

# WORLD & NATION



## Execution protest

Tracy Schroeder, 21, protests Gary Graham's execution by holding an upside-down American flag outside the Huntsville, Texas, prison where he was put to death June 22.

## Church officials denounce attack on Britain's bishops

By Paulinus Barnes  
Catholic News Service

MANCHESTER, England — British church officials denounced attacks on the country's bishops made at a London meeting of the British Catholic group Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

A speaker at the annual conference of the group, which describes itself as for "faithful Catholics," urged people to ask God to take bishops "who will not respond to his grace ... to their early reward."

Almost 1,000 participants attended the late-May Faith of Our Fathers' Conference.

Retired Bishop Hugh Lindsay of Hexham and Newcastle, said in a June 21 telephone interview that it would be wrong to make judgments about the speakers at the conference, but he said their view of the hierarchy in England and Wales was wrong.

"I am one of the longest serving members of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and have attended more or less every meeting since I became a bishop in October 1969, and I have known all the bishops in that time. I have not known any bishop who was anything other than completely orthodox."

"In that time there has not been one bishop who was not completely loyal to the teaching of Our Lord and his Gospels, or to the pope and his teaching. I have not known any bishop who was not very prayerful," he said.

Among the speakers at the conference was Rod Pead, editor of the London-based *Christian Order* magazine. In a wide-ranging attack on the British Catholic hierarchy, he said that it had "broken ranks with the Holy Father in deciding for itself what to teach in union with him."

"We know all about the curse of cafeteria Catholicism," he said, "but the cafeteria Catholics are simply mimicking their pick-and-choose prelates."

"Have we prayed and fasted and done penance and really begged God on our knees to convert the hearts and minds of

the bishops? Have we consistently pleaded with him to take the hirelings who will not respond to his grace to their early reward, and send us real Catholic shepherds in their stead?" Pead said.

Msgr. Kieron Conry, spokesman for the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, said the irony of the attacks was that they were an attack on the pope himself.

"When they criticize the bishops, they are criticizing the pope who appointed them and they are denying the role of the Holy Spirit in the process. It implies that the Vatican doesn't know what it is up to. These people are appropriating to themselves the judgment as to what is right and what is wrong. They make such sweeping generalizations and judgments which are hurtful and unchristian," he said.

A letter in the June 18 Manchester-based weekly newspaper *The Catholic Times*, described the conference as "an obscene display of hatred and betrayal."

The letter was from a person who had attended the conference.

"We were subjected to a vitriolic attack on members of the hierarchy in the extreme," the letter stated. "These speakers, who claim to be 'for the church and for the pope' and yet so readily denounce our bishops, forget too easily that it was the pope who appointed them in the first place and that Pope John Paul II himself is a champion of the ecumenical dialogue which one speaker so crudely condemned."

The letter, published anonymously, said there was little evidence at the conference of "any real faith, hope or love."

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## Families pass the cup to increase vocations

By Evelyn Barella and Julie Root  
Catholic News Service

EAST LANSING, Mich. — It may not be the Stanley Cup, but the cup being passed from household to household among St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners is becoming as popular as the National Hockey League trophy.

It's a traveling chalice and is changing hands among the parish's 2,300 members to increase vocation awareness.

Last November, the Serra Club of the Lansing area started the effort after member Bill Stelzer saw a traveling chalice program "in action," said Jim Klunzinger, Serra Club president and a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in East Lansing.



Jim Klunzinger/The Catholic Times

**PASSING THE CUP —** The Stine family found the vocation chalice program at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in East Lansing to be a rewarding experience. The Lansing Area Serra Club instituted the program as a way to increase vocation awareness. Pictured are Joe and Nancy Stine with their children (from left) Peter, Andrew, Matthew, James and Nathaniel.

"Bill came back here and said, 'This is what we need!'" he added.

Each Sunday a family selected to participate is invited up to the altar at the end of Mass and is given the chalice and a prayer card. The entire parish recites a prayer for vocations, and the family participates in the closing procession with the priest. The family keeps the chalice for a week and prays for all vocations during that time.

"We needed a way to bring better awareness of vocations to our church community," Klunzinger told *The Catholic Times*, diocesan paper of Lansing. "Priests love

this program because the organization (Serra) and the parish staff do all the work so it doesn't increase the burden to the pastor."

Father Karl Pung, parochial vicar at St. Thomas, agreed.

"The program doesn't require much effort for the priest," he said, "and it is an opportunity for families to bring God and church into their homes. It is wonderful for their little children to connect in another way with God."

Parishioner Janet Liseman, whose family recently had a turn with the chalice, said she and her husband used it to teach their four children about vocations.

"As a child I was never taught to pray for vocations, so this does give families a way to discuss it with their children," she said. "It is not just for families with young children, but for all families in all walks of life."

Father Pung said the chalice was a gift from Father J. Thomas Munley, diocesan director of seminarians, for use in the Serra Club's vocation chalice program.

It is enclosed in a plastic case made by a parishioner, giving it that "extra special feeling of reverence and importance — the same as football players would feel about the Heisman trophy," Klunzinger said.

When the chalice recently traveled to the Stine home, the family placed it in the center of their table.

"This was another way to open discussion with my children about the need to pray for vocations," said Nancy Stine. She and husband Joe have five boys: 8-year-old twins, and a 5-, 4- and 2-year-old.

The Stines, who are new to the parish, felt the chalice program also encouraged them to become involved in parish activities and get to know other members.

"The children were excited about participating in Mass and being part of the procession," said Stine.

"The boys now know what the chalice is all about," she said. "When they see it at Mass, they feel special because they were part of it."

The Dunn family also took the chalice home for a week.

"One neat thing was that people came up to us after and asked us what the program was all about," said parishioner Sherry Dunn. "When people came to the house they would ask, 'What's the trophy for?'"

"It was great to be able to pray together as a family," she added. "It is our hope by doing this we can make a difference."

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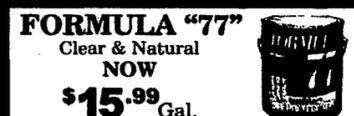
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