

# Pope fills College of Cardinals

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II placed red hats on the heads of 30 new cardinals, telling the prelates that they are called to witness to Christ and reminding them that many of their predecessors through history shed their blood for the truth.

The new cardinals from 24 countries mirror the unity and universality of the church, the pope said Nov. 26 before calling forward each of the churchmen, including U.S. Cardinals William H. Keeler of Baltimore and Adam J. Maida of Detroit.

The pope filled the College of Cardinals to its limit of 120 members under age 80 and thus eligible to vote in a conclave for a new pope.

With the death Nov. 28 of 87-year-old Spanish Cardinal Vicente Enrique Tarazon, the retired archbishop of Madrid, the total number of cardinals was 166.

Pope John Paul said the group of new cardinals included those who had served the church for many years and those who have suffered for their faith.

The induction of the youngest member of the college, 49-year-old Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, the pope said, reminds the church of the Christians of Bosnia-Herzegovina, "where, unfortunately, the devastating roar of weapons has not yet ceased and so much innocent blood continues to be shed without any prospect for peace in sight."

He asked the thousands of people gathered in the Paul VI Audience Hall for the consistory to pray for the peo-

ple of Bosnia, "a symbol of senseless fratricidal fighting that stains Europe and the world with blood."

Hundreds of people who traveled to Rome to see their local archbishops made cardinals were left clutching their tickets outside the hall, which has a capacity of about 7,000.

The pope said the new cardinals from Lebanon, Vietnam, Cuba and the countries of the former Soviet bloc show that "the church stands beside those who suffer."

Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir, the Lebanese patriarch of the Maronite Church, dressed in a distinctive red robe and hood, thanked the pope on behalf of the new cardinals, promising their continued fidelity as pastors and offering their closer collaboration in his ministry.

The pope said making the patriarch a cardinal is a reminder of the faithful in Lebanon, who experience "in their own flesh the consequences of the grave problems connected with the political situation in the Middle East."

He also reminded those present of Christians in Eastern Europe who "for long years had to endure the oppression of an atheistic totalitarian regime."

New Albanian Cardinal Mikel Koliqi, 92, was jailed or detained by communist authorities for a total of 38 years; Cardinal Kazimierz Swiatek of Minsk-Mohilev, Belarus, spent 10 years in Soviet prisons and labor camps.

The pope had special words of praise for the "Catholics of Vietnam and Cuba, who are giving a coura-

geous testimony of faithfulness to Christ and of silent service to their brothers and sisters in the midst of many difficulties."

The new cardinal from Vietnam, Paul Joseph Pham Dinh Tung, the archbishop of Hanoi since April, spent much of his 30 years as bishop of Bac Ninh under house arrest.

New Cardinal Jaime Lucas Ortega Alamino of Havana was detained in a Cuban work camp in 1966-67.

After the ceremony Cardinal Ortega told reporters that tensions between the Cuban government and the church have been lessening.

"At least there is tolerance, which makes life easier," he said.

Two men helped Cardinal Koliqi climb the steps to Pope John Paul's chair in the hall. But unlike the other new cardinals, the Albanian was physically unable to kneel before the pope to receive his biretta.

Cardinal Alois Grillmeier, 84, was carried up the steps in a wheelchair. The new German cardinal is a Jesuit theologian specializing in Christology.

Pope John Paul also formally inducted 90-year-old Dominican Father Yves Congar into the College of Cardinals, although the French theologian is in a hospital and could not attend the consistory.

After giving the others their red hats, the pope said a special envoy would be sent to France to give Cardinal Congar his biretta.

"The service of love to which the Lord calls those who are baptized" is set as a particular call to the new cardinals, the pope said in his homily during the consistory.

# Yes, Virginia, there will be a Madonna and Child stamp

By Nancy Hartnagel  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon has rescued the Madonna and Child stamp, reversing an earlier Postal Service decision not to issue the popular Christmas stamp in 1995.

In a statement issued Nov. 23, Runyon said, "Because the Madonna and Child stamp has occupied such an important place in our stamp program for so many years and is so meaningful to so many Americans, I have asked the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to develop designs for a Madonna and Child stamp to be included in the 1995 program."

Negative reaction to the initial decision to drop the religious stamp even came from President Clinton, who was abroad when the Postal Service unveiled its plans for 1995 stamps.

According to *The Washington Post*, the president was so upset after learning there would be no Madonna and Child stamp next year that he had staff members protest the decision to key congressional committees and was planning to release a letter to Runyon urging the stamp's restoration.

After Runyon's decision was announced, **Continued on page 6**

# The family, pontiff heralded as thousands gather for conference

By Lou Baldwin  
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA — About 4,000 Catholics gathered in Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Convention Center for what was billed as the Totus Tuus II Conference, but it could have just as easily been called a national meeting of the Pope John Paul II fan club.

The conference's focus was the pope's "priorities and spirituality," according to Jerry Coniker, founder of the Apostolate for Family Consecration. His Bloomingdale, Ohio-based organization hosted the conference.

"We are celebrating the Holy Father's Year of the Family. This is also a reaction to what went on at the Cairo con-

ference," Coniker said. He was referring to criticism of the Vatican for insisting that abortion not be included in a definition of family planning in a U.N. document on population acted on by nations in Cairo, Egypt, earlier this year.

"We really stand with the Holy Father," he added.

"When the family is in good health — spiritual, physical, mental, religious and otherwise — there is hope for society," said Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze at a press briefing during the Nov. 18-20 gathering.

"When the family is sick, all parts of society are in trouble. Religion does have a role to play, does have a word to say, in matters such as the family. If religion is **Continued on page 6**



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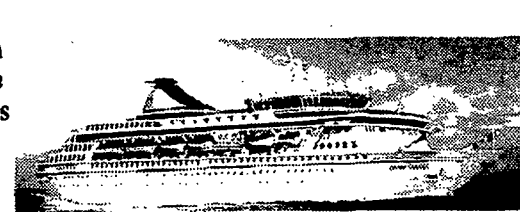
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