

WORLD & NATION

Lieberman receives mixed reviews

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Political pundits quickly declared that Vice President Al Gore made an astute choice Aug. 7 in asking Connecticut Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman to fill out the Democratic ticket for this fall's presidential election.

Catholic officials took a mixed view, noting that Lieberman consistently opposes any legislation to restrict abortion, but on the other hand is a co-sponsor of a Catholic-backed bill to improve end-of-life medical care and to ban assisted suicide.

He is also a longtime backer of voucher or tax credit legislation to promote private school choice. In 1995, delivering the 13th annual Seton-Neumann lecture to a gathering of the nation's Catholic bishops, he urged them to lobby Congress personally for funding for school choice.

A longtime critic of sex and violence in the media, he led the fight to mandate V-chips, parental screening devices, in all new televisions. He used the threat of federal regulation to force the TV and video game industries to adopt self-rating systems.

Auxiliary Bishop Peter A. Rosazza of Hartford, who lives in New Haven, Lieberman's home town, and has known the senator for years told Catholic News Service, "I have the greatest regard for him as a person. He's a man of principle and a warm, good, good human being."

He added that Lieberman's Seton-Neumann lecture "was the best talk I've heard in that series."

Bishop Rosazza declined, however, to comment on the senator's political positions or his candidacy for vice president.

Marie T. Hilliard, Connecticut Catholic Conference executive director, took the same position, saying the conference never comments on candidates, only on issues.

Lieberman, an Orthodox Jew who has missed his own state's nominating convention because it was on the Sabbath, is the first Jew in U.S. history to be selected as a major-party nominee for president or vice president.

Born in Stamford, Conn., Feb. 24, 1942, he graduated from Yale University in 1964 and earned his law degree there in 1967.

He was a member of the Connecticut Senate, 1971-81, and was majority leader, 1975-81. He was state attorney general,



Sen. Joseph Lieberman and his wife, Hadassah, arrive in Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 7. The senator from Connecticut is Al Gore's choice for Democratic nominee for vice president.

CNS/Reuters

1983-89, and entered the U.S. Senate in 1989.

He received wide national attention in September 1998, after President Clinton acknowledged his affair with Monica Lewinsky, when he was the first Democrat to take the Senate floor and criticize Clinton.

"Such behavior is not just inappropriate. It is immoral," he said. He added that the affair's "harmful" message to American children "is as influential as the negative message that is communicated by the entertainment culture."

Word of Gore's choice of Lieberman immediately drew strong protests from right-to-life groups.

"In 71 pro-life votes during his tenure in the U.S. Senate, Lieberman supported the pro-life position only twice," said the Pro-Life Infonet, an online news and information service on life issues sponsored by Women and Children First. "From 1990-99 Lieberman compiled a 97 percent pro-abortion voting record."

The National Right to Life Committee said that Lieberman opposed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, sponsored a Free-

dom of Choice Act to limit the ability of states to regulate abortions, and "has consistently voted to authorize funding of unlimited abortion under Medicaid and other federal health programs."

Matthew Boyle of Bridgeport, Conn., executive director of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents, said Lieberman "is definitely in favor of school vouchers" as a means of "empowering parents to exercise their choice of schools."

He added, however, that "this year, when we were pushing for a (state) tax credit, we wrote and asked his support, and his support was not there."

Boyle attributed that to Lieberman being under consideration for the Gore ticket and therefore under new constraints not to break with the national party's official position against voucher or tax credit programs.

The fact that Lieberman is the first Jew to be selected for a top spot on a major-party ticket provoked wide media discussion of whether his religion would be a factor in the election. Most commentators said it probably would not hurt and might help.

CARA reports church ordains 1 priest:38,000

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Over the past four years, U.S. dioceses have ordained 1,569 priests, or one for every 38,000 Catholics, said the summer issue of *The CARA Report*.

That works out to an annual average of about one ordination per 150,000 Catholics.

The report is a quarterly newsletter of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, an independent Catholic research center based at Georgetown University.

The Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., had the most ordinations, with 61 over the four-year period, the report said.

The diocese with the best ratio of ordinations to Catholics served, however, was Lincoln, Neb. Although it has only 89,107 Catholics, it had 24 ordinations over the past four years, or one for every 3,713 Catholics.

The CARA Report's statistics did not include priests ordained for religious orders. There are currently about 31,000 diocesan and 15,000 religious priests in the country.

CARA took its ordination figures from the 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 editions of the *Official Catholic Directory*. It used Catholic population data from the 2000 edition for the ratios. The study did not include Puerto Rico, which is a U.S. commonwealth but has its own bishops' conference and is treated by the Vatican as part of Latin America.

The Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., with 22 new priests in four years and 220,179 Catholics, had almost exactly one new priest per 10,000 Catholics.

CARA reported that there were 10 dioceses besides Lincoln with ratios better than one new priest per 10,000 Catholics over the four-year period.

The only other dioceses with ratios better than 1:5,000 were Alexandria, La., and Fargo, N.D.

Dioceses with ratios between 1:5,000 and 1:10,000 were Knoxville, Tenn.; Owensboro, Ky.; Rapid City, S.D.; Yakima, Wash.; Peoria, Ill.; Gaylord, Mich.; Atlanta; and Bismarck, N.D.

Among these the largest — and the only archdiocese in the group — was Atlanta, which had 35 ordinations to serve some 320,000 Catholics.

In the report's ranking by absolute numbers of new priests ordained, large archdioceses dominated the top 10, but because of the number of Catholics served, their ratios were generally not as good.

In absolute numbers of ordinations, after Newark the other dioceses and archdioceses in the top 10 were Philadelphia (37), Los Angeles (37), Atlanta (35), Chicago (33), Boston (32), Peoria (30), Detroit (29), New York (29) and Arlington, Va. (26).

• Seven Latin-rite dioceses with a combined Catholic population of more than 1 million had no ordinations during those four years," CARA reported.

• Another five eparchies of the Eastern churches with almost 200,000 Catholics reported no ordinations during this period," it added. An eparchy is the Eastern-rite equivalent of a diocese.

CARA researcher Mary Gautier told Catholic News Service that over-all the Eastern-rite churches had a better ordination rate than the Latin-rite dioceses, however.

Iraq sanctions protested; 104 arrested

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With 300 people cheering them on, 104 people were arrested after they sat down in front of the White House Aug. 7 as part of a rally focusing on the 10th anniversary of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Among those arrested were Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit; Jesuit Father John Dear, current head of the Fellowship of Reconciliation; and Benedictine Sister Anne McCarthy, former national coordinator for Pax Christi.

Earlier during the rally, dozens of

demonstrators who had traveled to Iraq with food and medicines in defiance of the sanctions stretched out their hands and put their wrists together for handcuffing outside a Treasury Department annex building across the street from the White House, demanding that they be arrested. The Treasury Department is responsible for prosecutions and levying fines for breaking trade embargoes.

Those taken into custody were charged with demonstrating without a permit and released the same day.

Before the rally began, Bishop Gumbleton showed a Catholic News Service reporter the T-shirt he was wearing underneath his black clerical shirt. It read: "A child dies in Iraq every 10 minutes due to sanctions."

"I'm going to take my shirt off and wear this when I get put in jail," he said.

The bishop said he had seen "a little bit of movement in the Congress" to lift the embargo against Iraq. "But Congress can't do anything but write a letter to the president asking to stop the sanctions."

In Rochester, activists made a statement by again attempting to mail medicine packages to Iraq Aug. 7 at the Federal Building Post Office, after marching from the St. Joseph House of Hospitality.

Gracious Independent Living

Refreshing Retirement
Lifestyle Choices

- Located in a quiet residential neighborhood in Penfield
- Luxury apartments available this fall
- Eliminate household work
- No entrance fees
- Now Renting!

Our retirement counselors can show you or a loved one how to improve your lifestyle with little or no change to your budget.



40 Willow Pond Way • Penfield, NY 14526
www.independentliving.cc
www.rochesterindependentliving.com
716-388-POND (388-7663)

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 111 No. 44, August 10, 2000
Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.
Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

The Amenities of Home,
The Luxury of a Resort
LUXURIOUS 1 & 2 BEDROOM
OVERSIZED APARTMENT HOMES
FOR THE ACTIVE LIFESTYLE 55+

Mon.-Fri. 9-5
Sat. & Sun. 11-4

Georgetown Park
510 De George Circle

Professionally Managed by DBI Properties

255-4480 EHO