

Georgetown group spurs protest

By Ana M. Acosta
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A group of Georgetown University students, alumni and faculty has begun circulating a petition urging that the Jesuit-run school's designation as a Catholic institution be revoked through provisions of canon law.

The effort by the newly formed Georgetown Ignatian Society followed a February decision by the university to recognize GU Choice, an abortion-rights student group, as a student club eligible for university benefits.

The petition drive was announced April 25, three days before GU Choice spent about \$1,000 in university funds for a talk by Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League. The funds included hall rental, four security guards and a \$500 speaking fee to Michelman.

The Ignatian Society, whose goal is "to further the vision of John Carroll," the first U.S. bishop and founder of Georgetown University, was formed just four days before the petition drive was announced.

The Ignatian Society named "procurators" to collect "mandates" authorizing action on behalf of alumni, students, faculty and laity in the Archdiocese of Washington and elsewhere.

Manuel Miranda, a 1982 Georgetown graduate and legal counsel to the Ignatian Society, said the number of signatures tops 400 and may have reached the 500 mark. He said he expected the petition to be filed under the provisions of canon law sometime during May.

After the petition is filed, Cardinal

James A. Hickey of Washington will have three months to grant or deny the petition. If either side appeals the decision, the case will be referred to the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.

A similar petition was filed last year against the Jesuit-run University of San Francisco, but it was rejected by San Francisco Archbishop John R. Quinn. The case was not appealed because many of the 46 students who brought the case had graduated or transferred to other schools.

The San Francisco case arose from a change in university policy that some students said would permit recognition and funding of groups opposed to Catholic teaching. The new policy followed a 1989 dispute when the university denied a request by the Women Law Students Association to collect abortion-rights signatures on campus.

Judge: Life begins at conception

By Maura Rossi
Catholic News Service

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (CNS) — A municipal court judge April 29 convicted 15 abortion opponents of criminal trespass at a local clinic but said he accepted "as true fact" that individual human life begins at conception.

Judge Michael Noonan also suggested that the U.S. Supreme Court should "perhaps" address its 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* abortion ruling in light of new scientific findings about the start of life.

"But *Roe vs. Wade* is still the law of the land," Judge Noonan said, as he found the father of an eight-week-old fetus, Alex Loce, and 14 other defendants guilty of

criminal trespass for trying to stop Loce's fiancée from having an abortion in a local doctor's office last Sept. 8.

Loce, 28, and the other activists blocked the office's entrance after his attempt to have the New Jersey Supreme Court issue a temporary restraining order preventing the abortion was rejected. His fiancée, who was identified by an alias in court proceedings, had the abortion and the two did not marry.

Defense attorneys Patrick Mullaney and Richard Traynor said they planned to appeal Noonan's trespassing verdict in Morris County Superior Court, but the two hailed the overall decision as "exactly right" and "the only thing he could do."

A third defense attorney, Roger Daley, said he was "disappointed" that the decision was based on *Roe vs. Wade*, "a bad law that has allowed terrible human sacrifice to be committed by a generation."

Based on current knowledge about when life begins, *Roe vs. Wade* permits "legal execution of a human being," Judge Noonan said in explaining his verdict, and the defendants were guilty of trespass in the same way people would be if they tried to forcibly enter a place to stop the legal execution of a convicted murderer.

Although Loce agreed to the facts of the case as presented by town prosecutor Paul M. Bangiola, his attorneys sought to justify Loce's actions under a "legal necessity" defense, citing statutes protecting efforts to defend the lives of others.

Judge Noonan quoted from the high court's *Roe vs. Wade* ruling legalizing abortion, which said that "we need not decide the difficult question of when life begins when those trained in the disciplines of medicine, philosophy and theology" cannot. He went on to say that today there is "no disagreement" among scientists about when life begins and that if the Supreme Court had had the benefit of those facts their 1973 decision may have been different.

He said he allowed the testimony as "relevant evidence for the defense" and because "few rights are more fundamental than that of an individual to present witnesses in his own defense."



AP/Wide World Photos
BEGGING FOR FOOD — A Bangladeshi woman begs for bread delivered by helicopter to the Kutubdia island in southern Bangladesh May 3. According to locals, about 50 percent of the island's 90,000 inhabitants were killed, and only three percent of the buildings remained standing after an April 29 cyclone.

Lyke

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ing concerned," and when it was announced in January that then-Bishop Lyke was ill and had to have kidney surgery, "our concerns grew," Bishop Francis told *The Georgia Bulletin*, archdiocesan newspaper.

Archbishop Lyke underwent surgery Jan. 8 to remove his right kidney, which was found to have a tumor.

Tests after surgery disclosed that the tumor was malignant, but doctors detected no spread of cancer beyond the kidney they removed, and the archbishop did not have to undergo treatments of any kind. At the time his doctor said, "The outlook looks very good." After a few weeks of recovery, he had resumed a full schedule by

mid-February.

Archbishop Lyke's work as an auxiliary bishop in Cleveland and his campus ministry at Grambling State University in Louisiana have exemplified his leadership capability, love for the church and sensitivity to the poor, Bishop Francis remarked.

After coming into "a no-win situation" in Atlanta, the newly named archbishop "handled himself capably. I don't know if anyone could have done better than Bishop Lyke has done," he added.

Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, who ordained Archbishop Lyke as his auxiliary in 1979 when Cardinal Hickey headed the Cleveland diocese, congratulated the new archbishop in a statement April 30.

The cardinal noted that Archbishop Lyke met difficult challenges while building on the foundations laid in Atlanta by his

predecessors.

A standing ovation met the news of Archbishop Lyke's appointment in Baltimore at a workshop of the National Black Catholic Congress, according to Father Henry Gracz, Atlanta's vicar for clergy who attended the workshop.

"I'm exuberant," said Father Gracz, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Atlanta. "He is a man who has a tremendous vision of church. He has rooted himself in pastoral experience and wants to collaborate with people. When he speaks, people are impressed by his clarity, his spirituality, his wisdom and his compassion."

Archbishop Lyke will be installed as the fourth archbishop of Atlanta June 24, the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Archbishop Cacciavillan will preside at the ceremony, which will be limited in size. Archbishop Lyke has said he would invite the U.S. cardinals, the heads of dioceses where he has served, personal friends and representatives of each of the archdiocese's parishes. He said, however, that he would not include the entire body of U.S. bishops, who would traditionally be included in such a ceremony, because of limited seating capacity at Atlanta's Cathedral of Christ the King.

Tutorial program planned for Nazareth Academy

ROCHESTER — The Sisters of St. Joseph will once again offer a three-week summer tutorial program for students from July 8-July 26.

The program offering tutoring in reading, language arts and mathematics will be offered at Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave.

Early-registration will take place at Nazareth on Tuesday, May 14, from 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Students can also register during the same times on June 5 and June 24.

For information, call Sister Mary Anne Coughlin at 716/458-8583.

Encyclical

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In a May 4 talk to Italian workers and union leaders, Pope John Paul said the "fundamental principles" of labor described in Pope Leo's encyclical are still valid, but changing times require application of such principles to current situations.

Centesimus Annus was written to "rediscover" those principles, the pope said.

"If it is true that the rights of workers, stated in a very explicit and decisive manner in *Rerum Novarum* are now accepted and recognized in many national and international laws, it is unfortunately not as true that they are concretely respected everywhere," the pope said.

As examples, the pope cited workers "deprived of valid forms of social security, of the prospect of a pension and even sometimes of a just and sufficient salary."

Even worse, he said, is chronic unemployment, especially among youths, and continued exploitation of children in some countries.

Labor unions, which fought for and se-

cured many improvements for workers over the last 100 years, still have work to do, the pope said.

They must "defend workers' rights and protect their interests as persons, while fulfilling a vital cultural role," he said, quoting from *Centesimus Annus*.

Cardinal Pietro Pavan, an expert on church social teaching who taught the subject for more than 40 years, said in the new encyclical Pope John Paul "criticizes and rejects with clearness those forms of liberal capitalism which see profit as the supreme criteria of life, although he did not criticize capitalism as such."

Speaking to the Rome-based newspaper *La Repubblica*, Cardinal Pavan said the encyclical clearly teaches that "every profit is legitimate if it stays within the limits of respect for human dignity."

The pope's comparison of capitalism at its worst to communism is legitimate, the cardinal said.

"There is little difference between the capitalism which has the search for profit as its supreme motivation and communism which has the collectivization of economic resources as its principal aim," he said.

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