



Pope John Paul II closes the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6 marking the end of the Holy Year and Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. Reuters/CNS

Doctor naysays article

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II's limp and slow gait are related to a neurological disorder, not problems with his artificial hip, said the orthopedic surgeon who implanted the prosthesis in 1994.

Dr. Gianfranco Fineschi, the surgeon, was quoted by an Italian magazine as saying the pope suffers from Parkinson's disease and is taking medication to slow its effects. Parkinson's is a progressive neurological disease.

However, after the magazine *Oggi* went on sale Jan. 4, Fineschi denied having been so specific about the pope's condition.

"I did not say and I do not know that the pope has Parkinson's," Fineschi told

the Italian news agency ANSA.

"I am an orthopedic surgeon, and Parkinson's is not a disease within my competence," he said. "Certainly, some of the pope's symptoms can suggest Parkinson's, but they are present in other diseases as well."

Fineschi said that except for the references to Parkinson's, the rest of the quotes used by *Oggi* were accurate.

Oggi claimed Fineschi said the drugs the pope "is taking to treat the Parkinson's disease, which is the cause of his hand tremors, affect his muscles, reducing facial expressions and forcing him to move with small steps."

Fineschi told ANSA he did tell *Oggi* that "if the pope limps, in fact, he does so for neurological and not orthopedic reasons."

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Catholic Courier

DIocese of Rochester, New York ■ VOL. 112 NO.14 ■ THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2001 ■ 75¢ ■ 12 PAGES

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The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has started an ad campaign to highlight poverty.

Plight of poor haunts nation

Next time you feel tempted to tell someone who's poor and unemployed to "get a job" you might consider first talking to Giovina Caroscio, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes.

She's used to hearing people say they've seen plenty of jobs advertised in area newspapers, jobs that anyone with enough gumption should be able to take. However, she noted, there's more to finding a job than simply "calling up and writing a re-

PEOPLE & POVERTY

first in an occasional series

sume." Caroscio's agency, which operates under the auspices of the Diocese of Rochester's Catholic Charities, serves Yates, Ontario,

Wayne, Seneca and Cayuga counties and is headquartered in Geneva.

"Many of the jobs are part-time," she said, adding that people who are unskilled and poorly educated may find themselves trapped in two or three part-time jobs that may not provide much-needed benefits. She added that few buses are available to many rural poor people.

"If you don't have a car, a reliable car, you
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STORY BY ROB CULLIVAN