

Church faces sex claims against archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church is facing new allegations of clergy sexual misconduct and is taking new steps to curb it.

In separate incidents in March, a New Mexico archbishop and an Arizona priest were accused of sexual misconduct. Elsewhere, several dioceses announced new policies or actions to fight clerical sex abuse. And ABC television's "20/20" aired a piece on priests in love with women.

Archbishop Robert F. Sanchez of Santa Fe, N.M., issued a written statement apologizing to his people March 9. The apology came as news began to surface that CBS television's "60 Minutes" had videotaped statements from at least three young women who claimed to have had sexual relations with the archbishop in the 1970s or '80s. According to various reports, they were in their late teens at the time of the alleged incidents.

Three days later, Father Lan Sherwood, pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Chandler, Ariz., was charged with one misdemeanor and two felony counts of sexual misconduct with a minor. Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien of Phoenix immediately placed the priest on ad-

ministrative leave and offered assistance to the alleged victim, a 17-year-old Tucson boy.

In separate developments elsewhere:

- Archbishop Francis B. Schulte of New Orleans issued a comprehensive new policy March 11 for dealing with abuse of minors by clergy or other archdiocesan workers.

- Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh issued a similar policy for his diocese March 11.

- The Chicago archdiocese March 9 announced that it had set up a regional toll-free number for anyone in the archdiocese to report claims of sexual misconduct with a minor by any priest or other archdiocesan worker.

A key part of both the New Orleans and Pittsburgh policies was the establishment of an independent review board to assess any claims of clergy sexual misconduct with a minor.

Last year the Chicago archdiocese was among the pioneers in forming such a review board, and a growing number of dioceses since then have adopted the model as part of their process for handling allegations.

Archbishop Sanchez was on retreat when it became clear that news of his



AP/Wide World Photos
Three women have accused Archbishop Robert Sanchez of Albuquerque, N.M., of having had sexual relations with them.

alleged relations with several young women in the 1970s and '80s was about to become public.

Through his chancellor, Father Ron Wolf, he issued a statement saying he was sorry for the "harm or disappointment" his actions caused to anyone. He added, "I can and do ask publicly for your forgiveness, as I have of my God."

The March 14 edition of "60 Minutes" did not carry the Sanchez story, but Father Wolf told local media that he had seen the videotapes of claims by three women and been told of two others. He said the women on tape described having had "consensual" sex relations with the prelate.

Father Wolf said the archbishop had acknowledged a relationship with the women but did not tell him "the exact nature of that relationship."

Archbishop Sanchez, 58, has been archbishop of Santa Fe since 1974. He was the first U.S.-born Hispanic to become an archbishop.

No decision on his future was announced immediately, but the archbishop said he would do "what is best for our church."

Pro-life leaders condemn killing of doctor at Florida abortion clinic

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Pro-life officials throughout the country condemned the killing of a doctor at an abortion clinic protest in Pensacola, Fla., but said the incident points up the violent climate created by abortion.

The shooting of 47-year-old Dr. David Gunn, who lived in Alabama but performed abortions at clinics in three states, was believed to be the first death ever at a U.S. abortion protest.

Michael Frederick Griffin, 31, of Pensacola, surrendered to police immediately after the shooting and was ordered held without bond on murder charges March 11 by Escambia County Court Judge William J. Green.

"It makes a mockery of the pro-life ethic and the pro-life cause to say that killing can ever be right in its name," said Helen Alvaré, director of planning and information at the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

She said Griffin had no known ties to any organized pro-life group and that the man had shown by his actions that he was "not just out of line but completely in opposition" to the pro-life movement.

Supporters of legal abortion said, however, that Griffin's action was indicative of more aggressive tactics now used by those who oppose abortion.

"We deplore the intimidation, harassment, stalking, terrorism — and now murder — that has surrounded women who choose abortion and the medical professionals who serve them," said Ann Thompson Cook, executive director of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

"The religious intolerance expressed by anti-abortion protesters at clinics throughout the country has — inevitably — bred this violence, and it must stop," she added.

Wanda Franz, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said her group condemns the violence against Gunn, as well as "the violence of abortion that has killed 30 million unborn children in the last 20 years."

Gunn, who wore leg braces because of childhood polio, was shot three times in the chest as he got out of his car near the back door of the Pensacola Women's Medical Services clinic around 10 a.m. EST March 10. He died

on the operating table two hours later at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola.

About a dozen protesters organized by a local chapter of a Houston-based organization called Rescue America were picketing in front of the clinic entrance when the shooting occurred.

John Burt, a lay preacher who led the protest, said Griffin had participated in other protests at abortion clinics but had not previously shown any tendency toward violence.

Gunn, who lived in Eufaula, Ala., performed abortions at two Alabama clinics, one in Georgia and two in Florida. He is survived by his wife and

two children, ages 10 and 12.

Don Treshman, head of Rescue America in Houston, said money was being collected for Griffin, not as a legal defense fund but to support his wife and two daughters. "We know that the abortionist is well taken care of," he said. "But there is a financial strain for the assailant. We felt it was appropriate to help raise money for this crisis."

In a court appearance March 11, Griffin said he intended to act as his own attorney and asked permission to "keep my Bible as one of my legal documents."

IN OUR 'GOOD FRIDAY' WORLD,
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

War... hunger... refugees... all are everyday realities in southern Sudan. ♦ Sudanese Bishop Taban says: "We see suffering and pain... but we also



Sister, mother and child in Torit, Sudan



Bishop Paride Taban

see signs of hope." ♦

This Lent, through the Propagation of the Faith, you can help mission priests, Sisters and Brothers, and catechists around the world to give hope... and be hope... to their suffering people.



The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
...all of us committed to the worldwide mission of Jesus
Fr. Robert C. Bradler
1150 Buffalo Rd., Dept. C.
Rochester, NY 14624

Enclosed is my Lenten sacrifice of:

- \$40 ...\$1 a day for each day of Lent
 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I want to be a monthly donor to the Missions! (344 3/8/93)
Your gift is tax deductible!

EASTER CRAFT SHOW

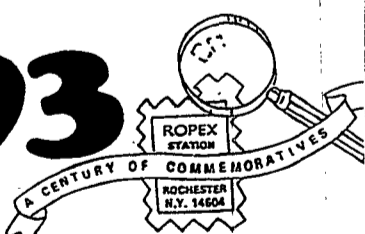
ALL SAINTS JUNIOR HIGH
170 SPENCERPORT RD.
(Rear of St. Theodore's School)
Located in the School Gym
SATURDAY, MARCH 27
9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.



Raffles, hourly drawings
Easter Bunny—bring your own camera and take a picture of your child with the Easter Bunny
Refreshments
Clown to paint your child's face
Hope you can join us!

ROPEX

93



25th Anniversary Exhibition

APS Spring Meeting

34 Dealers to serve you

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
DOORS OPEN DAILY AT 10 AM
March 26, 27, 28