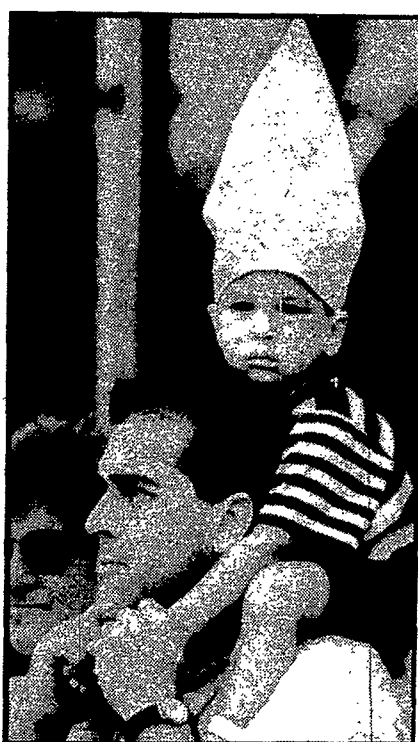


'Little pope'



AP/Wide World Photos

Waiting with dad

Waiting for the pope outside of Denver's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Aug. 14, Christopher Yarka, 3, dons his own homemade miter as he sits on his father's shoulders.

Doctor's shooting is condemned

Activist arrested

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The chief pro-life spokeswoman for the U.S. Catholic bishops sharply condemned the Aug. 19 shooting in which an anti-abortion demonstrator wounded Dr. George Tiller as he left his abortion clinic in Wichita, Kan.

"There is no room for violence in the pro-life movement," said Helen M. Alvaré, director of planning and information for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"We condemn the shooting of Dr. George Tiller in no uncertain terms ... We call on all who oppose abortion to act consistently with our beliefs about the respect owed to every human life," Alvaré said.

Rachelle Shannon, 37, of Klamath Falls, Ore., was arrested at an airport in Oklahoma City as she returned a rental car which witnesses said the assailant used to flee the scene. She was held on charges of attempted murder. Oklahoma City is 160 miles from Wichita.

Witnesses said the assailant had joined a small protest group outside

Wichita's Women's Health Care Services Clinic earlier in the afternoon, talking with protesters and helping hand out literature. When Tiller left the clinic and entered his van, they said, she fired shots at him, fled to her car and drove away.

An Oklahoma City police spokesman said Shannon also has outstanding warrants against her for trespassing during demonstrations at abortion clinics in San Francisco and Milwaukee.

Tiller, 52, was released from a Wichita hospital after treatment for minor gunshot wounds in both arms.

One of the few U.S. doctors to perform late-term abortions, he has been a frequent target of abortion protests, including summerlong Operation Rescue protests in Wichita in 1991 that led to 2,700 arrests.

The attack on Tiller was the second shooting of an abortionist this year, sparking new concern about the use of violence as a tactic by a small minority in the anti-abortion movement.

Last spring abortion opponent Michael Griffin was charged with the slaying March 10 of Dr. David Gunn outside an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Fla., during a protest sponsored by Rescue America.

Just two days before the Wichita attack an Alabama Catholic priest was

publicly rebuked by his archbishop for arguing that killing abortionists was justifiable homicide.

"The Catholic Church cannot espouse the teaching that abortionists are to be killed in defense of human life," Archbishop Oscar A. Lipscomb of Mobile said Aug. 17.

He issued the statement after meeting with a pastor who had tried unsuccessfully to take out a newspaper ad showing a man aiming a gun at the back of a doctor about to perform an abortion. The proposed ad was captioned, "Justifiable homicide?"

The *Mobile Press-Register*, a daily paper, refused to accept the ad but interviewed the pastor, Father David Trosch of St. John the Baptist Parish in Magnolia Springs, and reported his views.

Archbishop Lipscomb said he gave Father Trosch a choice of "publicly abiding by my judgment on this erroneous teaching" or resigning his post.

He said Father Trosch accepted his judgment and agreed to stop defending violence against abortionists.

In an initial statement Aug. 16, Archbishop Lipscomb said Father Trosch was "in serious error as a teacher of Catholic moral theology. It is a basic principle that a good end does not justify the use of an evil means."

Visit gives pope a chance to boost hope in Baltic nations

By Agostino Bono
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A Sept. 4-10 visit to the Baltics gives Pope John Paul II the chance to spotlight sufferings under Soviet communism while shining a light of hope for the future of the three newly independent countries.

The trip will take the pope to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, where sovereignty has brought religious liberty without sufficient personnel and material means to develop it.

The Baltic visit will be the pope's first to former republics of the Soviet Union and his 61st trip outside Italy.

Two weeks before leaving, the pope

said the trip allows him "to pay homage to peoples who, through many sufferings and trials, fought to reconquer their freedom."

Baltic populations were aided by a "Christian culture so deeply rooted as to survive even tremendous persecution," the pope added Aug. 22 during his midday Angelus talk.

The three countries declared independence separately during the 1990-91 period when the communist grip on Soviet power weakened. Christianity was introduced into the Baltics almost 1,000 years ago.

Vatican and local church officials said the visit will be a shot in the arm for people who survived 50 years of Soviet domination.

"Lithuania is tired. The people are tired. They need help. They need the respect of other countries," said Father

Kazimieras Ambrasas, head of Vatican Radio's Lithuanian department.

Archbishop Justo Mullor Garcia, apostolic nuncio to all three countries, said the trip comes at a "positive time" when the Baltic nations are "turning a new page socially, politically, culturally and religiously."

People are looking for new values, and the pope can help by proposing church moral and social teachings as inspirations for reconstructing individual lives and nations, said Baltic church leaders.

Church leaders also see the visit as a papal stamp of approval for increasing the international church aid already flowing into Baltic Catholicism.

Governments, interested in polishing their international prestige and receiving Western economic aid, joined Catholic leaders in inviting the pope

and encouraging the visit.

Five decades of communist persecution left the Baltics encased in pre-World War II Catholicism. The newly unshackled church lacks priests, religious teachers, educational materials and institutional structures to update Catholic life and attract and hold generations of people used to official atheism.

Father Andris Jerumanis, Latvian bishops' coordinator for the trip to his country, said the visit is "a great gift to the Catholic Church" and an important reminder of the universal church's historical support for Baltic independence.

"Rome sustained the church all these years. Without this link, Catholics could not have resisted communist

Continued on page 8

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