

WORLD & NATION

Prelate seeks reform of Roman Curia

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Archbishop John R. Quinn called for major Roman Curia reforms, new ways of selecting bishops and a new ecumenical council in an address June 29 at Oxford University.

The quest for church unity requires changes in the style of governance of the Catholic Church, the recently retired San Francisco archbishop said in a speech marking the 100th anniversary of Oxford's Campion Hall.

The archbishop took the cue for his address from Pope John Paul II's own request, in last year's encyclical on Christian unity, for leaders and theologians of the Christian churches to help the pope "find a way of exercising the (papal) primacy which, while in no way renouncing what is essential to its mission, is nonetheless open to a new situation."

Archbishop Quinn said a new council to open the millennium should let the world's bishops discuss frankly and openly key issues facing the church.

Among such issues, he said, are clerical celibacy, women's role in the church, the role of bishops' conferences, general absolution, liturgical inculturation, ordination of women, contraception, and reception of the sacraments by the divorced and remarried.

The speech is to be published in the July 12 issue of *Commonweal*, a U.S. national lay Catholic journal.

U.S. Jesuit Father Francis A. Sullivan, who taught theology of the church for decades at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, called Archbishop Quinn's talk one of the most important public statements on church reform by an experienced, high-ranking Catholic prelate since a May 1969 interview with the late Belgian Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens in the French Catholic periodical, *Informations Catholiques Internationales*.

Vatican officials had tried to prevent publication of that interview, in which Cardinal Suenens called for Curia reform, more local voice in selection of bishops and more subsidiarity in the church as prerequisites for Christian unity.

Archbishop Quinn, who headed the San Francisco Archdiocese for 18 years, is a former president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. A theology professor before he became a bishop, he has been a visiting professor at Oxford this spring.

He said Pope Pius XII called for applying the principle of subsidiarity — invoking higher structures only for those things that can't be done at a lower level — to the life of the church.

To call for local selection of bishops — as was done in most of the church until the early 19th century — or for less centralization of authority in other areas is not to challenge or question the primacy of the pope, but to address the issue of what is the appropriate or prudent exercise of that primacy, he said.

He said in urging discussion of a wide range of current church issues by a council, he was not necessarily advocating changes in church teachings or policies but simply arguing that one of the chief obstacles to Christian unity today is "the way issues are dealt with by the Curia."

"It must also be said that this is a concern all over the world," he said. "Recent events in Switzerland, Austria, Germany and France, in Brazil, Africa and the United States are only one indication of how widespread this concern is."

Archbishop Quinn said the widespread concern he referred to "has to do with the appointment of bishops, the approval of documents such as the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church,' the grave decline in the number of priests and the consequent decline in the availability of Mass for the people, the cognate issue of the celibacy of the clergy, the role of episcopal con-

ferences, the role of women and the issue of the ordination of women."

"Two things are involved in these issues: the decision of the Holy See on a specific issue and the way in which these decisions are reached and implemented," he said. "For instance, are such decisions imposed without consultation with the episcopate and without appropriate dialogue? Are bishops appointed against an overwhelming objection of people and priests in a given diocese?"

He said the Curia, which is "an administrative structure" of papal staff, sometimes acts as if it is a *tertium quid* — a third entity — between the pope and the bishops.

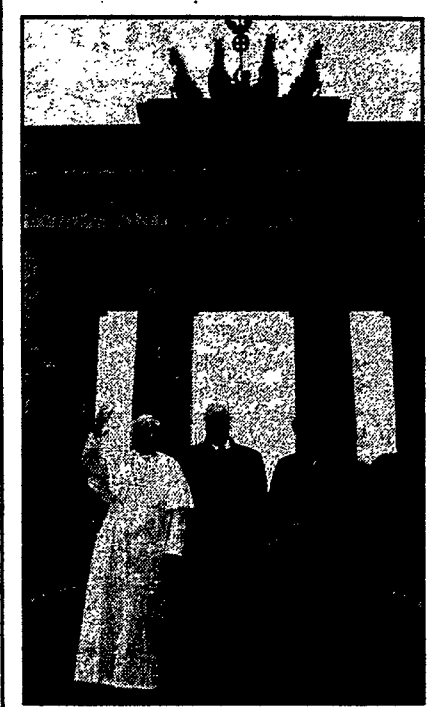
"When this happens," he said, "in place of the dogmatic structure comprised of the pope and the rest of the episcopate, there emerges a new and threefold structure: the pope, the Curia and the episcopate. This makes it possible for the Curia to see itself as exercising oversight and authority over the college of bishops, to see itself as subordinate to the pope but superior to the college of bishops."

He said this happened, for example, when the Curia rejected the inclusive-language English version of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" and oversaw a new translation even though "the majority of the active English-speaking cardinals of the world supported the original translation and vigorously opposed any new translation."

Archbishop Quinn emphasized that he was speaking "completely in fidelity to the church, one and Catholic."

In a separate press release in question-answer form, Archbishop Quinn said he expects to be accused of heresy or disloyalty for his remarks, "especially in today's climate where orthodoxy has been distorted in many quarters into a pseudo-orthodoxy called integralism."

"Integralism is more rigidity than fidelity, more fear of error than confidence



Reuters/CNS

Pope visits Germany

Pope John Paul II waves to spectators as he walks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (center) and Berlin mayor Eberhard Diepgen through Berlin's Brandenburg gate June 23.

in truth, more blind adherence to forms than an ever-deepening penetration of substance," he said. "(English) Cardinal (John Henry) Newman said of this mentality in the last century that 'they exalt their own opinions into dogmas and want to destroy every school but their own.'"

In the press release, in addition to areas dealt with in his address, he also cited several other topics a new council should address, including "the inviolability of life from conception to natural death, the responsible use of the resources of the earth and the just distribution of wealth, inculturation of the Gospel, ... (and) the appropriate freedom of theologians."

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Education

■ **AUG 2-3 — Convention:** Regional Catholic homeschooling gathering; Syracuse; Jim Likoudis, Steve Wood, Mary Kay Clark, speakers; for more information, call Jackie Spilinger, 315/689-1394.

Social Activities

■ **JULY 23-24 — Trip:** St. Ann's Basilica, Scranton, Pa.; includes tour of Catholic Golden Age Association national headquarters; cost of hotel and bus, \$120 per person; for information, call 716/467-3398.

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Education

■ **MON, JULY 8 — Registration deadline:** for Aug. 5-9 "Summer Faith Experience '96/Vacation Bible School"; St. Mary's of the Lake parish center, 10th St., Watkins Glen; music, arts and crafts, games, closing Mass followed by family hot dog roast; 9 a.m.-

noon daily; open to children 3 years old through those entering fourth grade; \$10 per child, \$20 per family; for information call 607/535-2227.

Monroe County

Adult Education

■ **WED, JULY 10 — Lecture:** "Chiapas: Symptoms of a disease in Mexico"; 7:30 p.m.; Episcopal Diocesan House, 935 East Ave., Rochester; Fr. Enrique Cadena, speaker; free and open to the public.

Social Activities

■ **FRI, JULY 5 — Dinner-bingo night:** dinner, 3:30 p.m.; Marriott, 1890 W. Ridge Road, Greece; bingo, 6:15 p.m.; St. Cecilia's, 2763 Culver Rd.; sponsored by St. Thomas More Singles' Club; for information, call Anne, 716/482-5656.

■ **SAT, JULY 13 — Seabreeze Park day:** 1 p.m.; meet at main gate, 4600 Culver Rd.; sponsored by St. Thomas More Singles' Club; for information, call Anne, 716/482-5656.

■ **UNTIL JULY 15 — Contest applications:** accepted

for Sept. 28 Miss Polonia Contest at St. Stanislaus Auditorium, Hudson Avenue and Norton Street, Rochester; sponsored by Polonia Civic Centre Inc. of Rochester; seeking candidates 15-20 years old, of Polish ancestry and living in Monroe County; call Valenteen Palis at 716/266-3144 or Irene Peters, 467-3398; prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$200.

■ **WED, JULY 17 — Concert:** Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra; 7:30 p.m.; Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.; free; for information, call 716/244-7060.

Religious Activities

■ **TUES, JULY 9 — Divine Mercy Devotion:** 7:30-8:30 p.m.; St. Rita's Church, 1008 Maple Ave., Webster; meets second and fourth Thursday of each month; all are welcome.

■ **THU, JULY 11 — Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life:** in light of recent court and legislative struggles over abortion and physician-assisted suicide; called for by the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

■ **TUES, JULY 16 — Mass:** to mark Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; 9:30 a.m.; Monastery of Our Lady and St. Joseph, 1931 W. Jefferson Road, Pittsford; Bishop Dennis Hickey, celebrant; all invited.

■ **JULY 17-25 — Novena:** to St. Anne; 7:30 p.m. each day; St. Anne Church, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester; Fr. Joseph S. Mahon, CSP, preaching on the theme, "Responding to God's Call."

Fundraisers

■ **SUN, JULY 14 — Ice Cream Social:** 12:30-5 p.m.; Corpus Christ Church parking lot, Main and Prince streets, Rochester; \$5 per person, \$15 per family; includes clowning, face painting and dancing; to benefit Isaiah House home for the dying.

■ **MON, JULY 22 — Golf tournament:** Kids Adjusting Through Support second annual open; Blue Heron Hills Country Club; Flaum/Christ Builders of Frontier Field are major sponsors; featuring Rochester Amerks, Knighthawks, Raging Rhinos; \$125, including lunch, dinner; call Dr. Michael Henrichs, 716/232-5287.

Meetings

■ **THU, JULY 18 — Support group:** for anyone impacted by HIV/AIDS; 7:30-9 p.m.; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; family members, friends invited; held third Thursday of every month.

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Adult Education

■ **SAT, JULY 13 — Program:** "Living faith ... transforming our world"; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; St. James Parish hall, 503 Clark St., Waverly; sponsored by Catholic Charities.

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Religious Activities

■ **WED, JULY 17 — Prayer service:** Queen of Peace Night; rosary, Mass, silent adoration, Benediction, healing prayers; 7 p.m.; Notre Dame Retreat House, Foster Road, Canandaigua; Father William Cosgrove, celebrant; for information, call 716/394-0604.

Social Activities

■ **FRI, JULY 12 — Senior games:** golf, bowling, race walks, 400-meter run, 1K run, tennis, card games, bocce, swimming, checkers, etc.; open to men and women 55 years old and older; for exact times, sites and registration information, call 716/394-6968.