosexuals in the employment practices of religious institutions, including Catholic schools.

Broward County's Human Rights Act already prohibits housing and job discrimination on the basis of race, religion, age, gender, disabilities or politics. The only

exemption it gives for religious organizations is permission to show preference to members of their religion.

Before Archbishop McCarthy entered the debate, the chief religious group opposed to the amendment was the Christian Coalition of Broward County, an outgrowth of the 1988 presidential campaign organization of the Rev. Pat Robertson, a conservative television evangelist.

A number of other area religious leaders, reacting to anti-homosexual literature attributed to the coalition, have spoken out in pulpits and the media in favor of the amendment. Some of them criticized Archbishop McCarthy for opposing it.

"It definitely should pass," said the Rev. Richard Cromie, pastor of Fort Lauderdale's First Presbyterian Church.

He said he has a "high regard" for Archbishop McCarthy, but "I just happen to disagree with him" on the referendum.

Leading the campaign for the amendment was United Citizens for Human Rights, a gay-rights group. Its president, Brad Buchman, called the archbishop's stand "very bigoted, intolerant."

Archbishop McCarthy said he was "deeply concerned" about the rights of homosexuals, but he said the church holds that "homosexual activity, as distinguished from homosexual orientation, is wrong."

Priest barred from archdiocese for presiding with women at Mass

By Bob Zyskowski
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A Maryknoll priest known for his social activism has been barred from ministry in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis for inviting three women to preside at the altar with him at Sunday Mass.

According to an archdiocesan spokeswoman, Father Roy Bourgeois invited three women to join him at the altar for two Masses Aug. 12 at the Church of St. Joan of Arc in Minneapolis. The women each held up the host and chalice during the consecration, spokeswoman Joan Bernet said.

After church officials learned of the incident, Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis banned the priest from exercising his ministry in the archdiocese and informed his Maryknoll superiors and the papal pro-nuncio's office in Washington of that decision.

Bernet said the archdiocese did not know beforehand that Father Bourgeois intended to invite the women to preside at the Masses with him.

"Manipulating the Eucharist is not only inappropriate, it is inexcusable," the archbishop told the *Catholic Bulletin*, archdiocesan newspaper. He called the action "a totally inappropriate vehicle" for addressing the question of women's ordination.

The ban on Father Bourgeois' ministry was a step Archbishop Roach was forced to take, Bernet said.

"The archbishop would have to take this position if it were unordained males who had been involved," she said.

Archbishop Roach said, "The issue is not an issue of women's rights. This is an issue of violation of eucharistic ministry, and the church is very clear on who it calls to celebrate the Eucharist."

He said the women clearly were not ordained, and that inviting them to preside at Mass was "totally inappropriate."

"Father Bourgeois violated a very serious theological and ecclesiological principle, that is, who may validly celebrate Eucharist. I see that as a very serious violation of church law and a very serious offense to the people at that Eucharist," the archbishop said.

Monsignor Harold Dittman, an associate pastor at St. Joan of Arc, said he didn't know before the first Mass that the women were going to preside with Father Bourgeois.



AP/Wide World Photos

DESERT SHAVE — An U.S. soldier shaves in the Saudi Arabian desert last week. The Defense Department has shipped a large quantity of supplies to Saudi Arabia to help the troops withstand the harsh desert conditions.

Pope in Africa

Continued from page 4

before creation, when "God's spirit hovered over the water."

The hopeful tone of the pope's message was matched by the joyous, festive welcome he received at the Mass site, an open field several miles outside the city.

During the Mass he confirmed 100 youths, including two who were blind and

two who were lame. As many as 200,000 people had been expected for the Mass, but fewer than 50,000 showed up. One organizer blamed the lack of public transportation.

In Mwanza, the largely non-Catholic population lined the streets for the pope's arrival. He later blessed 26 sick people in the local cathedral and told them Jesus was with them.

"He is close to you when you are lonely and afraid and when you feel that no one understands your pain," he said.

The pope's Mass ordaining priests the same day, attended by more than 100,000 people at a Dar es Salaam fairgrounds, was the liturgical highlight of his stay in the capital. The pope used the event to emphasize the importance of the family in promoting vocations, which are plentiful in Tanzania.

By the time the pope arrived, the Tanzanian Catholic Church had raised about \$1 million through sales of souvenirs and fund-raising auctions to pay for the costs of the visit.

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Wed. 6:30p.m. Hdcp.
Wed. 9:15p.m. Scratch (3 per team)
Wed. 9:15p.m. Hdcp.
Thurs. 6:30p.m. Hdcp.
Thurs. 9:15p.m. Hdcp.
Fri. 6:30p.m. Hdcp.

Fri. 9:15p.m. "B" Scratch
Sat. 5:00p.m. Singles

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