



Reuters/CNS

A cross recovered

Todori Galici kisses the crucifix he retrieved from a waterway in Istanbul, Turkey, Jan. 6. The annual event celebrating the baptism of Jesus in the Greek Orthodox rite begins with a bishop tossing a wooden cross into the water for racing swimmers to recover.

Archbishop set to retire

By John Norton
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican thanked Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury for his "commitment to fostering and deepening Anglican-Roman Catholic relations" as head of the Anglican Communion for more than a decade.

"We know he has a very full schedule ahead of him prior to his retirement, but would like at this time to express our profound thanks for the many blessings of his years of leadership as archbishop of Canterbury," the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity said Jan. 8.

Archbishop Carey, 66, announced he would step down Oct. 31, three years before he was due to retire. He was appointed 103rd archbishop of Canterbury, spiritual leader to the world's 70 million Anglicans, in 1991.

In a statement, he called his tenure "demanding yet wonderfully absorbing and rewarding."

"I feel certain this will be the right and proper time to stand down. I look forward to exciting opportunities and challenges in the coming months, and then to fresh ones in the years that follow," he said.

The Vatican's Christian unity council said the archbishop had visited Pope John Paul II "more than any of his predecessors." The Anglican head met the pope at the Vatican five times, including for a three-day visit in 1996.

A particularly poignant moment, the Vatican said, was the archbishop's spontaneous decision to kneel next to the pope at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2000.

"The image of him kneeling with an Orthodox leader alongside the pope as they together opened the Holy Door at St.

Paul's Outside the Walls to begin the jubilee year is firmly planted on our memories," the council said.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster called the archbishop a good friend who would be greatly missed.

"I have appreciated very much our collaboration in ecumenical endeavors," said Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor, president of the Catholics Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

He said the Anglican leader "has had to live through some difficult times" during his tenure, adding, "I am sure there will be very many, like myself, who will express their appreciation of his considerable achievements in a most demanding role and who will miss him when he steps down as archbishop."

Kevin Flaherty, editor of the *Catholic Times*, a weekly newspaper for Britain and Ireland, said Archbishop Carey's cool-headed leadership prevented greater divisions within the Anglican Communion over a series of controversial issues.

"His time as archbishop of Canterbury has seen the first ordinations of women priests in the Church of England, and it is a remarkable tribute to his leadership that he has managed to avoid further divisions within the church by his calm and rational approach," Flaherty said.

Ann Widdecombe, a Conservative member of Parliament who left the Church of England over the ordination of women and became a Catholic, also acknowledged the archbishop's leadership skills.

"I think he has had a very mixed tenure," she told the British Broadcasting Corp., "but I think it would be ungracious at the point at which he is retiring not to acknowledge that at least the church has been held together through what has been a monumentally difficult time."

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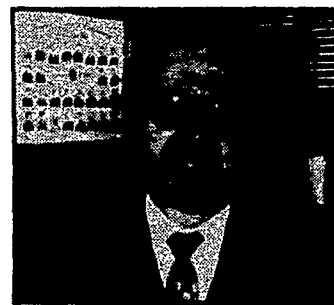
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Thoughts to Consider



EDWIN SULEWSKI
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What are some ways to help a child who has lost a parent?

First it is important to make sure the child is honestly included in all information and planning. This means being honest about the death and answering the child's questions. It also means allowing but not forcing children to go to the funeral or visitation as they wish. Secondly, a child needs love and security. Let a child know they will be cared for, take an interest in schoolwork and include them in play. Some children resent being pressured to accept burdens beyond their reach. "Taking over for Dad or Mom" may be too much responsibility. Naturally, changes will occur but a child needs time and help in adjusting to them.

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Catholic Conference seeks healing in drowning case

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — The director of the Texas Catholic Conference has criticized the decision of a Texas prosecutor to seek the death penalty for a woman who drowned her five children last year while suffering from postpartum depression.

In a Jan. 3 statement, Holy Cross Brother Richard Daly, executive director of the conference, said "this tragic case has caused enough pain and suffering for all the individuals and the families affected. We do not need another victim but, rather, healing."

Jury selection began Jan. 7 in the case of Andrea Yates, charged with capital murder in the drowning deaths of her five children.

Yates was diagnosed with postpartum depression following the birth of her fourth child, attempted suicide twice and has been hospitalized for treatment several times. She admitted drowning her children. Her attorneys said she would plead not guilty by reason of insanity.

In his statement, Brother Daly quoted Texas Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation. The group noted that prosecutors usually cite concern for the victims' family as a rationale for seeking the death penalty.

"No one in the families most intimately affected by this horrible crime has sought the death penalty for Mrs. Yates," it said.

"In this instance, the prosecutors are re-victimizing the ... families by making them focus on saving Andrea from the death chamber rather than getting on with their healing," the group said. "These two families do not need another casket, another funeral."

Brother Daly noted that the trial judge on Dec. 3 denied a motion to exclude the death penalty as appropriate punishment.

"While the Texas Catholic Conference opposes the death penalty in all instances, clearly this case deserves special scrutiny," Brother Daly said. The Texas Catholic Conference is the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops.