

Bishops lack consensus on women's pastoral

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops got down to the main business of their fall meeting Nov. 17 as one leading prelate proposed that their controversial pastoral letter on women's concerns be sent to their Executive Committee for further study.

Before the U.S. bishops went into executive session that afternoon, no consensus emerged on the proposal from Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, who has served as both president and general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference.

The proposed pastoral letter promised to be the centerpiece of the Nov. 16-19 meeting at Washington's Omni Shoreham Hotel of the NCCB and USCC.

But as he opened the meeting Nov. 16, the outgoing president of the twin conferences urged the bishops to look beyond their Washington meeting to challenges and problems the church faces throughout the world.

More next week

The bishops concluded their discussion of the pastoral on women's concerns Nov. 17 without taking a vote on Cardinal Bernardin's motion to remand the document to the Executive Committee. They were scheduled to resume their discussion Nov. 18. We will have coverage of any action or vote taken on the pastoral in next week's issue.

Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati said the U.S. bishops should keep in mind the enormous challenges confronted by the church in such places as Poland, Ireland and Latin America.

"The church in other parts of the world has challenges and problems, even as we do, although the challenges and problems may be different," he said.

On the meeting's second day, the

bishops elected Archbishop William H. Keeler of Baltimore to succeed Archbishop Pilarczyk, who has been NCCB-USCC president for three years and could not be re-elected. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland was elected vice president after a run-off election with Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles.

The women's pastoral and other major documents before the bishops got preliminary introductions Nov. 16 as the meeting began.

In his presentation of the proposed pastoral — first suggested in November, 1982 and now in its fourth draft — Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet, Ill., said that whatever the bishops do with the pastoral, "women need to know that we take them seriously." Bishop Imesch chairs the ad hoc writing committee for the document.

Although debate and a vote were scheduled for Nov. 18, several bishops contacted by Catholic News Service indicated that they did not expect the pastoral itself to come to a final vote. A

two-thirds vote was needed for approval.

The fourth draft version of the proposed pastoral, titled "One in Christ Jesus," decries sexism and other evils adversely affecting women. Among other evils it cites the sexual revolution, some forms of feminism and social laws and policies that try to treat men and women exactly alike.

It calls for advancing the equal rights and dignity of women in society and the role of women within the church, provided it does not go beyond the limits set by official church policy.

Major documents on two key issues of Christian discipleship — Christ's mandate to spread the Gospel and the responsibilities of Christian stewardship — also got preliminary treatment from the bishops Nov. 16.

"Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States" and "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response" were to be discussed further and voted on Nov. 18.

Catechism drafters hope for unity

By Agostino Bono
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The universal catechism's drafters are hoping the document's publication will stimulate a new unity among Catholics and spark non-Catholics to think about church teachings.

These were among the Vatican's reasons for allowing the French version to be published well before translations into other languages were ready. Initial plans called for simultaneous publication in several languages Dec. 9.

The French version was ready first because it was the original language of the document, approved by Pope John Paul II June 25. It avoided a lengthy

translation process.

But the decision to publish the French text Nov. 16 left the vast majority of the world's bishops — for whom the catechism was primarily designed — out in the cold. They were without a copy on publication day to help them field questions about the first universal catechism on Catholic teachings in more than 400 years.

The U.S. bishops were among several hierarchies asking the Vatican to hold off publication until translations were available in several languages.

At the time the French text was made public, Vatican officials said the English text was still being studied by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which must approve all translations.

TRIP TO THE INAUGURAL

BE A PART OF THIS HISTORICAL EVENT!

WASHINGTON, D.C. JANUARY 17th-21st

\$446.00 pp./dbl.

\$365.00 pp./triple



Includes: Motorcoach transportation on Blue Bird Bus Line, 4 Nights accommodation at the Marriott in Bethesda, MD, 4 Breakfasts, Dinner Cruise on the Spirit of Washington, possibility of attending one of the inaugural functions, and lots of sightseeing.

Pickups in Rochester, Canandaigua and Geneva. Seating is limited so act now. \$200.00 deposit due with reservation.

For More Information, call or write:

MILDRED MATHIS

P.O. Box 243, Geneva, New York 14456

Phone (315) 789-5612 or

Bonnie Flagg (716) 424-3470

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th

Lawrence Welk ALL-STARS Christmas Concert
MYRON FLOREN • JOANN CASTLE
★ 2 BIG SHOWS ★

featuring
Jack Imel Ken Delo Bobby Burgess Barney Liddell
Joe Feeney Arthur Duncan Henry Cueto Mary Lou Metzger
Raine English Elaine Balden

Free Parking WBBF 950 AM Free Parking
★ 2pm Matinee & 7:30 Evening Show ★
Limited Seating Available

Presented by
Carrie's Lakeside Tours & Latshaw Productions
Theater On The Ridge
(716) 477-7519
200 Ridge Road West, Rochester, NY 14652
Bldg. 28 Eastman Kodak Co.

Tickets \$27.50 ★ Reserved Seating

For Individual Tickets or Group Rates, Call:

1-800-547-8550

DePrez Travel
presents
Steamboatin

on the
Mississippi Queen
July 5, 1993
St. Louis-St. Paul
\$2350 incl. air, ppdo
if booked by December 31
(\$2750 ppdo after 1/1)
Call today for information!

DePrez Travel
Adjacent to Lochmann's Plaza
442-8900

ROCHESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Music Director Mark Elder, C.B.E.

This Year, Give Music!

THE NUTCRACKER
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
Thanksgiving Weekend
2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Friday, November 27
2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 28
2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 29
Eastman Theatre
Use your Wegmans Shoppers Club Card to save on selected performances!

GALA HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT
GRC Weekend at the Pops
8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday,
December 18-19
Eastman Theatre
Something jolly, something lively, something reflective, something to get you in the spirit...and definitely something not to miss!
GRC

GREAT GIFT IDEAS
Freedom Four:
Unbelievable savings and total flexibility. Just \$70 gets you your choice of four admissions to any regular subscription concert through May 1992! Redeem all four admissions at once, or one at a time—whatever your pleasure!
Specially-Priced Trio Mini-Series: Call our Subscription Hotline at 232-2400 for details on the wide array of economical gift series packages still available.

For tickets to individual concerts call Ticket Express at 222-5000 or TicketMaster at 232-1900, or visit Ticket Express (East Avenue at Gibbs Street) or any TicketMaster location.
For special group savings call 325-7760 • For subscription information call 232-2400