

Autopsy on prelate shows evidence of cancer

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — Cancer had recurred in Archbishop John F. Whealon of Hartford, Conn., and "significant and longstanding heart disease" predisposed him to the cardiac arrest that led to his death Aug. 2, an autopsy report said.

Archbishop Whealon, 70, who had headed the Archdiocese of Hartford since 1969, died at 9:06 a.m. Aug. 2 during a minor, six-minute surgical procedure at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

Archbishop Whealon experienced an irregular heart rate and rhythm during the procedure and doctors worked for more than an hour to resuscitate him, said Dr. Frederick L. Geary, the senior attending physician.

Dr. George Barrow, director of pathology and laboratory medicine, said that the autopsy performed Aug. 2 indicated leiomyosarcoma, a tumor which arises from smooth muscle tissue, had recurred in Archbishop Whealon, contrary to what

doctors had originally reported. The archbishop underwent surgery in 1988 for a similar tumor.

Barrow said the minor surgery, considered routine even for outpatients, was required because the tumor caused an obstruction in the right ureter — the vessel which carries urine between the right kidney and bladder. Doctors had to replace a shunt between his kidney and bladder that had been put in originally because of adhesions resulting from cancer surgery several years ago.

Archbishop Whealon had undergone a number of surgeries for recurring cancer over the past decade.

The archbishop was to have been released the morning he died.

Archbishop Whealon had been admitted to the hospital July 27 after he fainted during Mass. Doctors said the fainting was due to a combination of abdominal cramping and side effects of a cardiac medication

known as a "beta blocker," prescribed for the prelate's high blood pressure.

Doctors determined that the cramping was caused by a small bowel obstruction from adhesions resulting from previous surgery.

The funeral Mass was scheduled for Aug. 9 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston was scheduled to be the principal celebrant and Hartford Auxiliary Bishop Peter A. Rosazza was to be the homilist.

At his request, Archbishop Whealon was to be buried in a simple wooden casket at Mount St. Benedict Cemetery in Hartford.

Bishop Rosazza will administer the diocese until a successor is named. Bishop Rosazza was told of the news by telephone because he was away on a trip to Eastern Europe.

Archbishop Whealon was born Jan. 15, 1921, in Barberton, Ohio, a manufacturing town near Akron, and was one of four

children. He studied at St. Charles College in Catonsville, Md., and St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland.

He was ordained a priest in 1945 in the Diocese of Cleveland.

He was named auxiliary bishop of Cleveland in 1961 at age 40.

In 1967, he was named bishop of Erie, Pa., but after only two years he was named to head the Hartford Archdiocese and was installed in March 1969. Over the years, he proved himself to be a vocal opponent of abortion and discrimination against minorities and homosexuals and an advocate for Catholic education and the poor.

In 1988, he quit the Democratic Party because of what he called the party's "repeated stance in favor of abortion."

On the national level, he was chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pastoral Research and Practices and served as a member of a number of other committees.

Milwaukeans search for answers after grisly murders

By Laurie Hansen
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A sociology professor at Milwaukee's Marquette University said a series of macabre slayings in Milwaukee had horrified city residents and triggered a "tremendous amount of introspection."

The professor, Richard Knudten, a criminology expert at Jesuit-run Marquette, told Catholic News Service July 31 that Milwaukee residents had begun asking themselves: "Is Milwaukee society falling apart?"

The answer, in Knudten's view, is "No, it's not."

The slayings occurred, he said, "because we had living here a very mentally disturbed person able to convince others to come to his apartment."

Police found 11 mutilated bodies in the Milwaukee apartment of Jeffrey L. Dahmer on July 22. They believe he is responsible for at least 17 killings.

Milwaukee police said July 29 that



AP/Wide World Photos
Jeffrey L. Dahmer is led into Milwaukee County Circuit Court July 25 to hear the charges against him. Police suspect Dahmer of as many as 17 slayings.

Dahmer had confessed to at least 15 slayings; the 11 whose remains were found in his apartment; one slain in Bath, Ohio, near his boyhood home; two killed at his grandmother's house in the Milwaukee suburb of West Allis; and a man who was slain at an unspecified location in Chicago.

Dahmer has confessed to picking up most of his victims at bars or shopping malls, luring them to his apartment, drugging them, strangling them and then dismembering the bodies.

Knudten described Dahmer as a "very controlled individual who had the ability to identify vulnerable people and lull them into complacency. He convinced them that they were not at risk" and then brutally killed them, he said.

Although drug-related homicides have increased dramatically in recent years,

noted Knudten, Milwaukee still has a relatively low crime rate.

Three police officers have been suspended for failing to save Konerak, the youngest identified victim. The boy was seen May 27 staggering in the street — naked and bleeding. Neighbors reportedly notified police officers but Dahmer — who has been reported as telling others he is a homosexual — convinced the officers that it had been a lovers' dispute and that Konerak was of legal age.

"All the people exploited were poor people," he said. Most of them, he said, "were people of color" and some were homosexual.

All 15 known victims were male; 10 were black, two Hispanic, one Laotian and two white. Dahmer is white.

Patriarch: Participation of PLO needed for peace talks success

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME — If the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinians from East Jerusalem are excluded from the proposed Middle East peace talks, "the conflict will not come to an end," said Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem.

"Peace without justice and security for both sides is not peace," the Latin-rite patriarch said Aug. 3 in a written response to questions from Catholic News Service in Rome.

In an Aug. 4 vote, the Israeli Cabinet supported Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's conditional acceptance of U.S.-Soviet sponsored peace talks.

The Israeli conditions exclude members of — or people with close ties to — the Palestine Liberation Organization. The conditions also bar Palestinians from East Jerusalem, which was captured by Israel in the 1967 war. The Israelis also refuse to discuss the status of Jerusalem.

Patriarch Sabbah is responsible for the pastoral care of roughly 63,000 Latin-rite Catholics in Israel, the occupied West Bank, Jordan and Cyprus.

He said he believes that even with the conflicting demands and many details left to be settled, the peace conference will take place.

"But I hope that it will not be interrupted by pretexts caused by irrational and secular fears of peace," he said. "Indeed, political leaders and their peoples, on both sides, after so long a conflict, are now more accustomed to dealing with violence and in-

justice than with peace and justice."

Patriarch Sabbah said one who "wants peace must not be afraid of a peace conference where all the disputed issues will be discussed in order to reach a compromise in which justice and security for both sides will be guaranteed and respected."

"It is better to confront the enemy in a peace conference than in a situation of violence and injustice," he said.

The efforts of the United States and Soviet Union to get Middle East powers to agree to a peace conference show that "the international community's conscience has at last awakened and decided to put an end to this conflict," the patriarch said.

He said he believes President George Bush and Secretary of State James A. Baker are "sincere" in their desire to end the conflict.

"I wish them to be strong enough to succeed in what they have decided to do, to make justice and to guarantee security for both sides, Palestinians and Israelis," the patriarch said.

Patriarch Sabbah said that the PLO and Palestinians from East Jerusalem are seen as "the enemy," and if they are excluded from the peace process they will "remain enemies," making peace impossible.

"As for Jerusalem, one day the fate of Jerusalem must be discussed. Justice must prevail," he said.

"Jerusalem belongs to all the believers of the three monotheistic religions," Patriarch Sabbah said. "It will be a sign of the times when Jerusalem becomes the city where believers love each other instead of fighting each other."

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