

Panel advises omitting holy days

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A proposal placed before the nation's bishops at their June meeting would reduce to two the number of holidays of obligation for U.S. Catholics.

The proposal, put forth by the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, would preserve as holy days of obligation only Dec. 25, Christmas Day, and Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

No such proposal could take effect until it was approved by two-thirds of the nation's bishops and confirmed by the Vatican.

The liturgy committee also submitted an alternative set of proposals in the event that the bishops reject their primary proposal. The alternatives would abolish the obligation for most holy days whenever those holy days fell on Saturday or Monday. Under the alternative, only Christmas and Ascension Thursday would remain holy days of obligation every year.

The liturgy committee adopted the proposals during a June 16-17 meeting in St. Paul, Minn.

News of the proposals was reported in the June issue of the Committee on the Liturgy Newsletter, an official publication of

the committee, which is sent to diocesan liturgical committees and many liturgists around the country.

The newsletter said the proposals were developed jointly with the bishops' Committee on Pastoral Research and Practices "in response to the results of a survey of the bishops which was conducted in early 1991."

The last time the nation's bishops voted on any changes in holy days of obligation was in 1983. After a long and lively debate in which they expressed a remarkable diversity of viewpoints, they ended up deciding to make no changes in traditional U.S. practice.

The first set of new proposals would involve four separate votes whether to:

- Remove the canonical obligation for Catholics in the United States to attend Mass on Jan. 1, the feast of Mary, Mother of God.
- Remove the Mass obligation on Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption.
- Remove the Mass obligation on Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints.
- Transfer the observance of the Ascension from Thursday to the following Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

In recent years, bishops of several U.S. dioceses have started to excuse their people

from the obligation of attending Mass on holy days falling on Saturday or Monday. A number of bishops have expressed concern about confusion among Catholics over evening Masses when Sunday and a holy day of obligation fall on successive days.

Monsignor Alan Detscher, associate director of bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy, declined to release the recent survey of bishops on holy days, saying the information would be presented to the bishops in the fall if the committee's proposals are placed on the agenda for the bishops' November meeting.

That agenda will be established by the 50-member Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which meets in September.

Although 10 holy days of obligation are listed in general church law, in practice the observance varies widely from country to country.

In Mexico, only two of the 10 are observed as days of obligation: Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. But Mexican Catholics have their own local holy day of obligation: the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Canadian Catholics have two days of obligation: Dec. 8 and Dec. 25.



AP/Wide World Photos
FOOD DONATED — Ashaninka Indian Children line up for food donated by the Peruvian army in the Ene River Valley July 22. The tribe lives in settlements under military protection because of the guerilla war waged by the Maoist Shining Path.

Hundreds arrested during 'rescues' at Wichita clinics

WICHITA, Kan. (CNS) — More than 400 people were arrested in front of three Wichita abortion clinics last week after a federal judge issued a temporary injunction against blocking entrances to the clinics.

U.S. District Judge Patrick F. Kelly held a hearing July 26 on whether to make the injunction permanent.

The clinics had closed during the week of July 15 in the wake of a national effort by Operation Rescue, an organization founded in 1987 by Randall Terry of Binghamton. But attempts to re-open the clinics July 22 led to at least 15 arrests that day and more than 400 on July 23.

Terry said the protests would continue

indefinitely despite the injunction. "Our injunction comes from God," he said.

The Rev. Joe Slovenic of Cleveland, identified by Operation Rescue spokeswoman Wendy Wright as a non-denominational Christian minister, became the first person arrested in the Wichita action as he tried to block Dr. George Tiller from entering the Women's Health Care Services clinic July 22. He was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of trespassing.

Wright said Wichita police, "in a show of force," succeeded in getting Tiller into the clinic "by throwing rescuers aside." A 65-year-old woman, whose name was not immediately available, was injured in the demonstration, she said.

Capt. Norman Williams of the Wichita Police Department told Catholic News Service that police "did not throw anyone to the side," and that the woman who was injured had lost her footing as she tried to move out of the way of police officers. She hurt her knee and was transported by emergency vehicle to a nearby hospital.

Another 14 people were arrested July 22 at the Wichita Family Planning clinic and charged with loitering, trespassing and conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor. Those arrested included the Rev. Keith Tucci, national director of Operation Rescue; and Chet Gallagher, a former Las Vegas police officer who was fired from his job for refusing to arrest abortion protesters there.

On July 23, 121 people were arrested outside Women's Health Care Services, 91 at Wichita's Women's Center and one at Wichita Family Planning. Some faced only loitering charges while others were charged with multiple offenses.

ged with multiple offenses.

By the morning of July 24, after an all-night vigil at the clinics, the total number of arrests reached 444, according to police.

Police officers on horseback were used for crowd control July 22, prompting charges by protesters of excessive force. Police spokesman Williams defended the use of horses July 22, saying that horses "are one of the most efficient means of controlling masses."

He announced July 23, however, that after a review of videotapes of the previous day's arrests the department had decided it would be best for the safety of the protesters, officers and horses not to use the animals.

Wichita was chosen as the site of Operation Rescue's first national event in the Midwest because Tiller's clinic has a reputation for allegedly performing third-trimester abortions.

Protests during the first week were peaceful, with no arrests reported. A tense situation arose July 16 when protesters blocked the entrance to a Planned Parenthood office, where they thought abortions might be taking place on a temporary basis. The situation was defused, however, when protesters were allowed to tour the building.

Terry announced July 18 that the rescue would continue after its scheduled July 21 end, not because the estimated 900 "rescuers" wanted to provoke confrontation but because they wanted to keep unborn babies from being killed.

"We are going to keep up the fight until child killing is crushed and sent back to hell, where it came from," he said.

Congratulations...

DURFEE

CHEVY-OLDS-GEO

The **Only** Dealer
in Monroe County
Certified with Chevy's
Elite "SERVICE SUPREMACY"



Award

...Specializing in saving you money by providing the Best warranty on any Chevy or Olds regardless of where it was bought; As well as fast, low price maintenance on all GM products.

AUTO TECHNICIANS WANTED:
Top \$\$\$, Benefits Paid. Interested?
Call Joe Mistretta or
Lloyd Wright at 352-3434.

DURFEE CHEVY-CHEVROLET OLDS GE0
Competing with the Biggest...
Ahead of the Best!

5035/5028 RIDGE RD. W. • Loyd Wright • Joe Mistretta •
CALL 352-3434 • Chuck Rodgers • Bob Foster •
Hours: Mon.-Fri 7:30am - 5:30pm, Thurs. till 9:00pm

Sizzler Sale

**20-60% OFF
ALL MERCHANDISE**

**SALE DATES
AUG. 2-15, 1991 ONLY**

vigen
o'shaughnessy
IRISH IMPORTS

248-8346 • 39 S. Main St., Pittsford
Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10-5

**Southview
Physical Therapy
and Sports
Rehabilitation,
P.C.**



- Prompt Scheduling
- Private Treatment Rooms
- Free Parking

Convenient Office Hours:
7:30a.m.-6:30p.m.

We've been serving the physical therapy needs of our neighbors in Monroe County since 1986. Our staff is courteous, friendly & highly trained. For information regarding treatment, call:

271-3380
880 Westfall Road, Suite D
Rochester, New York 14618