

WORLD & NATION

Bishops open fall meeting with criticisms of Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As one U.S. cardinal urged his fellow bishops to reject "the extraordinary assault" on the poor by Congress, another opened the bishops' fall meeting with a reminder about the church's role in meeting "the challenges of poverty and critical need in an affluent society."

The comments from Cardinals Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles and William H. Keeler of Baltimore came on the opening day of the Nov. 13-16 meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference at Washington's Omni-Shoreham Hotel.

Among the official acts of the meeting, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland was elected president of the U.S. bishops' conference on the first ballot Tuesday, Nov. 14. His three-year term was scheduled officially to begin Nov. 16.

The bishops also were scheduled to choose new chairmen for about one-third of the NCCB-USCC standing committees.

Cardinal Mahony, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, made the first substantive intervention at the meeting by asking for an agenda change for consideration on Nov. 15 of a statement "in response to the current unprecedented dismantling by Congress of essential health care, educational and social service programs."



Bob Roller/CNS
Cardinal William Keeler gives his presidential address at the opening of the U.S. bishops' fall general meeting Nov. 13 in Washington. The meeting includes several issues including liturgy, evangelization and vocations.

"Our own bishops' conference has been prophetic and unswerving in our Gospel commitment to serve the poorer members of our society, and our voice and our resolve are needed today as never before," he said. The agenda change was approved by voice vote.

Cardinal Keeler, the outgoing NCCB-USCC president, devoted most of his final presidential address to an assessment of Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 visit to the United States.

Echoing the pope's call to "Be not afraid," Cardinal Keeler said, "This

antiphon of Pope John Paul's pontificate ought to inspire what we bishops do and say as public witnesses to the truth here in the United States."

He called for welfare reform "that will bring unity and strength to the family and care and protection for children, born and unborn."

On their opening day, the bishops began preliminary discussion of five documents to which they were scheduled to return later in the meeting. They include a national strategy on vocations; a letter to college students; a pastoral message marking the 10th anniversary of their letter on the economy; and statements about lay ministry and the Hispanic presence in the new evangelization of the United States.

Debate and vote on each of those documents was scheduled for Nov. 14 or 15.

Although the topic of liturgy changes has prompted lengthy debate at previous bishops' meetings, the Pastoral Introduction to the Order of the Mass and U.S. adaptations to it were approved with little debate and by wide margins. Vatican approval is required for the changes.

The bishops also voted Nov. 13 to approve a \$41.8 million budget for 1996, new guidelines for the retirement of bishops and a 28-page list of priorities and plans for 1996.

WINTER CAR CARE * WINTER CAR CARE

Preventative measures can help keep car running smoothly

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

There are as many pieces of advice about how to get the most out of your car for the least money as there are want

ads in the newspaper for "mint condition" jewels that turn out to be lemons on wheels.

Yet almost any mechanic would agree that following a few basic tips can go a long way toward keeping any car running

economically and ready for the winter months.

First, break in a new car slowly and thoroughly.

Drive a variety of speeds, but not over 65 mph for the first few thousand miles, and change the oil at 2,000 miles to flush out stray bits of metal that may have been left behind in the manufacturing process, advised Tony Lee, owner of a Washington, D.C., repair shop where many of the students, faculty and teachers at The Catholic University of America trust him to minister to their cars.

The next most important key to long auto life is to change the oil at least as often as recommended by the manufacturer,

preferably more frequently. Lee suggested changing the oil every 3,000 miles.

Lee also emphasized the importance of stopping your car as soon as possible if the dashboard warning light comes on.

Another way of keeping costs down, he said, is to be careful about making unnecessary repairs.

For instance, Lee generally performs a modified version of manufacturers' recommended maintenance schedules, checking everything on the list, but only doing a full tune-up every 18 months to two years, instead of the biannual tune-ups some people were taught to insist upon.

Even in extremely hot or cold climates, coolant doesn't need

to be changed nearly as often as some people think. Every two to three years is sufficient for newer cars, according to Lee. The whole system should be flushed that often, however. Merely adding new antifreeze doesn't get rid of the accumulated gunk.

But have the brakes checked and tires rotated about every year, Lee suggested. Save money by doing both at the same time, he added.

Finally, quiz friends and neighbors, call local consumer agencies and/or do whatever it takes to find yourself a mechanic you can trust to fix your car correctly and regularly without charging you for unnecessary work.

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