

WORLD & NATION

Pax Christi urges UPS hear workers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The leadership of Pax Christi USA has urged United Parcel Service to "employ a full-time work force to the greatest extent possible."

One of the main issues in a Teamsters strike against UPS that began Aug. 4 has been the union's demand that the company create more full-time positions for its part-time workers.

An Aug. 8 Pax Christi letter to UPS president Kent Nelson said a full-time work force was "a matter of justice and sound social policy." The letter was released Aug. 8 during Pax Christi USA's national convention in Washington.

The letter said that 57.3 percent of UPS employees are part-time and nearly 80 percent of those hired recently are part-timers.

Negotiations between UPS and the Teamsters on a new five-year contract broke off Aug. 1 and then resumed Aug. 3 at the request of federal mediators. But the strike was called after those talks collapsed.

A second round of talks with federal mediators began Aug. 7 and broke off again Aug. 9 after UPS said it would not move from its last offer, which included the creation of 1,000 new full-time jobs over the life of a five-year contract.

Of the 308,000 UPS employees, 185,000 are represented by the Teamsters. About



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United Parcel Service striking employees picket at the main entrance of the Columbus, Ohio, UPS facility Aug. 7.

two-thirds of Teamsters members are part-time workers at UPS.

"We understand that you offer benefits to your part-time employees and we think you should be commended for this," said the letter to Nelson, signed by Colleen McHenry-Cornell, chair of the national council of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace organization.

"However, part-time workers make lower wages, have much less in benefits and have far less job security than workers with similar full-time work," McHenry-Cornell said.

"We also understand that companies need to make a profit in order to stay in business that this needs to be a consideration in all business decision-making," she continued. "However, we also believe that the needs of the workers and their families is just as important a factor in determine just and moral relationships between labor and management."

The letter quoted from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the U.S. bishops' 1996 statement "Economic Justice for All" in urging UPS to "keep in mind the ... principles of social justice articulated in Catholic social teaching."

Pax Christi does about \$6,000 in business each year with UPS. Going to a full-time work force "might mean an increase in our cost, but we believe that justice demands that we be willing to take on this added expense," McHenry-Cornell said.

Bishops vote on lectionary

WASHINGTON — The general secretariat of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops announced Aug. 11 that the bishops have approved submission of the *Lectionary for Mass*, volume 1, to the Vatican for confirmation. They also approved establishment of a new permanent National Collection for the Home Missions.

Both "action items" were voted on by the bishops at their general meeting in Kansas City in June. But because they did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority, the voting was inconclusive, and mail-in ballots were sent to those bishops who were not present.

The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy had asked bishops to approve the submission of the first volume of the lectionary for use in the United States to the Vatican for confirmation, and to authorize after five years a full review of the lectionary, with the possibility of updating it. The proposal was passed 199-50.

The controversial Lectionary, containing Scripture readings proclaimed at Mass, is a reworked version of one proposing more gender-inclusive language.

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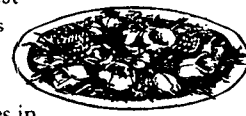
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