

WORLD & NATION

Archbishop: Work for peace now more urgent

By Barb Frazee
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The recent Israeli-Palestinian violence has made working for peace more urgent, said Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J.

"The recent violence has clearly poisoned the wells of trust between Israeli and Palestinian and has only further diminished prospects for a lasting peace," Archbishop McCarrick said Oct. 21 as he accepted the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's Living Stones Solidarity Award on behalf of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Yet Scripture says, 'We must seek peace and pursue it.' What should be clear from the horrifying images we have seen over the past few weeks is that now is the time for courageous leaders in both communities to work tirelessly for peace.

"Peace without justice is unacceptable, but violence on either side is not the way toward a just peace and actually can compound injustice," said Archbishop McCarrick, former head of the bishops' International Policy Committee. "To fan hostilities further out of a misplaced sense of honor is to give way to the devil's solicitation.

"An imperfect peace can be the road to greater justice in the future," the archbishop said, adding, "of course, a flawed peace in which there is no equity will only prepare the way for more conflict."

The Holy Land foundation also presented the Living Stones Solidarity Award to the First Presbyterian Church of Houston for its work "for justice in the Holy Land."



Debbie Hill/CNS

Jorge Nazzal, 6, holds his damaged stuffed toy inside his bedroom hit Oct. 22 by gun fire from Israeli troops responding to snipers in Beit Jalla.

The foundation presented its Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation Award to Father Labib Kobti, pastor of St. Anne Church in San Francisco, and to Donald A. Kruse, a former State Department official who has worked on the boards of several organizations concerned with the Middle East.

Archbishop McCarrick, the keynote speaker for the awards banquet in Washington, told the group, "We are all children

of the one God.

"In these tumultuous times it may prove difficult to continue with love and respect to work with all the parties that play a role in the tragedy of the Holy Land today, especially when we feel the loss of those who have been killed, the pain of those who have been wounded and the disillusion of a people whose hopes have been so often frustrated," the archbishop said.

"But we have no choice," he added. "Working together is the right thing to do. It is the only way to lasting peace."

Father Kobti, who was born in Lebanon, established *Al-Bushra* magazine and later a Web site (www.al-bushra.org). The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation honored him for, among other things, "his ability to connect us to the rest of the world."

Father Kobti said he believes freedom for Palestine begins in the United States.

He said that for 28 years, Nelson Mandela was jailed in South Africa for apartheid activities. When Americans discovered this, they began demonstrations and put international pressure on the South African government, which eventually released the anti-apartheid activist.

In the same way, Palestinian-Americans can create "a new intifadah, a nonviolent intifadah, and we call it 'Free Palestine,'" Father Kobti said. He urged Americans to light a candle in their windows with a banner calling for freedom for Palestine.

The lights will spread the word, he said, "and the whole world ... will discover that we have the truth."

Kruse, who worked in the U.S. foreign service, said that when he worked in Israel

in the late 1970s, people at the U.S. Embassy spoke of a "just solution for the Palestinians."

However, he said, the word "just" has disappeared from U.S. Middle East policy.

Afif Safieh, the Palestine Liberation Organization's representative to the Holy See and the United Kingdom, told participants during the dinner that history remains undecided if the Middle East has one too many peoples or if there is a missing state that needs help being created.

Referring to Jewish efforts to establish their homeland, Israel, he said, "We, the Palestinians, have become the Jews of the Jews. We have become the victims of the victims."

At a session earlier in the day, Safieh said "nonalignment" should characterize U.S. policy toward the Middle East. He said a third party is necessary for the success of Israeli-Palestinian peace, which, he said, "is too important to be left to the Israelis to decide."

Palestinians "have gone to the end of what could have been our concessions. We have been unreasonably reasonable."

Peace talks "will only succeed if there is a decisive input from external partners," he said, and urged conference participants to influence the U.S. government about this.

Contributing to this story was Jennifer Reed.

Cardinal says pope 'capable of retiring'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Belgian Cardinal Godfried Danneels said it is possible Pope John Paul II will resign after the Holy Year, but the Vatican said there is no sign he will do so.

"I would not be surprised if John Paul II resigned after 2000," the cardinal, archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels, said in an interview published in a book Oct. 19 in Belgium.

The pope, he said, "absolutely wanted to be present for the jubilee year," but "I think he is capable of retiring afterward."

Cardinal Danneels had been asked about the requirement in the Code of Canon Law that bishops submit their resignations on their 75th birthdays and whether the rule also should apply to the pope.

Pope John Paul turned 80 in May. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Oct. 19 the statement reflected the "personal opinion" of Cardinal Danneels, which cannot be substantiated.

The book containing the interview with Cardinal Danneels included interviews with a variety of Belgian political, social and cultural leaders on various topics. The book was released in Flemish.

Cups

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the one who cleanses it."

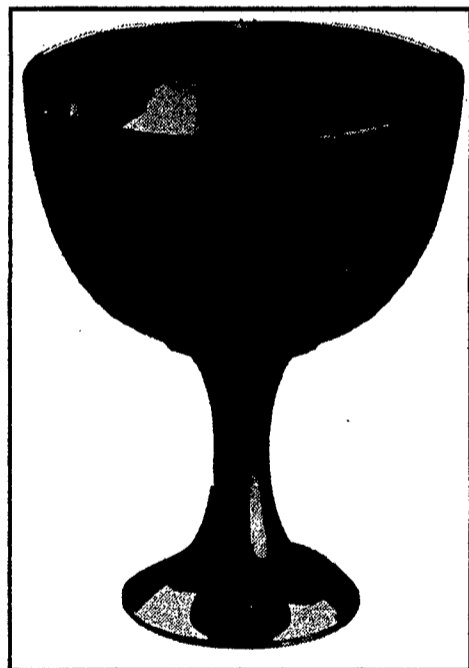
Father Moroney told CNS Oct. 19 that in August the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy discussed "at some length" the question of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist participating in the consumption of remaining consecrated wine after Communion and the cleansing of the vessels.

He said the committee has "unanimously approved a motion agreeing to place an action item before the National Conference of Catholic Bishops asking the president to request an indult" — an exception to the law — that would allow extraordinary ministers to carry out those tasks when circumstances warrant in the United States.

Such an indult would not be sought until the effective date of the new legislation is known, he said. He said that probably means the proposal will be presented to the bishops for their consideration at their June 2001 meeting in Atlanta.

In a related area, in its August newsletter the liturgy committee notified bishops and diocesan worship offices that the Vatican has confirmed the U.S. Pastoral Introduction to the Order of Mass.

It quoted the introduction's provision that in "those instances where large numbers of chalices are required for the distribution of the Eucharist under two species, extraordinary ministers of holy Communion ... may assist with the pouring of the Precious Blood into ancillary chalices during the singing of the Lamb of God."



"In such instances, the extraordinary ministers come to the altar as the Lamb of God is sung," the newsletter said.

It added that they "do not, however, assist with the breaking or distribution of the consecrated hosts into ancillary vessels."

The new general instruction does not regulate the pouring of consecrated wine into extra chalices before Communion, but it says that extraordinary ministers "do not approach the altar before the priest has received Communion."

Since that conflicts with the time they would approach to help with the chalices, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, NCCB president, wrote to the

Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for clarification.

The liturgy newsletter carried the text of a response from Archbishop Francesco Pio Tamburrino, secretary of the congregation, affirming that extraordinary ministers may approach at the earlier time to assist in preparing the chalices "in the event of real pastoral need arising and in the absence of ordinary ministers (priests, deacons or installed acolytes) in sufficient numbers."

Father Moroney said similar concerns of pastoral need underlie the liturgy committee's decision to propose seeking a U.S. indult so that extraordinary ministers may continue to participate in the cleansing of vessels after Communion, as they currently do in many parishes when there is a significant number of vessels.

He added that cleansing the vessels is not just a "utilitarian" act, but an integral part of the "sacred actions of the liturgy."

He said that is why the missal calls for the priest or deacon while cleansing the vessels to pray silently, "Lord, may I receive these gifts in purity of heart. May they bring me healing and strength, now and forever."

Father Moroney said that even if the one cleansing the vessels is not a priest or deacon, "it is always commendable to pray during such an action, and use of that prayer would be appropriate."

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