

**Mass for slain prisoners**



**Bishop decries massacre**

Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, the archbishop of Sao Paulo, raises his arms during a memorial Mass in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Oct. 9, for the prisoners killed during a riot last week in Sao Paulo's Carandiru Prison. The archbishop condemned what he called a "deliberate massacre."

AP/Wide World Photos

**Monsignor John Ellis, church historian, dies at age 87**

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Monsignor John Tracy Ellis, one of America's leading church historians, died Oct. 16 in Washington's Providence Hospital at age 87.

He had been hospitalized for two weeks after suffering a hip injury. The cause of death was gastrointestinal bleeding from a chronic ulcer.

A funeral Mass was scheduled for Oct. 20 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington with Cardinal James A.

Hickey of Washington as the main celebrant.

In an Oct. 19 statement, Cardinal Hickey said the priest would be greatly missed by many. "I was always impressed by his love for the church he observed so keenly, by his common sense and by his uncommon wisdom."

"His knowledge was legendary, his writings were rich, he was unsurpassed as a speaker and he was an inspired teacher to generations of students," said Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "A deep love for the church

he knew so well shone brightly through his priestly life."

Born on July 30, 1905, in Seneca, Ill., Monsignor Ellis for 42 years taught church history at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

From 1964 to 1976, he taught at the Jesuit-run University of San Francisco.

He received more than 20 honorary doctorates and a papal honor known as "protonotary apostolic," which had been given to the first church historians who recorded the lives of early Christian martyrs.

He wrote more than 400 scholarly essays including "American Catholics

and the Intellectual Life," a 1955 essay credited for influencing the nation's Catholic colleges and seminaries to develop higher educational standards.

Of his nearly 20 books, the most esteemed is a two-volume biography, *The Life of James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore*.

From 1941 to 1963, he served as managing editor of the *Catholic Historical Review*.

In 1969, he was elected president of both the American Society of Church History and the American Catholic Historical Association.

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**Minnesota bishop says proposed women's letter should be dropped**

NEW ULM, Minn. (CNS) — Bishop Raymond A. Lucker of New Ulm told his people that he will ask his fellow bishops this November to drop their proposed pastoral letter on women's concerns.

The bishops are scheduled to debate and vote on the pastoral when they meet in Washington Nov. 16-19.

"In my opinion the fourth draft is worse than the previous drafts," Bishop Lucker wrote in the October is-

sue of his diocesan monthly, *Prairie Catholic*.

"The document is itself, in my opinion, an example of sexism for it recognizes sexism in society but has a hard time admitting sexism in the church," he said.

When the bishops discussed the third draft at a national meeting in June, Bishop Lucker urged them to drop the pastoral, to issue a brief statement recognizing the value of the dialogue process and to commit themselves to continued dialogue.

In his October article he said that in light of the fourth draft he will "continue to urge" that alternative approach.

He also cited a number of passages that had been dropped between the third and fourth drafts and said that he will seek to have them reinstated through the amendment process that precedes a vote on any document the bishops issue.

He reprinted the full text of the eight third-draft passages that he wants reinstated.

They included passages speaking about the importance of consultation, listening and learning; criticizing sexist attitudes bluntly; and recognizing the weaknesses and failings both of individual Catholics and of the church as an institution in dealing with women.

He cited a passage in support of establishing safe and affordable day-care centers, which, he said, "was for some inexplicable reason omitted."

He also cited a long passage on Mary as a model of discipleship and mother of the church, which he said should not have been dropped.

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