

WORLD & NATION

Cardinal favors debate on death penalty issue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although public skepticism about the death penalty is growing, it will take a "moral revolution" that supports justice, without vengeance to change things, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony told a National Press Club audience May 25.

What is needed ... is a moral revolution that shows respect for all human life, "especially the unborn and the poor, the crime victims and even the violent offender," he said. "Human dignity is not qualified by what we do. It cannot be earned or forfeited."

Cardinal Mahony, who chairs the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee, said that as a priest who has presided at funerals of police officers and who has tried to console families of children killed in drive-by shootings, he has witnessed firsthand "the irreparable pain and sorrow caused by violence in our communities and in our nation."

"What troubles me deeply is when people (who have lost someone to murder) say there will never be closure until X, Y or Z is killed," he said. "As if closure of a loss is going to be made by the death of someone else."

Cardinal Mahony said he believes God expects people to be responsible for their own actions, and that includes making reparations for injuries to others.

"But I do not believe that society is

made safer, that our communities are made whole, or that our social fabric is strengthened by killing those who kill others," he said. "Instead, the death penalty perpetuates an insidious cycle of violence that, in the end, diminishes all of us."

Although Catholics have mirrored the general U.S. public in their majority support for capital punishment, Cardinal Mahony said he believes the pope's visit to the St. Louis in 1999 marked a turning point.

The pope challenged Catholics to protect all human life and oppose the death penalty, just as they oppose abortion and euthanasia, Cardinal Mahony noted. The pope's words brought renewed attention to the church's teaching, which has evolved to say there is almost no reason for capital punishment in modern society, he said.

Catholic teaching now recognizes that there are non-violent means to protect society and to hold offenders accountable, the cardinal noted.

Public support for capital punishment has diminished, according to recent polls Cardinal Mahony cited. ABC News reported that support for the death penalty has declined from 70 percent of the American public a few years ago to 64 percent. A recent *Time* magazine online poll found that 43 percent of the participants support abolishing capital punishment.

Cardinal Mahony said the U.S. bishops support legislation introduced in Con-



Debbie Hill/CNS

Lebanese refugees

Maronite Father Saleem Sausan of St. Louis Parish in Haifa, Israel, greets Lebanese refugees newly arrived in Israel after celebrating a liturgy for them May 28.

gress to ensure that defendants have access to potentially exculpatory DNA evidence and requiring states to provide competent defense counsel. Other bills would abolish the death penalty at the federal level.

"All these initiatives, taken together, are signs of growing skepticism about the system," Cardinal Mahony said. But the long-

term goal is not simply to make application of the death penalty free from bias, inequity or human error.

"Instead these efforts should be steps toward a public dialogue that ultimately brings a permanent end to state executions," he said. "The time is right for a genuine and reasoned national dialogue."

CALENDAR

Chemung Schuyler

Meetings

■ **JUNE 1, 5** — Grief support group: Big Flats United Methodist Church, 3049 Hillview Dr., Big Flats; 6-7:30 p.m.; Christ United Methodist Church, 330 W. Church St., Elmira; noon-1 p.m.; call Pamela Gee 607/733-9068, ext. 17.

■ **TUE, JUNE 6** — Seminar: "The Good News about Knee and Hip Pain"; Cusick Room, St. Joseph's Hospital, 555 E. Market St., Elmira; 11 a.m.; for reservations call Celeste 607/737-7809.

Religious Activities

■ **SUN, JUNE 4** — Mass: Sesquicentennial celebration; Eastside Catholic Parish, 161 High St., Elmira; 10:30 a.m.

■ **SUN, JUNE 4** — Priests' Appreciation Day: sponsored by Court St. Joseph #139; Catholic Daughters of the Americas; St. Vincent de Paul Church, 222 Dodge St., Corning; Eucharist 9:30 a.m.; Communion brunch, Radisson, 11 a.m.; for reservations call Teresa Gallo 607/936-3940.

■ **MON, JUNE 5** — Prayer: "Worldwide Cancer Prayer Day"; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1100 W. Church St., Elmira; Eucharistic Adoration noon-5 p.m.; Mass with anointing of sick 5:30 p.m.

■ **JUNE 5, 12** — Workshop: Alive in Christ — "Discovering My Experience of God"; for interested adults and religious education teachers; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1100 W. Church St., Elmira; 6:30-9 p.m.; 607/734-0727.

■ **WED, JUNE 7** — Mass: 60th anniversary; Ladies of Charity of Chemung County; Bishop Matthew Clark, celebrant; St. Peter & Paul Church, corner Market & High Sts., Elmira; 11 a.m.; everyone welcome.

Livingston County

Religious Activities

■ **WED, JUNE 7** — Pray the rosary: WDNV Radio, 1400AM, Dansville; 6:30 p.m.; every Wed.

Monroe County

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, JUNE 3** — Family festival: Sisters of Mercy, 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester; 4:30 p.m.; Really Big Q barbecue 4-7 p.m.; family Mass 5 p.m.; 716/288-2710, ext. 114.

■ **THU, JUNE 8** — Registration deadline: for June 28 golf tournament; to benefit Prevention Partners; Shadow Pines Golf Club, 600 Whalen Rd., Penfield; 11 a.m.; \$95/golfer, \$105 after June 8; for information call Marilyn 716/288-2800, ext. 40.

Health

■ **JUNE 5, 6** — Clinic: free blood pressure screening; June 5: Walk-in Care Center, St. Mary's Hospital, 89 Genesee St., Rochester; 3:30-6 p.m.; June 6: Edna Tina Wilson Living Center, 700 Island Cottage Rd., Rochester; 3:30-4:30 p.m.; no

appointment necessary; 716/368-3700.

Meetings

■ **MON, JUNE 5** — Registration deadline: for June 15, 22 "Promoting Women's Health"; Mary Louise Mitchell, SSJ, leader; SSJ Spirituality Center, 402 Rogers Pkwy., Rochester; 7:30-9 p.m.; \$12; 716/336-4370.

Religious Activities

■ **FRI, JUNE 2** — First Friday Mass: Fr. Bernard Dollen, celebrant; Catholic Women's Club Clubhouse, 492 East Ave., Rochester; 11:45 a.m. rosary, noon Mass, followed by coffee and Danish; 716/461-9173.

Social Activities

■ **THU, JUNE 8** — Grand opening: new office; Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester, 200 Park Ave., Rochester; ribbon cutting by Senator Jim Alesi; 3:30 p.m.; 716/234-3337.

■ **Accepting applications:** Rochester AmeriCorps; for information call 716/262-1778 or visit the AmeriCorps office, 4th fl., Damon City Campus, Monroe Community College, 228 E. Main St., Rochester.

Talks

■ **SUN, JUNE 4** — Talk: "Canon Lawyers: Who Needs Them?"; Fr. Kevin McKenna, diocesan chancellor, speaker; parish hall, Holy Ghost Church, 220 Goldwater Rd., Gates; 2-3:30 p.m. Following his speech, Fr. McKenna will sign copies of his newest book, *A Concise Guide to Canon Law*.

■ **TUE, JUNE 6** — Interfaith Forum: First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 220 S. Winton Rd., Rochester; to register call Rev. Richard Gilbert 716/271-

9070; for information call Mike Boucher 716/325-1180.

Meetings

■ **WED, JUNE 7** — Forum: "High Speed Rail: How Can Rochester Get On Board?"; Bill Sanford, John Reed, speakers; Dugan Center, St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Pl., Rochester; 5-7 p.m.; free; 716/292-7168.

Seneca Cayuga

Meetings

■ **TUE, JUNE 6** — Support group: Wounded Healers' Bereavement; "The Death of a Spouse" film; St. Joseph's School, 17 Clymer St., Auburn; 7:30-9 p.m.; call Jeannette or Chris 315/252-5166.

Steuben County

Religious Activities

■ **SUN, JUNE 4** — Televised Mass: cable channel 13, channel 48; 10-11 a.m.; videotaped Sat. 4:30 p.m.; St. Patrick's Church, Corning.

Tompkin Tioga

Religious Activities

■ **JUNE 5, 12** — Presentation: "Searching for the Historical Jesus"; Fr. George Heyman, speaker; St. John the Evangelist Church parish hall, 24 Rock St.,

Newark Valley; 7-8:30 p.m.; \$3; sponsored by Tioga Regional Center.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Fundraisers

■ **SUN, JUNE 4** — Parish fair: St. Dominic Church, Rt. 21, Shortsville; 1-5 p.m.; games, entertainment, booths, refreshments, yard sale; to benefit parish insurance fund.

Meetings

■ **THU, JUNE 8** — Support group: bereavement; St. Mary's Church Hall, corner E. Gibson St., Canandaigua; 7-8:30 p.m.; call Marcia 716/394-6836 or Peg 716/394-4136.

Social Activities

■ **SAT, JUNE 3** — Pig roast: and dance: St. Januarius Church Hall & garden, 180 N. Main St., Naples; 6:15 p.m.; \$10; tickets available at Naples Pharmacy, Vierhile's Appliances or call 716/374-2414.

■ **SUN, JUNE 4** — Census: to determine needs of people; St. Patrick's Church, Macedon; members will canvass homes within parish boundaries between 1-5 p.m.

■ **TUE, JUNE 6** — Dinner: "Sharing the Light Award"; sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes; Club 86, Geneva; Frank D. Giardino, Kevin J. Powers, Lucia A. Wheeler, recipients; 315/789-2686