

All eyes on N. Ireland after cease-fire declared

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Pope John Paul II told Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland he was praying for increased trust, respect and harmony after the Provisional Irish Republican Army declared a cease-fire.

"The members of both communities, Catholic and Protestant, are now being challenged earnestly to implement the Gospel demands of love, forgiveness and reconciliation," the pope said in a Sept. 2 letter to the Irish primate, Cardinal Cahal Daly of Armagh, Northern Ireland. The pope also prayed for "wisdom, prudence, courage and patience" for all involved in the peace process.

The pope's letter was sent the day after the unilateral cease-fire was declared by the PIRA, a guerrilla group that has been fighting to reunite the British province of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic.

The move was designed to win a seat for the PIRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, at new talks on the future of the troubled province, where 3,000 people have died in the quarter-century of violence.

As Catholics and Protestants, politicians and other citizens reacted, they expressed the hope that paramilitary groups loyal to Great Britain would also end the violence.

In the United States, Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Norwich, Conn., chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, said the American bishops would do what they could to make sure this "apparent breakthrough will lead to a future of peace, justice and security for all the people of Northern Ireland."

"The IRA cease-fire will only be a decisive turn toward peace if it leads to a permanent cessation of violence on all sides, if it is followed by real progress toward a just political settlement that

fully respects the rights and aspirations of all the people of Northern Ireland, and if there is continued progress on human rights, fair employment and economic reconstruction," Bishop Reilly said.

President Clinton, an important player behind the scenes in efforts to lure PIRA politicians to the peace table, hailed the announcement and said the United States stands ready to help usher in a new era of peace.

After hearing the news, Cardinal Daly said that "an immense task awaits us."

"There is much forgiving to be done, much healing, much listening to one another, much readiness to reach out in reconciliation and to walk in new paths. Let us work hard at learning to overcome suspicion and to put trust where there has been habitual mistrust," he said in a statement issued from France, where he was recovering from an illness.

Two religious leaders in Dublin, Ireland — Catholic Archbishop Desmond Connell and Anglican Archbishop Donald Caird — asked that Sept. 4 be designated a day of prayer for peace.

Archbishop Caird warned that the peace process could be easily upset. He said that while the end of violence was a necessary requirement for the peace process, it was not, in itself, peace.

"The process of peace is more difficult to conduct than violence," he said. "It could be easily derailed by any hint of triumphalism, threat, duplicity or impatience."

Extremist opponents of the IRA responded coolly to the move and gave no hint they would match their foes' cease-fire.

Less than 24 hours after the cease-fire took effect, Protestant extremists killed a Catholic in Belfast.



AP/Wide World Photos

Gerry Adams (left), president of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional Irish Republican Army, Aug. 31 addresses a crowd gathered at Connolly House in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness (right) looks on. The PIRA declared a cease-fire last Wednesday, raising hopes for peace.

Geneva program receives \$75,000 grant from CHD

CHICAGO (CNS) — The Campaign for Human Development has announced \$7.2 million in new grants and kicked off a yearlong observance of its 25th anniversary as the chief anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Church.

One of only five organizations to receive grants of \$70,000 or more, Worker Ownership Resource Center in Geneva was awarded a \$75,000 capacity building grant for its work of developing small businesses. (WORC was featured in the Aug. 11 *Catholic Courier*.)

Bishop James H. Garland of Mar-

quette, Mich., chairman of the bishops' CHD committee, and Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, honorary chairman of the 25th anniversary celebration, were scheduled to hold a joint press conference in Chicago Sept. 7 to announce the grants and jubilee plans.

Anniversary observances will culminate in a national justice convocation in Chicago next Aug. 25-28, Cardinal Bernardin said.

He said he expects at least 2,500 participants at the Chicago meeting, many of them members of low-income groups that have benefited from CHD grants over the years.

The average size of this year's grants is \$32,000.

Cardinal Bernardin said Chicago archdiocesan grants of \$155,000, from the local share of its CHD collection, would be given to eight local projects. Six other Chicago groups received \$209,000 in grants from the national fund.

The cardinal said Chicago Catholics last year "continued their record of contributing more than any other diocese in the country. Chicago sent more than \$484,000 to the national CHD."

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