

# WORLD & NATION

## Events around the country celebrate Jubilee

WASHINGTON (CNS) - U.S. Catholics are marking the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 in a variety of ways - from liturgical celebrations and conferences to seeking forgiveness and canceling debts.

As Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass in Nazareth on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, jubilee observances focusing on women, youths, peace and unity, the Eucharist, and forgiveness were held around the country.

Celebrations of the international Jubilee Day for Women took place in Washington and the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

In Washington, Harvard law professor Mary Ann Glendon spoke at a prayer breakfast honoring women at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Recalling the life of the late Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, Glendon counseled some 400 participants "to open their hearts to the grace of God."

The event, which included Mass, was co-sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and the Church; the National Council of Catholic Women; Women Affirming Life; Catholic Daughters of the Americas; St. Mary's Press; *Magnificat* magazine; the Leadership Conference of Women Religious; and Trinity College.

More than 600 women attended Newark's celebration at Felician College in Lodi.

In her keynote address, religious educator and columnist Gaynell Cronin said women get through life's difficulties and tragedies with guidance from God and the counsel of others, especially other women.

Just as Elizabeth was there for Mary after the Annunciation, said Cronin, women today need to "set aside their own agendas" to be available to listen to the concerns of others.

As part of their pilgrimage in the Diocese of Providence, R.I., hundreds of

Catholic youths passed through the jubilee door at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul for Mass.

Caterina Spaziano, a seventh-grade religious education student from Warwick's St. William Parish, said she was aware of the importance of passing through the jubilee door.

"I thought it was really special to do something like this," she told *The Providence Visitor* diocesan newspaper.

An estimated 2,900 people prayed for peace and unity at a jubilee Mass at the Patriot Center in Fairfax, Va.

In his homily, Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde said: "Each of us knows the sins we have personally committed: within the family circle, the vocation or calling in life which is uniquely ours, the workplace, the neighborhood, the parish, the community."

Christians also must seek forgiveness for other sins, he said, including lack of unity, anti-Semitism, failure to recognize the dignity and legitimate roles of women, and neglect of the church's rich cultural diversity.

Also March 25, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis sponsored a daylong conference on the Eucharist - "Celebrating the Body of Christ" - which drew 2,000 participants.

Part of the archdiocese's 150th anniversary, the event also recognized Jubilee Day for Women and the Encuentro 2000 movement.

In his homily at the concluding Mass, Archbishop Harry J. Flynn said it is important to respect all cultures. "We are Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ will not be divided," he said.

The Eucharist "creates a union not only (between) myself and Jesus Christ," he said, "but (among) all those who have received the Eucharist."

Meanwhile, at a prayer service in the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., Bishop John S. Cummins publicly apologized to victims of clergy sexual abuse, their families and friends.

To those who were sexually abused by priests, the bishop said, "For our lack of facing the truth regarding abuse by clergy and others, for our tendency to retreat into denial and self-protection in the face of such abuse, for our response of fear and avoidance rather than of care for the survivors of clergy sexual abuse, we ask pardon and forgiveness."

The service, nearly a year in the planning, was partly a response to Pope John Paul's jubilee call for the church to seek forgiveness from those it has harmed.

In related jubilee news, Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., announced cancellation of a jubilee Mass on Pentecost in Tampa.

The Mass - expected to bring 20,000 Catholics to the Ice Palace June 10 - was canceled because Ice Palace officials declined to also rent the venue to the diocese June 9 for necessary technical set-up.

Bishop Lynch said the diocese was investigating the possibility of holding an alternative jubilee event later in the year at Tropicana Field, home of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays baseball team.

Catholic institutions also are forgiving debts owed to them, in keeping with a jubilee emphasis on forgiveness.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Worth-South Bend, Ind., approved a recommendation to forgive \$4.6 million in debt for 12 struggling diocesan parishes, while Bishop Henry J. Mansell of Buffalo, N.Y., said his diocese was forgiving debts totaling \$55 million owed by 55 parishes.

Also, the Loretto Community canceled \$250,000 in debt and interest.



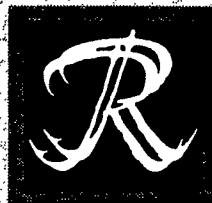
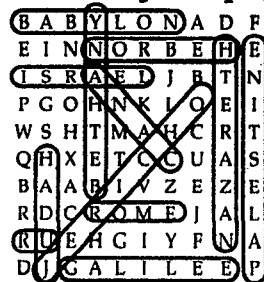
Nancy Wiechec/CNS

### Jubilee pilgrimage

Knights of Columbus flank the main aisle of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception April 1 in Washington. Thousands of members of the Catholic fraternal organization were participating in a jubilee-year pilgrimage and Mass at the shrine.

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