

WORLD & NATION

Cuba to grant permits for additional missionaries

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — After high-level meetings between Vatican and Cuban officials, Cuba has granted entry permits to at least 15 foreign missionaries, church sources said.

Some reports said up to 40 priests and nuns may be allowed into the country in coming weeks. For years, Cuba has resisted church requests to augment its corps of pastoral workers on the island.

The breakthrough reportedly came when Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, an assistant secretary of state, met in late October with top Cuban leaders. Rome church sources said several visas were approved soon after the archbishop's visit to Havana.

Cuban President Fidel Castro was believed to have informed the pope about the



CNS photo from the Vatican
Cuban President Fidel Castro presents a gift from the sea to Pope John Paul II during their private audience Nov. 19 at the Vatican. The historic audience may pave the way for a papal trip to communist Cuba.

new permits during their meeting at the Vatican Nov. 19, in an effort to show that Cuba's recent pledges of religious tolerance were supported by concrete facts.

The missionaries, most of them from Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and Spain, join a handful of foreign priests and nuns already working on the island.

Cuban church leaders and Vatican officials have insisted on the freedom to send supplementary personnel, saying the pastoral workload is too great for the local church. Currently, there are 12 bishops and 234 priests in Cuba, ministering to a Catholic population of about 4.5 million.

Among those receiving entry visas were two Italian missionary priests. One of them, Father Giulio Battistella, told the Italian news agency SIR that he did not expect an easy time in Cuba.

"If there is dialogue at the highest levels of the church and the Cuban government,

the situation at the grass roots is very different. The bureaucracy and the state apparatus still try in every way to hinder the work of the church and its missionaries," he said.

Father Battistella also said he thought that despite the Castro-pope meeting, many on the island still oppose the Cuban leader.

Meanwhile, Cuban bishops expressed satisfaction at the pope's meeting with Castro and the announced intention of a papal visit to Cuba in 1997, Vatican Radio reported.

The president of the Cuban bishops' conference, Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana, said the church "enormously appreciated" the historic encounter at the Vatican. He said he hoped it would open up new opportunities both for the church and for Cuba's economic and social development.

Mother Teresa agrees to undergo angiogram testing

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Mother Teresa agreed to undergo an angiogram to help doctors determine if angioplasty was necessary and was moved to an Indian heart clinic Nov. 26.

As she was carried from Woodlands Nursing Home on a stretcher, eyes shut and arms folded, a silent crowd of some 200 people — including nuns from her Missionaries of Charity — stood watching.

Mother Teresa was taken by ambulance to B.M. Birla Heart Research Center, ac-

companied by a doctor, a nurse and four nuns.

"Generally she is all right," said the heart clinic administrator, A.K. Chatterjee. "She has been placed in the critical care unit where all heart support arrangements are available."

In a medical bulletin, Woodlands Nursing Home stated that the angiogram results would reveal if angioplasty were necessary.

Chatterjee said doctors were to deter-

mine the date of the angiogram, which was likely to occur Nov. 27.

"When she agreed, we decided to do it quickly unless she might change her decision," said Dr. Sudipto Kumar Sen, medical director of Woodlands Nursing Home. Sen said Nov. 25 that the 86-year-old nun had been reluctant to consent to any invasive procedure.

Mother Teresa underwent angioplasty at the Birla clinic in 1993 and at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in

California in 1991. She was fitted with a pacemaker in 1989.

An angiogram involves inserting a catheter and injecting a radiopaque substance into the blood vessels to help take X-ray images and show any blockage. Angioplasty repairs damaged blood vessels using a tiny inflatable balloon.

The Missionaries of Charity founder and Nobel laureate was admitted to Woodlands Nursing Home early Nov. 22 with acute left ventricular heart failure.

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Workshops

■ **FRI, NOV. 29** — **Reservation deadline:** for Dec. 4 presentation, "Making End-of-Life Choices," a Consistent Life Ethic/Continuing Education Initiative; St. Bernard's Institute, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester; \$25; for more information call 716/271-3657.

■ **DEC. 6-8** — **Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** The Brookwood Inn, 800 Pittsford-Victor Rd., Pittsford; for information or to register call Mike and Kathy, 716/872-3180 or John and Linda, 607/776-4870.

Chemung Schuyler

Fundraisers

■ **FRI, NOV. 29** — **Holiday concert:** Notre Dame High School, 1400 Maple Ave., Elmira; 8 p.m.; featuring West O'Clare; tickets \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, children under 10 free; proceeds to benefit school's tuition assistance program; for more information call 607/734-2267.

Social Activities

■ **TUE, DEC. 3** — **"Tree of Love":** ceremony; St. Joseph's Hospital, main entrance, Market St.; Elmira; 7:30 p.m.; Christmas carols, visit from Santa; refreshments; for more information call 607/737-7004.

Livingston County

Fundraisers

■ **SUN, DEC. 1** — **Concert:** to benefit Catholic Charities of Livingston County; St. Mary's Parish Center, 13 North St., Geneseo; 2:430 p.m.; featuring the "Just in Time" and the "Silvertones" flute ensemble; donations accepted; for more information call 716/658-2572.

Monroe County

Fundraisers

■ **NOV. 30-DEC. 1** — **Christmas sale:** St. Jude's Shrine Shop, 4100 Lyell Rd., Rochester; Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Hummels, Precious Moments, Christmas items.

■ **MON, DEC. 2** — **Reverse draw:** sponsored by Bishop Kearney Parent's Alumni Council; Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Hwy. S., Irondequoit; 6:30 p.m.; \$100 per ticket; proceeds to benefit Emergency Tuition Fund; for tickets call Fred, 716/467-0365 or Bob, 716/342-1795.

Meetings

■ **WED, DEC. 4** — **Conversation:** "Listening to Each Other Respectfully, Part I: Physician-Assisted Suicide — Ten Questions"; sponsored by Downtown Community Forum, St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester; 12:10-12:50

p.m.; Thomas A. Shannon, speaker; for more information call 716/232-7140.

■ **WED, DEC. 4** — **Program:** "Listening to Each Other Respectfully, Part II: Moral Perspectives on Homosexuality"; sponsored by Downtown Community Forum, St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester; 5-7 p.m.; Patricia Beattie Jung, speaker; for more information call 716/232-7140.

Religious Activities

■ **SUN, DEC. 1** — **Cantor Vespers:** Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Pk., Rochester; 4 p.m.

■ **SUN, DEC. 1** — **Family Mass and breakfast:** of Notre Dame Club of Rochester; Our Lady of Mercy High School Convent Chapel, 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester; call 716/482-0419 for reservations.

■ **SUN, DEC. 1** — **Interdenominational service:** of remembrance, healing and hope; Corpus Christi Church, 880 E. Main St., Rochester; 3-4 p.m.; for more information call Maria, 716/546-6180.

■ **DEC 1-3** — **Mission/Revival:** at St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Drive, Rochester; Mass 10:30 a.m., 7 p.m. youth night Sunday, 7 p.m., "Repentance and Forgiveness" Monday, 7 p.m. "Union with God" Tuesday; Father John Raphael, speaker.

■ **TUE, DEC. 3** — **Bilingual Mass:** for feast of St. Francis Xavier; Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier Church, 314 Bay St., Rochester; 6:30 p.m.; social hour following Mass; for more information call 716/482-3211.

■ **THU, DEC. 5** — **Presen-**

tation: "Angels Seem to Be Everywhere"; sponsored by Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; for reservations call 716/473-6893.

Social Activities

■ **NOV 29-JAN. 2** — **Display:** of holiday angels; Strong Museum, One Manhattan Square, Rochester; for information call 716/263-2700, ext. 273.

■ **NOV 30-DEC. 1** — **Play:** "Spotlight on Jonah Wade"; performed by Inner Voice Theatre; First Universalist Church, 150 Clinton Ave. S., Rochester; Sat. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m.; for reservations or ticket information call 716/426-0242 or 716/325-4446

■ **SUN, DEC. 1** — **Art and Craft Show:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 1089 Joseph Ave., Rochester; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Christmas music, children's games, raffles, food; for information call 716/266-8741.

■ **FRI, DEC. 6** — **RAMS Ball:** Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St., Rochester; 7 p.m. cocktail reception, 8 p.m. dinner; for information call Valerie, 716/271-0801, ext. 557; to receive an invitation call Natalie, 716/271-0801, ext. 558.

■ **DEC. 7-8** — **Craft show:** and coffee hour; St. Francis of Assisi Church, 77 Whitney St., Rochester; Sat., after 4:30 p.m. Mass and Sun. after 9 a.m. Mass; in parish hall.

Sports

■ **SAT, NOV. 30** — **Hockey tournament:** Fourth Annual Kearney Invitational Hockey Classic; Rochester War Memorial, 100 Exchange Blvd., Roches-

ter; for information call Br. Paul Hannon, 716/342-4000.

Seneca Cayuga

Fundraisers

■ **SUN, DEC. 1** — **Christmas Show:** sponsored by the Mercy Foundation; Auburn High School, Auburn; 2 p.m.; to benefit Mercy Health and Rehab Center; features Cahal Dunne, "Ireland's Happy Man"; for information call 315/253-0351.

Meetings

■ **TUE, DEC. 3** — **Wounded Healers:** Bereavement Support Group; St. Joseph's School (formerly St. Mary's), 17 Clymer St., Auburn; 7:30-9 p.m.; Mary Erickson Seitz, speaker; for more information call Jeanette or Chris, 315/252-7661.

Tompkin Tioga

Fundraisers

■ **NOV. 30-DEC. 1** — **Christmas bazaar:** Immaculate Conception Church, 113 N. Geneva St., Ithaca; Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-noon.

Religious Activities

■ **FRI, NOV. 29** — **Thanksgiving celebration:** "Contemporary Christian Music Celebration"; St. Patrick's Church, 300 Main St., Owego; 7-9:30 p.m.; refreshments to follow.