



# Mines among the issues bishops tackled

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• Called unanimously for a sharp curb on international arms sales and a worldwide ban on land mines in a 10page statement, "Sowing the Weapons of War."

• Decided to disband their Catholic Telecommunications Network of America this summer and set up a planning process to develop a new telecommunications plan within three years.

• Failed after intense debate to approve or disapprove the proposed revision of the day-by-day Mass prayers of the Sacramentary, with mail balloting of absent bishops needed to resolve the question.

• Approved a statement, titled "Faithful for Life," condemning abortion and euthanasia as "particularly grave" attacks on human life.

• Issued new "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments With Persons With Disabilities," designed to improve access to the sacraments by disabled people and to reduce inconsistencies in pastoral practice.

• Began discussions, in small groups and as a body, of the possible restructuring of the NCCB and U.S. Catholic Conference, with bishops appearing evenly divided on one of the basic questions, whether the NCCB-USCC should be combined into a single conference.

• Were told that orders of U.S. men and women religious still need to add \$6.9 billion to their retirement funds in order to cover expected needs of their aging members, even though they now have \$5.8 billion set aside.

• Heard a detailed report on Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin's surgery June 12 for malignant tumors on his kidney and pancreas, his recovery in the hospital, and his need for radiation and chemotherapy because of a strong likelihood of recurrence (see story below).

• Approved a plan for a forum of

scholars and a small team of U.S. bishops on the liturgy, to cover not just translation questions but other issues surrounding liturgical texts.

• Heard a progress report from Bishop John F. Kinney on the work of his Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse, now working on a second volume of resource materials on issues related to clergy sexual abuse of minors to go to the bishops this November.

• Greeted Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana, who said his people need humanitarian aid because of deteriorating economic conditions under communism.

## Doctors: Prelate's tumor cancerous

### By Jay Copp

Catholic News Service

CHICAGO – Doctors said the pancreatic tumor removed from Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin June 12 was malignant but caught in time before it spread.

Yet doctors gave the cardinal only a 20 to 25 percent chance to survive the next five years and will begin chemotherapy and radiation treatment to prevent a recurrence.

The announcement came during a June 14 press conference at Loyola University Medical Center, two days after the cardinal's surgery. The seven-hour surgery removed the cardinal's right kidney, 40 percent of the pancreas and parts of other organs.

Doctors initially believed a tumor found on the kidney was cancerous though unrelated to the tumor on the pancreas. At the press conference they said they were unsure if the kidney growth was cancerous.

The cardinal, who was progressing remarkably well from the surgery and was expected to leave the hospital in a week, will undergo intensive chemotherapy treatment for four to six weeks.





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