Liturgy debates linger

Bishops to follow up issues in June

By Jerry Filteau Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — To resolve issues raised in their extended liturgy debate in November, the U.S. Catholic bishops have agreed to extend their June assembly in San Diego, taking an extra day to discuss the principles behind liturgy texts.

One of the basic issues: How literally should Latin prayers be translated into English, a language with significant structural differences? Should the Vatican translation guidelines in effect since 1969 be revised in light of experience since then?

What makes the debate especially crucial at this time is the fact that the bishops are embarking on one of their most important liturgy decisions in a quarter-century: a new translation of the Sacramentary, the book containing all the prayers of the Mass.

The process of evaluating and approving a new English Sacramentary, expected to last at least two to three years, began at the November meeting.

The seriousness with which they are addressing the project could be seen in the lengthy debate they had over the process itself for reviewing the proposed text.

The process they finally approved included changes designed to strengthen each text's doctrinal evaluation.

During the debate it was also evident that there was considerable support among the bishops for a proposal by Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles to extend the timetable for the project by a year or two.

For starters, the bishops voted to de-

ly, they were supposed to vote during their meeting on that segment. But they decided it, too, should undergo the more rigorous review process that future segments will go through.

The first segment comprises opening prayers, prayers over the gifts and prayers after Communion for the Sundays of "Ordinary Time" — the weeks between the end of Christmas season

lay until next year a vote on the first segment of the Sacramentary. Original-

Advent.

Originally, the bishops were to consider the remaining six segments at their meetings in 1994 and 1995. Now it appears likely that they will take them up at a slower pace.

and Lent and between Pentecost and

According to several Catholic News Service sources, the bishops decided on the extra study day in June at the suggestion of the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop William H. Keeler of Baltimore.

His proposal came Nov. 18 at a closed-door session that concluded the bishops' four-day general business meeting in Washington. The need for fuller study and discussion emerged from several hours of public debate by the bishops which showed significant differences among them about how Latin liturgy texts should be translated for use in English.

Sources said when Archbishop Keeler asked to see how many bishops wanted an extra day on liturgy in San Diego, support for the idea appeared to be unanimous.

The San Diego assembly, scheduled for June 16-22, is not a business meeting, but a retreat-style session of prayer and reflection that the bishops hold once every three years. The theme of the assembly is "Shepherding a Future of Hope."

The study day is to be tacked on to the end of the assembly. The main topic, said one bishop, will be a review of

Worsening conditions in Haiti



Available clean water is becoming scarce

Buckets of clean water are filled for children to carry back to their homes in La Saline, an impoverished neighborhood in Port-Au-Prince. No drinkable water or water suitable for bathing and cooking can be found in La Saline or other parts of the city, where it can only be obtained at distribution points.

the translation principles contained in the English version of "Comme le Prevoit," the 1969 Vatican instruction on translating Latin liturgical texts into English.

Before the meeting, bishops all across the country got mail complaining about use of gender-inclusive language in the liturgy and about plans to introduce original alternative opening prayers in addition to those translated from Latin from the Roman Missal.

Comments by bishops at the November meeting and in CNS inter-

views afterward indicated that they were not swayed by the letter and postcard campaign, however.

Cardinal Mahony, who for two years has pressed for stronger episcopal involvement in the liturgy translation process, publicly criticized the campaign, saying some pre-meeting mail the bishops got was "unhelpful, even hysterical."

At a press conference after the meeting Archbishop Keeler was asked if the bishops' concerns about the liturgy translations stemmed from the letter campaign. "I'd say what unease was expressed came more from bishops talking with bishops," he said.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 105 No. 9 December 2, 1993

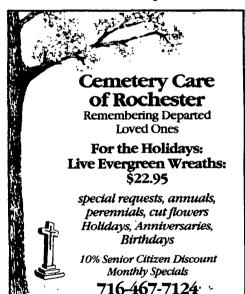
Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.

Thursday in December.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢ one-year subscription in U.S., \$19.50; Canada

and foreign \$19.50 plus postage.
Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester,
N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340.
Second-Class postage paid at Roch-

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rchester, N.Y. 14624.





John M. Hedges Funeral Home

Serving The Rochester Community Since 1912

288-4664 6 Empire Blvd.

(corner of Culver Rd. & Empire Blvd.)

Douglas C. Meeson

"Our Family Serving Your Family For Over 65 Years"

Vay-Schleich & Meeson Funeral Home, Inc.

2692 Dewey Avenue

Robert E. Vay

1075 Long Pond Road

FUNERAL DIRECTORS OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

The funeral Directors listed herein offer pre-need and at-need services and counseling in accordance with the Catholic faith.

IRONDEQUOIT.

Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc. Edwin Sulewski 2100 St. Paul Street Rochester, NY 14621 (716) 342-3400

Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home 1270 Norton Street Rochester, NY 14621 (716) 544-5000 Crawford Funeral
Home, Inc.

"Our Family Serving Your Family"
Located at 495 N. Winton Rd.
(Between Atlantic & Humboldt)
(716) 482-0400

DiPonzio Funeral
Home, Inc.
(Across from St. Theodore's

Across from St. Theodore!

Church)
219 Spencerport Road
Rochester, NY 14606

429-6700

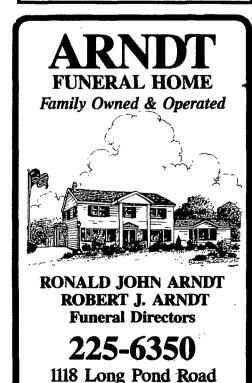
MONUMENTS

HART MONUMENT CO.

Since 1856

2301 Dewey Avenue Opposite Holy Sepulchre Cemetary

865-6746



(South of Maiden Lane)

Catholic Courier