Bishops set to discuss pastoral, pope's visit

By Jerry Filteau Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON - When the U.S. Catholic bishops meet June 18-20 at the University of Notre Dame, they will vote on a plan to raise \$4.5 million to pay for the weeklong 1993 World Day of Youth in Denver, which will feature a visit by Pope John Paul II.

A major agenda item and likely source of controversy is a half-day discussion — but no vote — on the bishops' planned pastoral letter on women's concerns.

Nine years in the making and now in its third major draft, the proposed pastoral has generated wide debate but has been unable to resolve critical issues about women's concerns that divide U.S. Catholics. Some bishops believe no pastoral should be issued.

Meeting under their organizational titles of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, the bishops are also sche-

- Devote a half-day discussion to Catholic evangelization in the United
- Vote on a new Lectionary for Mass, using the recently revised New Testament and Psalms translations of the New American Bible.
- Vote on the method of taxing dioceses to help pay for NCCB-USCC
- Decide on national norms for the designation of national shrines.
- Vote on a resolution promoting U.S. Catholic participation in World Youth Day.

Also on the agenda are reports on proselytism, national collections and plans for U.S. implementation of The Catechism of the Catholic Church, the universal catechism which the Vatican has been working on for the past several years and is expected to issue

The pending pastoral on women's concerns is tentatively slated to take up most of one session. Under current plans, it will be the bishops' last chance as a group to discuss the letter's ideas, direction and tone in a more general way before it is presented to them this fall for formal debate, amendment and vote.

Another session is tentatively set aside just for a discussion of evangelization in the United States. This has increasingly emerged in recent years as a top church priority, not only at the national level but at diocesan and parish levels as well.

The bishops plan to meet June 20 only in what they call "executive session," a closed-door meeting from which reporters and most staff are excluded. But the final press conference of the meeting is scheduled to take place late that afternoon, after the executive session is over.

The \$4.5 million proposal that the bishops will be asked to adopt to pay for World Day of Youth events next year consists of three elements: \$1 million to be raised by a special one-time tax on dioceses, amounting to about 1.78 cents per Catholic; \$1.5 million to be raised from "outside donors" such as Catholic organizations, foundations or philanthropists; and \$2 million from the NCCB-USCC undesignated fund balance, a general reserve of cash and investments that was worth \$21 million at the end of 1991.

The length of Pope John Paul II's participation in World Day of Youth activities has not been finalized, but in past observances he has taken part in events on the last two days of the

The proposed new Lectionary for Mass uses new Bible translations that

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Angolan children greet Pope John Paul II upon his June 4 arrival in Luanda. Brushing aside threats to his safety, the pope began a weeklong visit to warravaged Angola, pledging that the church will play a major role as the country moves from Marxism toward democracy.

follow the norms the bishops have established for inclusive language.

It marks one of the final steps along with a decision last fall to approve the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible for liturgical use — in a long-range process of updating U.S. Catholic lectionaries to correspond to Rome's 1981 revised edition of the Lectionary.

If the New American Bible Lectionary is approved by the bishops and by the Holy See, the stage will be set for implementing Rome's 1981 revisions with the simultaneous issuance of two revised lectionaries in English.

A month before the NCCB-USCC meeting, the use of Notre Dame as the gathering site for the nation's bishops provoked controversy.

At least two top prelates — Car-

dinals Bernard F. Law of Boston and John J. O'Connor of New York - objected strenuously to the university's decision to bestow this year's prestigious Laetare Medal on Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. The New York Democrat is noted for his innovative leadership in promoting the welfare of America's poor, but he is also anathema to pro-life forces because of his support for liberal public policies on

Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, NCCB-USCC president, said May 15 that the bishops' meeting was scheduled long before the university made the "egregious error" of honoring Moynihan. He said the meeting would go ahead as planned, but it should not be construed as approval by the bishops of Notre Dame's action.

Correction

The May 28 article "Seniors shown standing third from the left meet needs through Catholic Golden Age" and accompanying photo caption contained several

The caption unclearly identified Joseph Leary. Leary is president of the national Catholic Golden Age organization; Irene Peters — whose name accidentally was omitted from the caption - is president of Rochester's Prince of Peace Chapter of CGA. Peters is

in the photo.

The article also described Catholic Golden Age as an international organization. It is a national organization.

In the same edition, the article "Church offers taste of the past" erroneously stated that St. Fee-han's Church was sold to Geneses Country Museum. The church was donated.

The Courier regrets the errors.

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