

WORLD & NATION

Kopp arrested for Slepian murder

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops lauded the arrest of a man for the 1998 murder of a Buffalo abortion doctor and said the church "unequivocally" condemns the use of violence in opposing abortion.

James Charles Kopp, 46, was arrested March 29 by French police in cooperation with the FBI. Kopp is suspected by U.S. authorities in the killing of Dr. Barnett Slepian in his Buffalo home. Slepian performed abortions at Buffalo's GYN Womenservices clinic.

"We are gratified by the prospect of the suspected killer of Dr. Barnett Slepian being brought to justice," said Cathleen Cleaver, director of planning and information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Every human life has inestimable value and no one has the right to kill," she said in a statement.

Also March 29, Loretta Claire Marra, 37, and Dennis John Malvasi, 51, both of Brooklyn, were arrested on charges of conspiracy and concealing a person from arrest. The FBI said the investigation continues.

Kopp, from St. Albans, Vt., had been the subject of an international manhunt since a month after the Oct. 23, 1998 killing. He also is wanted by Canadian law enforcement authorities for allegedly wounding an abortion doctor in Ancaster, Ontario, in 1995. They also want to talk to him about the shootings of a Vancouver doctor in 1994 and a Winnipeg doctor in 1997.

The arrest in France, by French local regional police and French National Police, took place at about 4:25 p.m. in Dinan, about 250 miles west of Paris. It stemmed from a federal arrest warrant issued Oct. 17, 2000, in the U.S. District Court in the Western District of New York, for violations of the 1993 FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances) statute — use of physical force against a provider of reproductive health services — and use of a



Reuters/CNS

James Kopp, shown in these photos released two years ago, was arrested March 29 in France for allegedly murdering a Buffalo-area doctor in 1998 who performed abortions. A spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops praised the arrest, saying the church "unequivocally" condemns the use of violence in opposing abortion.

firearm in a crime of violence.

Erie County has indicted Kopp on charges of intentional murder in the second degree, reckless endangerment in the first degree and criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree.

Dr. Slepian was killed in his Roxbury Park, Amherst, home while his family was present.

FBI Director Louis Freeh said Kopp's extradition from France likely would be a long process. French law prohibits extraditing suspects to countries where conviction could carry the death penalty. France outlawed capital punishment in 1981.

Cleaver said the Catholic bishops "unequivocally condemn the use of violence to oppose abortion. The violence of killing in the name of pro-life makes a mockery of the pro-life cause. Just as we abhor the violence of abortion, we abhor violence as

a means to stop abortion."

Cleaver quoted New York's late Cardinal John J. O'Connor, who said: "To imply ... that to preach, to teach, to write, to proclaim a pro-life position is somehow to encourage or to condone violence is calumny."

She said the bishops' conference "views such lethal violence with utter disdain and acknowledge(s) with deep regret how the deplorable actions of a very few can stigmatize the pro-life cause in the eyes of many."

...

Includes reporting by the Catholic Courier.

'Free speech' upheld

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — In a ruling that overturned a \$107 million verdict, a federal appeals court in San Francisco said March 28 that labeling doctors who perform abortions as butchers and criminals is protected free speech under the First Amendment.

Richard Thompson, chief counsel of the Thomas More Center for Law and Justice, which represented seven of the eight defendants on appeal, praised the unanimous decision of a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Four doctors and two abortion clinics based in Oregon had won a \$107 million judgment in 1999 against the American Coalition of Life Activists for its publication of the names and addresses of 12 doctors who perform abortions and use of "wanted" posters offering \$5,000 for information leading to revocation of their medical licenses.

An affiliated Web site called the "Nuremberg Files" had publicized information about hundreds of abortion doctors and compared their work to Nazi war crimes.

"Although many in the pro-life movement would disagree with the tactics of these defendants, it was important that we recognize they have the same constitutional rights as any other political movement," Thompson said after the appeals court decision.

"The dismay and anger of the abortionists over this decision signals they will continue their efforts to sustain this verdict, and so the battle in this case is not over yet," he added.

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF HAWTHORNE

New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia, Minnesota



VOCATION WEEK

MAY 20 TH
TO
MAY 26 TH

COME VISIT WITH US

AT OUR MOTHERHOUSE, HAWTHORNE, NEW YORK.

EASY TO REACH BY PLANE OR GROUND TRANSPORTATION. FORTY-FIVE MINUTES FROM NEW YORK CITY

We are a Catholic congregation of religious women living in community. We take the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and pursue a deep prayer life. Our unified apostolate witnesses to the sanctity of life at all stages. We nurse incurable cancer patients in seven modern Homes. All care is free. Many who enter our Community have no prior nursing experience.

For more information or to make a reservation, call: Sr. Teresa Marie, O.P., Vocation Director
Hawthorne Dominicans, 600 Linda Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532 • (914) 769-4794 or 769-0114

Name _____

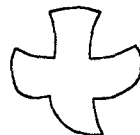
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone () _____

I would like to make a Vocation Week reservation.

I cannot visit with you but would like additional information about your Community.



The Journey to the Cross

Lent and Holy Week

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

Taizé Evening Prayer:
Prayer at the Cross - 7:30

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY, APRIL 8

Choral Concert - 3 pm

Nocturnal Adoration Hour - 3:30-4 pm

MONDAY, APRIL 9

Passion Mime by Sacred Heart

Cathedral School - 7 pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Chrism Mass - 7:30 p.m.

Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, Presider

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

Tenebrae Service - 7:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

296 Flower City Park • 254-3221

LEARNING IS FUN AT CENTER OF RENEWAL
For 55+ with Elderhostel Programs

- May 7-10 Niagara Falls: Eco-Destination & Identifying/Growing Herbs
- June 3-9 Pan-American Expo - 100th Anniv.
- Aug. 19-25 Niagara - Terminal of Underground Railroad

CENTER OF RENEWAL, INC.
4421 Lower River Rd. • Stella Niagara, NY 14144
(716) 754-7376

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 112 No. 26, April 5, 2001
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.

Join Us At The Holiday Inn Airport For Our "Spectacular Easter Brunch Buffet"

Sunday, April 15th, 2001 11am-3pm



Special Appearance By The Easter Bunny Throughout The Day
Jelly Bean Contest ... Guess How Many Jelly Beans?

- FRESH BEGINNINGS**
Fresh Seasonal Salad Bar With an Array of Accompaniments, Fresh Sliced Fruit Displays, A Variety of Fresh Baked Rolls
- BREAKFAST SELECTIONS**
Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Bacon & Sausage, An Assortment of Breakfast Pastries
- COOKED TO ORDER STATIONS**
Create Your Own Omelets With a Variety of Ingredients, Made to Order Belgian Waffles With a Variety of Fruit Toppings
- ENTREES & ACCOMPANIMENTS...**
Chef Carved Baked Ham With a Fruit Sauce
Chef Carved Leg of Lamb With Mint Jelly
Chef Carved Top Round of Beef With a Burgundy Sauce
Sautéed Chicken French in a Lemon Butter Sauce
Seafood Jambalaya, Tortellini Alfredo
Wild Rice Pilaf, Oven Roasted Potatoes
Seasonal Medley of Vegetables
- DESSERTS**
An Assortment of Pies and Cakes
Mousses, Jello, Cannolis
Fresh Baked Cookies and Much More!

Reservations Strongly Recommended. Large and Small Parties are Welcome.
Adults \$18.95, Seniors \$16.95, Children 4-12 Years \$8.95
And Children 3 Years Old and Under are Free!
Prices do not include tax & gratuity. Discounts & Coupons do not apply
Special Easter Sunday Dinners Served 5pm-10pm in The Greenhouse Cafe
911 Brooks Avenue • Rochester, NY 14624 • 716-328-6000
our website: www.holiday-inn.com/hotels/rocap