

## CTNA lays off two-thirds of staff in restructuring

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Telecommunications Network of America, in order to stave off a projected \$1 million budget deficit, will lay off two-thirds of its 18-member staff and trim programming hours.

Established by the U.S. bishops as a nonprofit corporation separate from the bishops' conference, CTNA will contract with a marketing firm to offer its satellite-delivery services plus catalog and prepackaged cassette sales to parishes.

In an interview with Catholic News Service July 1, Peter Durr, CTNA president, said, "This is not the first step in the end of CTNA. If it were, I'd be out of here." Durr said the restructuring meets the short-term budget needs, and a long-term plan will be presented in either late 1994 or early 1995.

Sales of CTNA's \$750-a-year satellite service, which Durr had projected to hit 2,000 by the end of 1994, had only reached 100. Another 1,000 parishes get CTNA under a group-discount plan arranged through their dioceses.

Durr said a common lament heard in parishes was that they had no one able to sift through all the program offerings and to tape and catalog the preferred shows. Purchases were slower than expected, he added, because pastors consulted with their religious education directors and finance councils before making a decision.

Others, Durr said, were "encouraged to take the wait-and-see attitude by their chancery office" before subscribing to CTNA — a hint, he noted, of some bishops' wariness over CTNA's future.

Also, CTNA is receiving less money from the bishops. In 1989, the bishops authorized a scaling down in the Catholic Communication Campaign's CTNA subsidy. Its last subsidy will be \$500,000 in 1995, less than half the \$1.16 million authorized for 1991.

The CCC extended a \$500,000 line of credit to CTNA for 1993-94 as the bishops' telecommunications arm shifted its focus from diocesan to parish clients.

The 12 layoffs take effect Aug. 31. CTNA will bring in a job placement firm to help laid-off employees find new jobs. Durr said CTNA would hire one of them for a new office manager position to be created in the restructuring's wake.

CTNA will cut its programming schedule by one-third, from 720 to 480 hours

a year. The afternoon schedule will be eliminated because satellite time is more expensive in the afternoon, Durr said.

The budget problem was discussed by the CTNA board of directors June 18. "They considered a wide range of options, including closing down CTNA," Durr said. Instead, "they wanted to do everything possible to continue CTNA's kind of work."

The board authorized Durr to come up with a restructuring plan. The CTNA board's executive committee approved it in a telephone poll in late June.

"The CTNA board felt it was imperative to act at this time while sufficient resources exist to support this restructuring," Durr said in a June 30 letter to CTNA subscribers.

"We are confident that this action will mean that CTNA will continue to serve the church for many years to come," Durr's letter said.

He added the changes "will have little effect on CTNA's production of new series." Co-production arrangements are pending with other producers of Catholic programming.

Durr told CNS that CTNA's long-range plan will address issues not addressed by the bishops in some time.

From his review of the documents establishing CTNA, it was meant to serve the internal pastoral communications needs of the church, Durr said. But he has heard often from clergy, "Why can't I get a channel like Mother Angelica? Why can't I go home at night and get it in my rectory?" Mother Angelica founded cable's Eternal Word Television Network.

Those comments, Durr said, suggest the desire for an external, and possibly more evangelizing, form of communication. "The mission question has to be addressed in a long-term plan," he said.

### Summer camp seeks seniors for storytelling

Senior citizens are needed to work with children, ages preschool to 12, at Summer Camp for Kids. Each day features reading and storytelling time.

Call 716/924-2629 for information.



AP/Wide World News

### Prayers for help

A woman distributes prayer cards of Our Mother of Perpetual Help during a June 27 Mass in the Port-au-Prince slum of Bellaire, a stronghold of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Haiti remains under strengthened international sanctions for the refusal of top military leaders to step down.

## Gore urges church to end abortion battle on ICPD

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In its first public response to a barrage of criticism from Catholic Church leaders about its stand on the upcoming U.N. population conference, the Clinton administration urged the Vatican to "move beyond the conflict and bitterness" over abortion.

The comment came from Vice President Al Gore who was speaking during a June 30 population forum sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, the Pew Charitable Trust, Turner Foundation Inc., and Harvard University.

Speaking to the same group the night before, President Clinton repeated his frequent call for abortion to be "safe, legal and rare" and said the United States would like to see family planning services available to everyone by early next century.

"Contrary to some assertions, we do not support abortion as a method of family planning," Clinton said. "This should be a matter of personal choice, not public dictation."

Pope John Paul II has led Catholic officials in a charge against the draft document for the population conference, set for Sept. 5-13 in Cairo, Egypt. They have been most critical of the document's proposals for wider distribution of contraceptives and access to abortion and ster-

ilization throughout the world.

Gore praised the Catholic Church for its role in improving health and social conditions for women and children worldwide. "No organization has been more effective in addressing illiteracy and social injustice and child and infant mortality than has the Catholic Church," he said.

But instead of "confrontation and struggle" over abortion, the vice president said the Vatican should join the United States in seeking "ways to communicate and work together which accentuate the division of labor and diminish the feeling of conflict about this issue, while acknowledging respectfully the beliefs held by those who disagree with us."

"We can then move beyond the conflict and bitterness," Gore said. "Let's find ways to work together."

In his June 29 address, Clinton said the Cairo conference "can do a great deal to advance our vision of sustainable development and stabilize population growth."

He said the U.S. delegation to the Cairo meeting would push for policies "based on enduring values, promoting stronger families, having more responsibility for individual citizens, respecting human rights and deepening the bonds of communities."

## Parents of nun rescued from Rwanda say escape was answer to their prayers

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The parents of a British nun airlifted out of danger in Rwanda by French special forces said their daughter's escape was the answer to "storming heaven with prayers."

Sister Susan McLean was one of more than 30 nuns flown by the French troops to safety in Zaire from their convent in Kibuye, western Rwanda. Kibuye is in territory held by Rwandan government troops and Hutu militias.

Her parents, Rosemarie and Peter McLean, said they had been anxiously following news bulletins at their home in Billingham, England.

The nuns, Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, had been trapped for two-and-half-months. Some are Rwandans, members of the Tutsi tribe, and were threatened by marauding gangs of Hutu militiamen. Reports said the sisters were regularly taken out at gunpoint and were told they would be shot. They would then be taken back to the convent.

In a letter two weeks earlier, Sister

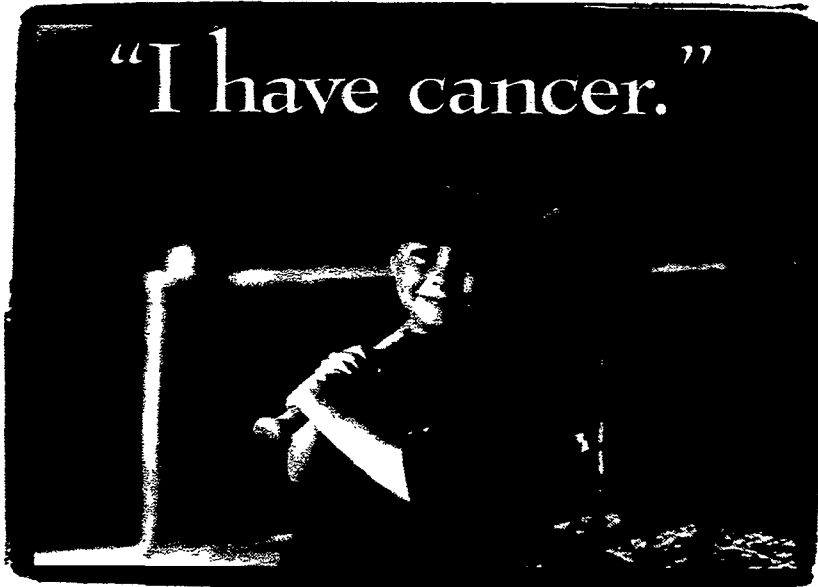
McLean told her family of a perilous 10-hour walk to Zaire to get a message out pleading for the world's help.

"The letter was low key, but she did say that when they left the other sisters were still alive, and she was hoping they would still be alive when she got back," Mrs. McLean said in a June 29 telephone interview with the British Catholic newspaper *The Universe*. "That was when we began to be concerned."

Sister Mary Coleman, provincial of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in Britain, said Sister McLean knew the dangers when she returned to Rwanda last year.

"But she wanted to go, and she was doing it freely," Sister Coleman said. "She has the missionary spirit."

*The Universe* also reported that four Irish nuns — Medical Missionaries of Mary — working in southern Rwanda with the Irish aid agency Trocaire are continuing their efforts. Vatican envoy Cardinal Roger Etcheberry visited them recently and expressed "deep appreciation for their work."



"And I found friends just like me."

*Camp Open Arms is a special place where kids get to be kids, playing, laughing, and making friends who understand. It's a fun-filled summer day camp for children with cancer and their brothers and sisters. And it's made possible by generous volunteers.*

*To find out how you can be a hit with the kids, or for information about our prevention, education, support and wellness programs for all ages, call 423-9700.*

**CANCER ACTION**

255 Alexander St. Rochester, NY 14607



Space donated to the Ad Council as a public service of this publication.