

Canon law group rejects motion for married clergy

By Jerry Pockar
Catholic News Service
CLEVELAND — The Canon Law Society of America has rejected a resolution calling for the ordination of married men, reversing a process begun by the society two years ago.

The vote came Oct. 17 during the society's annual meeting Oct. 14-18 in Cleveland. About 400 church lawyers attended.

In debate, participants at the meeting took issue not with the resolution's call for expansion of the "current permission to ordain qualified married men to the presbyterate," but with the statement of reasons and precedents which accompanied the request.

"The defeat of the resolution had nothing to do with the disposition of the group toward married priests," Father Gary Gresko, a canon lawyer who serves on the Cleveland marriage tribunal, told the *Universe Bulletin*, Cleveland's diocesan newspaper. "The reason it was not affirmed was because the group did not feel the rationale given was of sufficient academic substance."

Two years ago, the canon law society voted to establish a commission to prepare a petition favoring the ordination of married men to the priesthood. If it had been approved, the petition would have been sent to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Among those supporting the petition in debate were Monsignor Frederick McManus, a professor of canon law at The Catholic University of America, and Peter

Shannon, a former president of the society who was released from the priesthood in 1969 and is now married and the father of four.

But others argued that the petition would constitute inappropriate political pressure on the bishops and that background material on the issue had not been adequately prepared.

Father James Cuneo of Bridgeport, Conn., said the petition would label the canon law society as "a political action group" and "a challenger to the present church order."

"Our strength comes from our collective wisdom and service along with our cooperation with the bishops," he added. "This kind of pressuring will hurt our own image and detract from our ability to serve our members."

Father Thomas Green of the canon law
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AP/Wide World Photos
INJURED PRISONERS — Prisoners injured in a riot at the maximum security Tihar jail in New Delhi await transportation to a local hospital for treatment Friday, Oct. 5. At least nine prisoners were killed and about 100 injured when police opened fire on the rioting inmates.

U.S. Senate votes to cut military aid to El Salvador

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate voted Oct. 19 to slash military aid to El Salvador by 50 percent for fiscal year 1991.

In a 74-25 vote, senators approved an amendment to a foreign aid bill that would withhold \$42.5 million out of the \$85 million in military aid to El Salvador for 1991.

One stipulation of the amendment was that the aid would not be cut in half if President Bush determines the rebels are walking out of peace talks that are under way or mounting an offensive that jeopardizes the Salvadoran government.

Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez of San Salvador told reporters in El Salvador the Senate action opens up possibilities of peace in the war-torn country.

"The conditions imposed by the Senate are clearly aimed at making the negotiating process more viable," Bishop Rosa Chavez said.

Robert T. Hennemeyer, director for international justice and peace for the U.S. Catholic Conference, said the U.S. bishops support the Senate action because it urges

both the U.S.-backed Salvadoran military and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front — the rebels who have been at war with the military for more than a decade — to continue peace negotiations.

"We supported the withholding of aid in order to send the Salvadoran military a message to proceed with the peace process," Hennemeyer told Catholic News Service Oct. 22. "We believe it also gives incentive to the FMLN to pursue the peace process."

Bush has threatened to veto the legisla-
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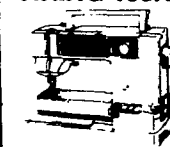


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