

Church vocal in death penalty fight



AP/Wide World Photos

Haiti preacher

Lay preacher Paul Raymond raised a glass of wine during a service in Port-au-Prince, Sunday, March 5, 1995. At the burned-out side of a church massacre that helped President Jean-Bertrand Aristide bring down a dictatorship, the fiery young preacher denounced the United States and Bill Clinton as he demanded justice for Haiti's people.

ALBANY (CNS) — The death penalty law signed by Gov. George Pataki hours after its passage March 7 included several provisions sought by the bill's opponents to limit its applications.

The New York Catholic Conference never wavered in opposing any death penalty bill, but other organizations they had worked with succeeded in amending the bill to require juries to vote unanimously for a death sentence, limit its application to murderers over age 18, and exempt mentally incompetent people or pregnant women from execution.

Elsewhere in the country, the Iowa Senate March 2 voted 11 to 39 to reject a House-passed bill that would have reinstated the death penalty there.

The Catholic bishops of both states had fought efforts to reinstate capital punishment, arguing that while church teaching traditionally permits some discretionary use of it in grave circumstances, modern law enforcement procedures make it unnecessary.

They also argued that capital punishment has no deterrent effect, is applied more often to the poor and minorities, is costlier to the state than lifetime imprisonment, and sends the wrong signal about state-encouraged violence and the possibility for redemption.

New York's bill was signed by Pataki within hours of its 4:30 a.m. approval, giving the state a capital punishment law for the first time since the Supreme Court permitted states to resume executions in 1976. Pataki's two predeces-

sors, Govs. Mario Cuomo and Hugh Carey, had vetoed every death penalty bill approved in the previous 18 years.

"The action of the Legislature and the governor to restore capital punishment is a grave setback in our state's historic efforts to foster a more humane and just society," said a March 7 statement from Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, who led opposition by the state's Catholic leaders.

"While violent crime is a grave problem which must be addressed aggressively and constructively, state sanctioned violence is morally and socially repugnant and will only feed the vicious cycle of violence, which diminishes us all, just and unjust alike," Bishop Hubbard said.

He said he hoped the courts would reject the law as unconstitutional and added that he would work to abolish the death penalty and support alternatives to capital punishment.

Efforts to turn around public support for the death penalty probably got started too late, acknowledged Kathleen Gallagher, associate director of New York's Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops.

"We got comfortable after having two governors who vetoed every bill," she said.

A campaign led by Bishop Hubbard to encourage priests to preach on the subject seemed to be starting to have an effect on public debate, said Ms. Gallagher. Brochures with the New York bishops' statement about why they opposed the

death penalty were in great demand, with parishes ordering enough to necessitate a second printing, she said.

One Catholic legislator who spoke during more than 11 hours of debate by the Assembly acknowledged that he had been hearing much about the subject in his church lately and that it was making him so uncomfortable he sometimes just stood in the back of church, Ms. Gallagher said. He voted for the bill.

John M. Kerry, executive director of the New York Catholic Conference, said the church's high profile was clearly a factor in the public debate.

"Our position stood in stark relief to that of others," Kerry said. "It was definitely a factor in the tone of the debate and its seriousness."

Vatican forges consensus at world summit

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — After bargaining that went into the early hours of the morning, the Vatican was able to support the conclusions of the World Summit on Social Development.

"We share the consensus, and overall we are pleased with the documents," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, a member of the Vatican delegation to the March 6-12 meeting in Copenhagen.

Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano, addressing the summit March 12, pledged the Vatican would join the participating nations "and all men and women of good will in the task of charting a new era of cooperation for the integral development of humanity."

The summit, which brought together delegates from some 170 nations, had as its three main goals the elimination of poverty, the creation of jobs and the inclusion of all people in society.

Under those three headings, the summit touched everything from developing nations' foreign debt burden to situations in which women face discrimination in education and the job market.

The last hurdle faced by the Vatican in getting a document it could support was convincing other delegations to recognize parents' rights in overseeing the sex education and health services provided to their children, Navarro-Valls said.

The Vatican's point was accepted at 2 a.m. March 10, he said, barely making the deadline for completion of the declaration and plan of action signed by some 120 presidents, vice presidents and prime ministers on the closing day.

Pope John Paul II, speaking at the Vatican March 12, said the summit called the world's attention to "the inequalities which exist between rich and poor peoples and the tragedies which threaten the life of a great part of humanity."

"These unfortunately are the result of a world which, forgetting God, frequently ends up humiliating the dignity of the human being," he said.

The pope expressed his hope "that the Copenhagen meeting would represent a sign of hope for the poor of every continent and constitute a promise for the building of a world marked by freedom and solidarity."

The Vatican along with many Latin American countries and most Islamic nations also worked to ensure the summit recognized the central place of strong, stable families in creating strong, stable societies, Navarro-Valls said.

Lent Dining Guide



CAPTAIN'S JIM'S
Fish Market & Restaurant

FOR ALL YOUR LENTEN SEAFOOD NEEDS

- Fresh & Cooked Seafood • Fish Frys • Clams
- Scallops • Shrimp • Fresh Fillets • Baked Dinners
- Sandwiches • Cooked Fish By The Pound

DINE-IN OR TAKE-OUT • PHONE ORDERS GLADLY ACCEPTED

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL \$6.99
Fresh Sea Scallops

2329 E. Main St. (cor. E. Main & Winton) **482-3640**

COUPON

OLYMPIA
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

FRESH HADDOCK FISH FRY
Served Everyday • Many Other Daily Specials

10% OFF WITH THIS AD

Per guest check at either location.
Not valid for breakfast. Not valid with other coupons.
Not valid on Fridays. Coupon expires 4/15/95

<p>GATES 2390 Lyell Ave. at Howard Road 429-6231</p>	<p>GREECE 570 Stone Road at Dewey Ave. 663-3071</p>
--	---



CRYSTAL BARN

Light Dinner Menu

Fresh Baked Bread
Tossed Greens Salad-Choice of Dressing
Seasonal Accompaniments

Roast, Aged Prime Rib	\$10.95
Chicken French	\$8.95
Veal Parmesan	\$9.85
Jamaican Pork Chop	\$9.95
Sole Almondine	\$8.95
Surf and Turf	\$14.95

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
Buy any light dinner entree and
receive \$5.00 off a second entree.
With this ad. Offer expires 3/26/95

CRYSTAL BARN...
what a good restaurant should be.
2851 Clover Street, Pittsford
381-4844

Fish Fry Every Friday.....\$9.95

Catch a Delicious Deal this Lent at the

Holiday Inn

Airport - Rochester
911 Brooks Ave. • 328-6000

FRIDAY SPECIALS

Seafood Luncheon Buffet
served 11am - 2pm
\$6.95

Fish Fry
served 5 - 7pm **\$6.95**
served 7-10pm **\$7.95**
Includes our extensive
soup & salad bar

Seafood Dinner Buffet
served 5 - 10pm
with Haddock Mornay, crab claws,
breaded stuffed shrimp, peel n' eat
shrimp & many more hot, delicious
entrees, soup & salad bar
\$14.95

BOSDYK'S
Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge

Tuesday Nights
Baked Haddock Special
\$6.89

Daily Lunch & Dinner
Lenten Specials



Fresh Haddock Broiled
or Fish Fry
served everyday

Party Room for gatherings
of up to 60 people

430 Spencerport Road
(corner of Long Pond)
(716) 247-7690

CATHOLIC COURIER

riage spons riage Inn, Pittsford through to al Gary 716/LOV

riage spons riage Morr p.m. day; ples; Bras 800-7

Soc

quet Frie Agnes o spor Soci Mas: Pros buff Cou Roa 7 p. call

Ed

it, C of 1 Roc Sch Chu Roc The free

istr Wej Ath tut