

'Pull back from brink,' N. Ireland bishop urges

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland (CNS) — The deaths of three Catholic boys in a sectarian arson attack shocked Catholics and Protestants across Northern Ireland and drew appeals for calm from leaders of both communities.

"People here are in total shock. The silence is eerie," said Presentation Sister Laura Boyle, who for seven years has lived and worked along the predominantly Catholic Garvaghy Road.

"It is so senseless to think that three lads had to lose their lives because of the hatred in adults' hearts. But sometimes horrific things have to happen to jolt people back into reality," Sister Boyle told Catholic News Service July 13.

Auxiliary Bishop Michael Dallat of the Belfast Diocese of Down and Connor extended his sympathy and condolences "to the bereaved and shattered family. I have to condemn this criminal deed without any quantification.

"People must take responsibility for what is happening. I appeal for calm and call for people to pull back from the brink," the bishop said.

"There is nothing more important in human life. We cannot afford any death, let alone the death of these three young boys in any civilized community.

"Principles are all right, but not at the expense of human life. We must all stand back," he added.

The Quinn boys — Richard, 11, Mark, 9, and Jason, 8 — were killed July 12 in an early morning gasoline bomb attack on their house in a predominantly Protestant neighborhood in Ballymoney, about 40 miles northwest of Belfast.

The boys attended a Protestant school. Their mother is Catholic. The children's aunt, mother and her Protestant boyfriend who lived in the house escaped the blaze and were treated for burns.

The attack was part of more than a week of protests by loyalist Protestants who support the demand of the Orange Order, a Protestant fraternity, to march along Garvaghy Road. The head of the Church of Ireland, Anglican Archbishop Robin Eames, said: "A family has been wiped out. We are told it is murder. I can only conclude it is

one more act of madness in this community."

He asked Orangemen to move away from the Church of Ireland church at Drumcree.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, a Free Presbyterian minister and member of the Northern Ireland Assembly who supports the Orange Order, called the boys' deaths "a terrible tragedy indeed, perpetrated by evil people."

Local leaders appealed to Orangemen, camped for more than a week outside the Anglican church at Drumcree, some 30 miles west of Belfast, to end their stand-off with security forces. Although Orangemen said they would scale down protests, they stated they would not move until allowed to walk down Garvaghy Road.

Police blocked the road to prevent a traditional parade by the Orange Order through a Catholic neighborhood in predominantly Protestant Portadown.

Sister Boyle said that members of the Orange Order "cannot go down that road this year if the peace agreement is going to succeed."

According to published reports, on July 12, several hundred Orangemen from Portadown marched around a pasture near the Anglican church at Drumcree where marchers had been stopped by security forces July 5.

Catholic residents say the parade celebrating a 1690 Protestant victory over Catholics is offensive and reflects current inequality between Protestants and Catholics.

Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, primate of all Ireland, asked Orangemen to abide by the Parades Commission's decision to reroute the march away from the area.

"I would ask Orangemen to call it off," he said, noting the commission determined there are other ways to defend rights.

Northern Ireland's parades were being monitored by 80 international observers.

One of the observers, Sister of Charity Regina Murphy of the New York-based Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, said, "Our international presence shows support for the democratic process."

Religious reps paved way for trip

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A visit by U.S. religious leaders to China in March helped lay the foundation for President Clinton's discussion of religious freedom issues there, said a State Department official.

"Their ability to have candid discussions about restrictions on freedom of religion in China and the importance of lifting those restrictions set the stage for the much broader discussion that the president and secretary of state were able to have in their meetings," John Shattuck, assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor said July 10.

The delegation that visited China included Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, of Newark, N.J., chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee; Rev. Don Argue, Washington Liaison for the National Association of Evangelicals; and Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

Shattuck said the three met with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and told him that the issues they had raised would also be raised by Clinton. The men also met with Clinton before he left for China to review what they had covered. Clinton traveled to China in late June on a nine-day, five-city trip.

During meetings with the director of China's religious affairs bureau, Shattuck, who went on the presidential trip, said he stressed "the importance of having dialogue leading to relations between the Vatican and the Chinese government to make

sure that all Catholic religious activities are going to be free and fair."

"I also talked about a larger return delegation of U.S. religious leaders to China ... I think that was quite well-received," he said. The proposed future delegation would include members of the secretary of state's advisory committee on religious freedom, which is made up of about 20 religious leaders and scholars, he said.

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CNS/Reuters
A police officer stands guard at the burned-out house where three Catholic boys died July 12 in a firebomb attack in Ballymoney, Northern Ireland. Both Protestant and Catholic church leaders appealed for calm following the attack.

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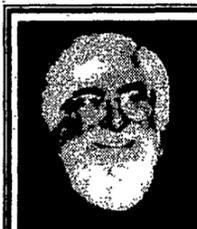
1998 Theme: Contemplative Prayer: the mystical tradition of the church
Guest Preacher: Father Patrick Eastman

Nine Days of Prayers, at 7:30 pm
Vespers, Sermon, Novena Prayers

Friday, July 17	Prayer of the Breath <i>Genesis 2:4b-7</i>
Saturday, July 18	The Invitation <i>Exodus 3:1-6a</i>
Sunday, July 19	Thoughts <i>Luke 4:1-12</i>
Monday, July 20	Listening <i>1 Samuel 3:1-9</i>
Tuesday, July 21	Responding <i>Song of Songs 5:2-8</i>
Wednesday, July 22	Repeating <i>Psalms 1:1-3</i>
Thursday, July 23	Resting <i>Song of Songs 2:8-16</i>
Friday, July 24	Senses of Scripture <i>Proverbs</i>
Saturday, July 25	Pilgrimage <i>Exodus 33:1-3a</i>
Sunday, July 26	Feast of Saints Anne & Joachim, at 11:30 AM Solemn Celebration of the Eucharist

For the Novena Days
Organist: Brink Bush
Cantor: Colleen Liggett

For the Feast Day
Choirmaster: Thomas Donohue
Choir of Saint Anne Church



The Reverend Patrick Eastman was ordained a priest for the Catholic Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma in August 1984. Born in South-West England in 1937, Father Patrick served as priest of the Church of England from 1969 to 1983, when he and his wife, Maureen, were received into the Roman Catholic Church. Father Patrick holds Masters degrees in Theology from Oxford; Philosophy and Psychology from Sunderland, England; and Monastic Studies and Spirituality from St. John University in Collegeville, Minnesota. He has been a Benedictine Oblate since 1963. He is the founding editor of *Monos* and the Spiritual Leader of *The Monos Community*. His interests include Thomas Merton and Bede Griffiths, together with the study and practice of contemplative spirituality, Zen and the recovery of the Christian Wisdom Tradition.

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