

## Vatican to host conference

### Children's health issues the focus

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Health problems among the world's young people, including the afflictions borne by abused children, street kids and AIDS sufferers, will be the focus of a major Vatican-sponsored conference this fall.

The conference theme, "The Child and the Future of Society," is also expected to cover basic health-related issues such as prenatal care, birth facilities and medical assistance during the first 18 years of life, said Cardinal Fiorenzo Angelini.

The prelate heads the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, which annually sponsors the conference on a medical topic of interest to the church and lay experts. He spoke about the 1993 meeting, scheduled for November, in interviews with Vatican Radio.

Pope John Paul II is expected to meet and speak with participants, and the conference will be opened by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state. A wide array of international specialists in children's health care is expected to attend, the cardinal said.

One important guest will be French scientist Luc Montagnier, who discovered the AIDS-causing HIV virus. This past April, Montagnier briefed Cardinal Angelini and the staff of the pontifical council on an AIDS research foundation he recently established in collaboration with the United Nations.

Cardinal Angelini praised the Frenchman's work and called him "a true benefactor of humanity."

At the November conference, Montagnier will speak about AIDS, children and the medical future of new generations, Cardinal Angelini said. Montagnier is also expected to meet separately with other attending scientists to discuss his foundation's plans.

Cardinal Angelini said child abuse and neglect were other important and timely aspects of the conference topic.



The extent of mistreatment of children in Europe was recently documented by international experts attending a conference in Abano Terme, Italy. They estimated that 8 percent of European women and 6 percent of men suffered some form of sexual abuse during their first 14 years of life.

Several European countries have reported a growing incidence of child

neglect, they said. In Italy, child delinquency has more than doubled in the last six years.

The most dramatic example of suffering by European children has been among war victims in former Yugoslavian republics. The experts estimated that in Croatian refugee camps alone, there are currently 300,000 children 8 years old and younger.

## Family crisis convinces bishop about the value of health-care proxy

ALBANY (CNS) — A family health-care crisis convinced Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany about the importance of filling out a health-care proxy form before a medical emergency.

In a front-page, first-person article in *The Evangelist*, Albany's diocesan newspaper, Bishop Hubbard spoke about "the lessons I learned" from the recent hospitalization of his aunt, whom he did not name.

Although he chairs the Public Policy Committee of the New York State Catholic Conference and helped prepare a brochure on New York's health-care proxy statute, which took effect in

1991, neither the bishop nor his aunt had completed the proxy form which specifies a patient's wishes on medical care if he or she is incapacitated.

The federal Patient Self-Determination Act, similar to the New York law, requires that any patient admitted to a medical facility receiving federal funds be advised of his or her right to sign a living will, if the patient has not previously done so.

"Quite frankly, however, a crisis in the hospital is not the best setting for discussing difficult and complex issues like the utilization or withdrawal of life-support systems or the artificial

provision of nutrition and hydration (feeding tubes)," the bishop wrote.

"By acting ahead of a crisis, a person has time to seek out moral guidance from his or her priest, spiritual adviser or health care provider about those issues," he added.

Bishop Hubbard said his recent experience "heightened my awareness of the fears many people have about being victimized by high-tech medicine."

"The stark reality that fuels the euthanasia movement in this country and makes it an attractive alternative to some is the growing apprehension people have that they will be trapped

in a system which exhausts their resources while ignoring their suffering and individuality," he said.

Bishop Hubbard said the national health-care reform proposal expected in the fall from the Clinton administration must address not only access and costs of health care but also its quality.

"People entering a hospital or nursing home need to know that they will not be treated as nameless or faceless statistics ... (but) as persons with sacred dignity, a unique history, a distinctive story and specific needs, wants and expectations relative to their health care," he said.



Park Medical Group is pleased to announce the opening of their new medical office building.

Opening August 1st  
500 Island Cottage Road

The following physicians will accept new patients by appointment only.

#### Pediatrics

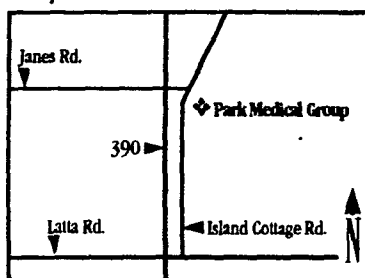
Linda Burk, M.D.  
Kerry Houston, M.D.  
Christa Johnson, M.D.  
Gretchen Smith-Burke, M.D.

#### Family Medicine

Clifford Hurley, D.O.  
Suzanne Lee, M.D.  
Richard Mittereder, M.D.  
Mark Reifstein, M.D.

Call (716) 581-6000

For your convenience, the new medical office building has a pharmacy and diagnostic facilities for patients requiring lab services or x-rays.



Park Medical Group  
Parkway Health Care Campus  
500 Island Cottage Road  
Rochester, NY 14612

Park Medical Group is a multi-specialty group practice affiliated with Park Ridge Health System.

St. John's Home is Pleased To Introduce



Social Adult Day Care

Day Break II provides social day care for older adults, physically challenged people or those without the opportunity to have social interaction outside of their own home.

For a daily fee of \$28, your loved one receives a hot nutritious meal, snacks, activities, and the chance to make friends with people his or her own age.

Day Break II is open Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Located at United Church of Christ Congregational  
570 Klem Road in Webster



The first Day Break, established in 1975, is located at St. John's Home, 150 Highland Avenue. Day Break is a medical model day care for adults which provides nursing supervision and rehabilitation therapy as well as social activities.

Day Break is open Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information on  
Day Break or Day Break II, call  
(716) 271-5413 ext. 328