

## Sein Fein: No revenge for killings in N. Ireland pub

LONDON (CNS) — Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said it was not Irish Republican Army policy to retaliate against Protestants for the June 18 killings of six Catholic soccer fans, gunned down in a Northern Ireland bar as they watched a televised World Cup game between Ireland and Italy.

Retaliation attacks on ordinary Protestants "can play no part in republican strategy," Adams told British Broadcasting Corp. radio. Republican refers to those hard-line advocates of reuniting of Northern Ireland with the Irish republic.

"I particularly set my head and face against any actions similar to this premeditated sectarian assault on people on the basis that they were just Catholics," Adams added.

On the day of the attack, two gunmen from the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force Protestant guerrilla group opened fire on a crowd watching the World match in a Catholic bar at Loughinisland, southeast of Belfast. Six were killed and five injured.

Adams said the leadership of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, met the same day to discuss its response to the Anglo-Irish plan for peace in Northern Ireland.

He said the killings would not deflect Sinn Fein from working out a response to the plan. The leadership would meet again soon and move as speedily as possible after that, he said.

The IRA's struggle for a united Ireland is bitterly opposed by the Protestants who constitute the majority of the population of Northern Ireland.

Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said June 19 the Unionist cause in Northern Ireland gained no support from the murders.

"That type of brainless savagery won't do their cause any good," said Reynolds during a visit to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston. "How does the rest of the world like to think an 88-year-old man has to die just because he was a Catholic?"

## Court upholds F.A.C.E.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — Opponents of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, known as F.A.C.E., say they will appeal a judge's ruling upholding the law all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema of the Eastern District of Virginia ruled June 16 against the American Life League, which sought an injunction preventing enforcement of the law. The league filed its suit May 26, the day President Clinton signed the bill into law.

League spokesman Bob Marshall said June 20 the judge rejected contentions that the bill was "vague ... broad, and infringed what was previously thought of as free expression."

"Contrary to plaintiffs' assertions, the court finds that this statute avoids infringing on legitimate First Amendment rights," the district court ruling said.

Marshall said one of the other plaintiffs in the American Life League suit is Father Gerald Weymes,

pastor of St. William of York Parish in Stafford, Va., which is also where the league is based.

The league has until Aug. 16 to file an appeal with the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va.

Five other suits seeking to block enforcement of the law have been filed throughout the country. No ruling had yet been issued in those suits.

In Milwaukee June 4, six demonstrators were arrested under the new law. The demonstrators said they wanted to be its first test case.

The law sets fines of up to \$100,000 and jail terms of up to one year for first offenders and fines up to \$250,000 with three-year jail terms for subsequent convictions.

Marshall said the 15-page ruling against the American Life League meant that any one person who impedes anyone's forward progress at any kind of reproductive health clinic — including in vitro fertilization centers — could be prosecuted under the new law.

## Pope blasts actions that erode family

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II said actions that erode the traditional family, such as state approval of homosexual unions, not only contradict the church's position but go against natural law.

He said marriage as the stable union between a man and a woman, open to life, is more than a mere convention or a Christian value. It is an original value of creation, and "to lose this truth is not just a problem for believers but a danger for all humanity," he said at a Sunday blessing June 19.

The pope's comments reflected continuing concern over a European Parliament resolution last spring which encouraged member nations to provide equal legal standing to homosexual couples in areas of adoption, inheritance, housing and social benefits.

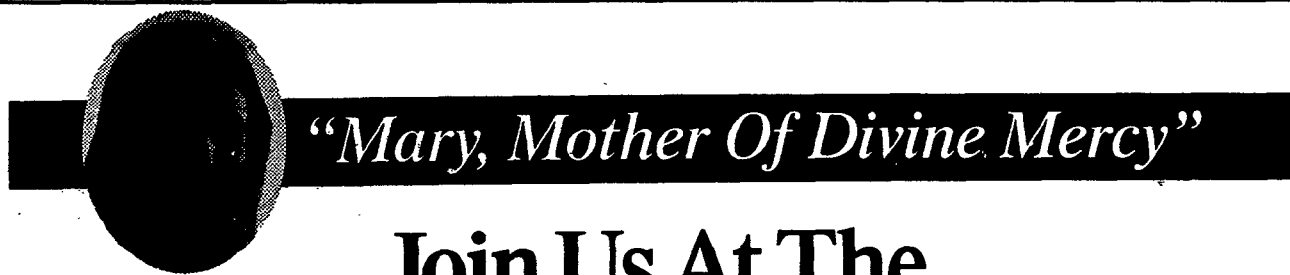
The pontiff said his open criticism of the parliament's resolution brought dissent from some quarters, from people who mistakenly think the church is trying to impose its own particular view of marriage on everyone.

But the church is speaking here about an issue that transcends particular religious faiths, touching instead one of those "fundamental values" on which individual and social rights are based, he said.

"In reality, natural law, precisely because it is written in one's heart by God, comes before any laws made by human beings and is a measure of their validity," he said.

The pope said he was concerned at a widespread moral "relativism" that leads people to doubt even the existence of objective truths or moral norms. He devoted much of his last encyclical, "Veritatis Splendor" ("The Splendor of Truth") to the subject.

The specific dangers posed to the family by such relativism has been a papal focus during the 1994 International Year of the Family.



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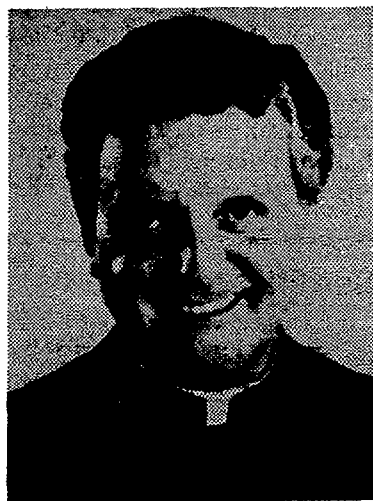
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