

# WORLD & NATION

## Violence erupts again in N. Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Rioting between Catholic and Protestant groups in East Belfast was the worst the city has seen in four years, said Belfast's acting police chief.

In early June, seven people were shot and 28 police officers had been hospitalized after trying to keep Protestant and Catholic rioters apart.

Chief Colin Cramphorn said it was likely someone would be killed if rioting continued.

"Both communities are walking blindfolded toward the abyss," he said.

Northern Ireland First Minister David Trimble met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, canceling a June 5 meeting with former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who was in Northern Ireland to open a peace center bearing his name.

Summer is a traditionally volatile time in Northern Ireland because it is the height of the Protestant marching season, when Protestant fraternities celebrate historical victories over Catholics and continued British rule.

For more than three decades, Northern Ireland's unionists or loyalists, mainly



British Army engineers begin to construct a "peace wall" to separate nationalists and loyalists in a troubled area of East Belfast June 9.

Protestants, have been fighting the nationalists, mainly Catholics. Unionists want Northern Ireland to remain a province of

Great Britain, while nationalists want Northern Ireland united with the Irish Republic.

For months, tensions simmered in North Belfast, where Protestants picketed Holy Cross Catholic School. Police escorted the grade-school girls into the building daily, as protesters shouted and, at times, threw objects.

This year, police have constructed "peace walls," large fortifications that separate Protestant and Catholic districts, and are using powerful water hoses to disperse rioters. The Northern Ireland Parades Commission has rerouted Protestant parades away from Catholic neighborhoods.

A spokesman for Bishop Patrick Walsh of Down and Connor, the Belfast diocese, said at one point trouble erupted outside a North Belfast Catholic church that was hosting a funeral.

"People (were) throwing stones outside the church while the funeral Mass took place, but it is unclear what the target of their anger was. We are at a loss to know what has caused this latest upsurge in violence," the spokesman said.

## Meeting

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June 10. "There have to be sanctions for a bishop who has been negligent, the same as there are sanctions for a priest," he said. The draft documents sent to the bishops included no sanctions for bishops who violate mandated national policy.

Such intense preparation and media attention have never preceded a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The 717 accredited journalists outnumber the 285 voting bishops five to two.

Virtually everything else has been scuttled from the Dallas agenda so the bishops could devote their time, after hearing from child-abuse victims and prominent lay observers, to hammering out a national "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" and legislative norms giving legal teeth to the charter in all U.S. dioceses.

The development of special canonical procedures to expedite the laicization of notorious serial predators and other clerics who are regarded as an ongoing danger to children, addressed in April at the Vatican summit of cardinals and top USCCB officials, were not included in the legislative norms designed to enforce the charter.

Because of its complexity, an actual set of canonical procedures to laicize priests did not appear likely to be ready for a final vote in Dallas. In that case, it would become a major topic at a future bishops' meeting.

Among other policies in the charter are:

- Establishing a review board in every diocese, with most of its members lay people not employed by the church.
- No more confidentiality agreements unless a victim seeks one for "grave and substantial reasons."
- All allegations involving someone still a minor must be reported to civil authorities.
- Creating a national USCCB office to assist and monitor diocesan implementation.
- A national review board overseeing the national office and diocesan compliance.
- A national research commission to study the church's response to sexual abuse.
- "Safe environment" education and training programs in every diocese.
- Background checks on all church workers and tougher screening of seminarians.
- Stricter rules on background information when priests move to another diocese.

Eleven ecumenical partners of the Catholic Church expressed support for what the bishops were trying to do, declaring that "all Christians must work together" to offer healing to victims and restore faith.

Indicative of the high tension surrounding the meeting was the daily-changing status of participation by representatives of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP, in early June.

On June 6 SNAP announced that it was invited to meet with three cardinals just before the bishops' meeting. SNAP National Director David Clohessy also was invited to speak at the bishops' meeting itself. The same day, SNAP joined a lawsuit against the USCCB to overturn all past confidentiality agreements between the church and victims of clergy sex abuse.

The next day the USCCB announced that the lawsuit "created a barrier" to frank dialogue and precluded SNAP from participation in the bishops' plans to meet with victims. By June 9 SNAP said it would withdraw from the lawsuit, and on June 10 the USCCB said it would again consider the possibility of SNAP participation in Dallas.

The 1,400-member Catholic Theological Society of America, at its annual meeting June 7-9 in New Orleans, discussed a "white paper" on the crisis of clergy sexual abuse of minors. The discussion paper said the crisis calls for not only an immediate response to that issue itself, but also a deeper look at underlying questions: episcopal authority and how it is exercised, the implications of a "closed system" of an exclusively male and celibate clerical culture, and complex issues of "the moral, psychological and spiritual significance of human sexuality and sexual behavior as an integral part of human life."

## Depositions filed in Boston abuse cases

BOSTON (CNS) — Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law and two of his former auxiliary bishops gave sworn pretrial depositions in early June to attorneys suing the Boston Archdiocese on behalf of numerous alleged victims of clergy sexual abuse of minors.

In another major development, Superior Court Chief Justice Suzanne DelVecchio on June 5 ordered that all the civil lawsuits over sexual abuse against the archdiocese will be assigned to Superior Court Judge Constance M. Sweeney.

There are currently more than 200 such cases and additional lawsuits are expected. Over the past year Sweeney has been in charge of more than 80 lawsuits over the actions of John J. Geoghan, a defrocked priest currently serving a 10-year jail sentence for groping a child.

Cardinal Law testified June 5 and 7 in connection with lawsuits over another of the archdiocese's most notorious alleged abusers, Father Paul R. Shanley. On June 3 Bishop John B. McCormack of Manchester, N.H., gave a deposition on his role in the Shanley case when he was an auxiliary bishop in Boston.

Bishop Robert J. Banks of Green Bay, Wis., another former Boston auxiliary, was deposed June 4 by attorneys in the Geoghan cases and was expected to be called back later to continue his testimony. Cardinal Law had given his deposition in the Geoghan cases in May.

The Boston Archdiocese June 7 appealed a ruling by Middlesex Superior Court Judge Raymond Brassard that would

have released the Law testimony in the Shanley cases almost immediately. A similar order to release Bishop McCormack's testimony has also been appealed. Brassard had made the rulings before jurisdiction over the cases was transferred to Sweeney, who said she would not address other judges' decisions made before the lawsuits were placed in her charge.

Father Shanley, in jail awaiting criminal trial on three counts of child rape, failed June 7 in an appeal to the state Supreme Judicial Court to reduce his \$300,000 bail. Prosecutor Lynn Rooney warned that the retired priest could flee the country. She said her office has received numerous new allegations against Shanley since his arrest and expects to bring additional charges.

Marist-run Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Mass., has notified all students, faculty and alumni that three former students have accused two former faculty members of sexual misconduct dating back to the late 1950s and '60s. The alleged offenders were the late Marist Brother Edward Michael and James Barron Holsenbach, who was known as Brother Stanislaus before he was expelled from the order and left the school in 1961.

Newspapers in Illinois and Kentucky sought through the courts to break seals on court records of clergy child abuse cases, following the example of *The Boston Globe*, which won a court-ordered release of church records on Geoghan in January, turning what had been a largely local case into a national church crisis.

On June 3, about 1,000 more pages of

Boston archdiocesan records, regarding 10 other suspended priests, were released in connection with lawsuits against Father Shanley. It was the third large batch of records on the Shanley case to be made public.

Elsewhere around the country:

- The Miami Archdiocese June 4 suspended Father Jose Nickse, 55, a prominent Cuban-American active in exile causes and former archdiocesan communications director, pending investigation of a sexual abuse allegation. He was the third Miami priest in a month and the eighth since 1998 to be placed on leave because of abuse accusations. Father Neil Doherty, was placed on leave June 6, but the archdiocese did not say why.

- A fourth former altar boy alleged that, as a 15-year-old in 1988-89, he was molested by Father Ricardo Castellanos of Miami, who was suspended in May when the first accusation against him surfaced.

- The Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla., said that several additional people with allegations of abuse came forward after Bishop Robert N. Lynch urged them to do so when Father Robert Schaeffele was accused of molesting children. Father Schaeffele, 54, who resigned when the first accusations surfaced in April, has been arrested and faces capital sexual battery charges that could imprison him for the rest of his life.

- A spokesman for St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn., confirmed June 7 that a 14th abbey member, who was not named, has been placed on restrictions because of an accusation of sexual misconduct.

- Father Joseph Jeub of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Roseville, Minn., took early retirement after news reports published in late May said he had been accused of misconduct with adult women and at least one girl between 1969 and the 1980s.

- Truckee, Calif., police dug up the vacation property of a long-defrocked priest June 5-6 in an unsuccessful search for the remains of Amber Swartz-Garcia, who was abducted 14 years ago at the age of 8. After Stephen Kiesle, 55, was charged May 20 with molesting three girls 30 years ago when he was a seminarian, police realized he lived one block from Amber's home in Pinole. Kiesle, a former priest of the Oakland Diocese, was laicized following a 1978 arrest and conviction for abusing two altar boys.

- In Santa Rosa, Calif., Father Donald Kimball was sentenced to seven years in prison June 7 following his April conviction for molesting a 13-year-old girl in 1981. The 55-year-old priest has been out of active ministry for more than a decade.

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