

Women

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tained economic growth through the provision of basic education, life-long education, literacy and training, and primary health care for girls and women."

• **Violence:** The declaration called for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

• **Health, education:** It said they must have equal access to health care and education.

"The success of the Platform for Action will ... require adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels," the document said, "as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries."

While the Vatican delegation was led by a lay woman, the U.S. delegation featured the presence of a Catholic woman religious: Ursuline Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, president of the College of New Rochelle, N.Y.

With the Vatican receiving plenty of conference headlines, some expected Sister Kelly to be working full time within her 44-member delegation to explain Catholic church teachings and positions.

But, Sister Kelly stressed, she was not the delegation's secret weapon for predicting, interpreting or analyzing an adversary's position, she said.

"There has been a great effort on the



Reuters/CNS

Pope John Paul II met with Mary Ann Glendon at the Vatican before the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women. A Harvard law professor, Glendon led the Vatican delegation to the conference in Beijing.

part of the delegation leadership" to understand the Vatican position before the conference and to attentively evaluate comments made by Vatican delegates during the Beijing meeting, Sister Kelly said.

"I think the group is very well informed, has read a lot and understands," she said. "Now whether they have some irreconcilable doubts about some of

them (Vatican positions), I'm sure they do."

She said she believes her warm reception on the delegation came from a realization of the need to have a delegate "who obviously represents a commitment and religious outlook and yet is able and willing to help the group."

They also appreciated having "an explainer for positions that may be unfamiliar, and therefore maybe even unintelligible, to them," she said.

Sister Kelly said she had to reflect on the "potential difficulty" of conflicts between her faith and the U.S. agenda before she accepted her appointment.

If the U.S. delegation refused to endorse a consensus that abortion is not a means of family planning — a point of last year's Cairo conference on population — Sister Kelly said she would not have been able to accept the invitation.

She added that media predictions of U.S. wariness about sneaky Vatican alliances with other delegations and tensions between the U.S. and Vatican delegations was not a concern among her fellow delegates.

"I certainly have not sensed any suspicion," she said. And obviously, "the Catholic Church has not changed its position to win friends."

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recalled one African bishop calling for women cardinals at last year's Synod.

"If that ever came to pass, things would change in the church," Sister Dooley said.

Sister Dooley, however, found that such issues as women's ordination are not as important to women religious from other nations as they are to U.S. women. She said that a number of women religious from such nations as Taiwan and Nepal told her the Catholic church in their nations suffers few of the conflicts that seem to mark the dialogue between the church's ordained and non-ordained members in nations such as the United States.

"The religious in the Orient seem to have a wonderful Vatican II ecclesiology," she said. "They're right with the people trying to be of service to the people."

Sister Dooley noted that part of the reason for the more harmonious relationships that apparently exist in the Asian churches lies with the small size of their membership. The church in Taiwan, for example, is still more of a grassroots faith than its counterpart in the United States, she said.

Service for Father Mura will be conducted on Oct. 1

ITALY VALLEY — A memorial service for the late Father David W. Mura will take place at Camp Koinonia at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1.

Father Charles T. Manning will celebrate the 3 p.m. liturgy, with a pot-luck supper to follow.

Those attending the Mass are asked to bring a "fist-sized rock" to be placed near

Father Mura's memorial plaque.

Pictures or other mementos, to be displayed that day in the camp lodge, are also welcome. In addition, participants are asked to bring a dish to pass for the supper.

For details, contact Marge and John Reed at 716/544-3192, or George and Dottie Hoysic at 315/594-2148.

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