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Auxiliary Bishop Peter Rosazza (center) of Hartford, Conn., leads a procession with other representatives from his archdiocese at the Campaign for Human Development's 25th anniversary conference in Chicago Aug. 25.

## CHD delegates laud past, consider future directions

By Patricia Zapor  
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — With 25 years of experience, \$250 million raised and more than 3,000 groups aided, the Campaign for Human Development turned a national anniversary celebration in Chicago into a time for energizing and planning for the next generation of fighting poverty.

More than 2,000 people representing dioceses, parishes, local and national organizations gathered in Chicago Aug. 25-28 for CHD's 25th anniversary conference.

In a discussion of CHD's future, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said the key is to continue programs that are based on the work of justice.

"Our activities must be guided by a clear vision and a prophetic spirit that will continually animate those we work with to shape society so that it begins to resemble God's commonwealth," said Cardinal Mahony during an Aug. 27 ceremony to commission the workers of the church's anti-poverty program.

In his first major address since his

surgery and radiation treatment for cancer this summer, Chicago's Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin said in the celebration's opening session Aug. 25 that despite CHD's success in fighting poverty, the country is more divided than ever between "haves" and "have nots" and that the ongoing welfare reform debate is too much about economics and too little about people.

When CHD was founded by the U.S. bishops, the emphasis in its work was on addressing poverty, racism and injustice, said the cardinal. Today, society seems focused only on welfare reform as a way of saving money.

"Unfortunately, the debate about such reform seems to spring not so much from an authentic concern for the poor as from pragmatic concerns about the federal budget deficit and taxpayers' pocket-books," he said.

Cornel West, a charismatic, black Harvard professor said CHD dedication to helping the poor rise above the pressures of economics, racism and classism is clearly rooted in the words and example of Jesus.

## U.S. woman leads Vatican team to Beijing conference

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's choice of a professional woman with children to head the Vatican delegation to the U.N. women's conference is a reflection of the message the Vatican delegates plan to bring to the meeting.

Women should have equal opportunities in all areas of social and economic life, but when women are also mothers they have a right to special protection and support, said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

The spokesman announced Aug. 25 that a Harvard University law professor, Mary Ann Glendon, would head the 14-woman, eight-man Vatican delegation to the Sept. 4-15 U.N. World Conference on Women in Beijing.

"The Holy See is not going to Beijing to defend motherhood, but to defend women," Navarro-Valls said. "One segment of the argument is motherhood.

Meanwhile Ms. Glendon, a 56-year-old wife and mother of three daughters, said

she felt a great responsibility as leader of the Vatican delegation "because the Holy See may be one of the very few voices speaking for women who have chosen to give their paramount priority to motherhood and family concerns."

Navarro-Valls said the positions of delegations from Western Europe and North America push a narrow type of feminism marked by "a negative attitude toward the family," anger toward men and an uncritical support for abortion and contraception.

Pope John Paul, speaking Aug. 20 about women in connection with the Beijing conference, praised the growing influence of women in business and economics. And in his Angelus address a week later, he turned his attention to the growing number of women seeking public office and winning elections. The pope mentioned the increasing role women are playing in international organizations and meetings.

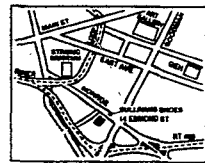
The delegation will join with others in condemning all forms of violence against women, which in the draft document includes rape, war, genital mutilation, forced prostitution and arranged mar-

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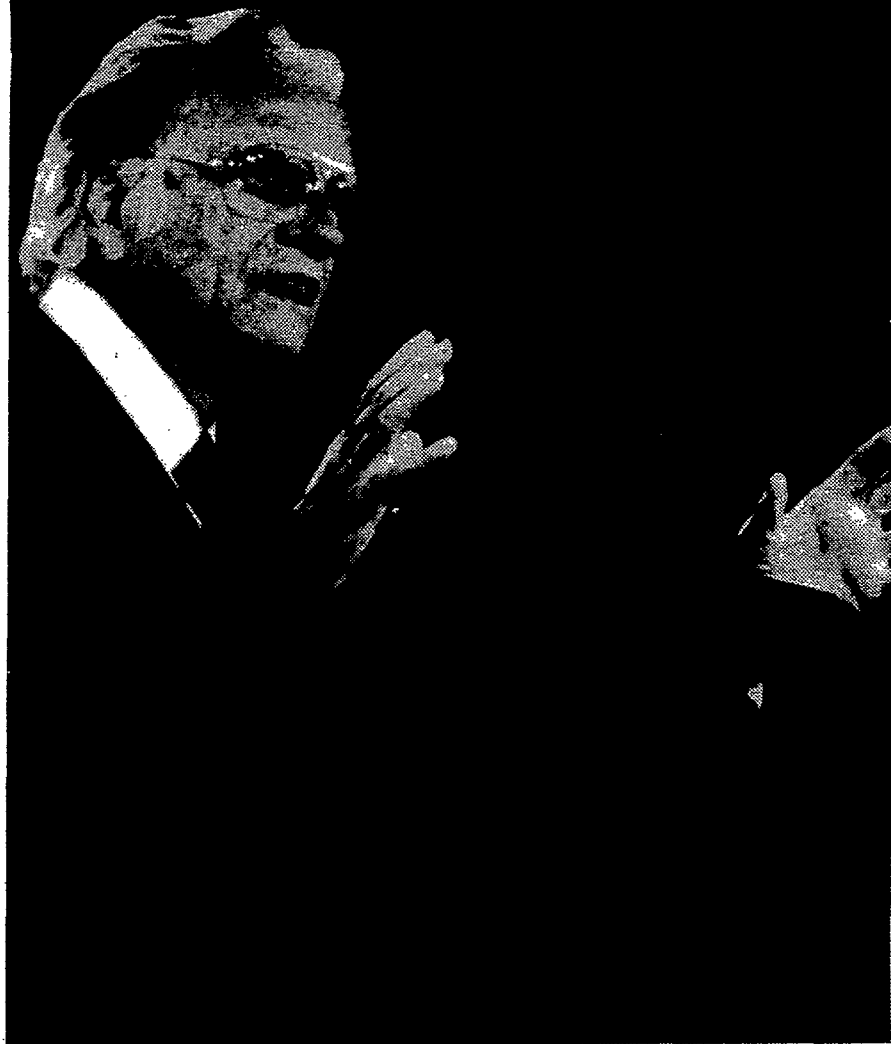
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