

WORLD & NATION

Bishops begin to enforce charter

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Within days of their historic June 13-15 meeting on clerical sex abuse of minors, some U.S. bishops began implementing the new national charter they established in Dallas.

Several priests with past records of abuse who had been restored to ministry or church-related office jobs following treatment were removed from those posts, including eight in Chicago. Some retired priests were informed they could no longer wear clerical garb, present themselves as priests or say Mass publicly.

Bishops held planning meetings with diocesan staff and issued statements or spoke with reporters about what would be done locally to carry out the Dallas decisions.

There were new criminal and civil actions against priests accused of sexual abuse.

In Boston, the starting point last January of the clergy sex abuse scandal that erupted into a national crisis, alleged victims and their advocates marched June 23 from

Boston Common to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, carrying signs with childhood pictures of about 75 alleged abuse victims. They joined about 100 other protesters outside the cathedral.

The core group of the U.S. bishops' new National Review Board overseeing implementation of the new national policy held its first meeting June 20-21 in Oklahoma City under the chairmanship of Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating.

Along with Washington lawyer Robert S. Bennett and Illinois Appellate Court Justice Anne M. Burke, who were named to the board along with Keating June 14, the core group added a fourth member, Michael J. Bland, clinical-pastoral coordinator of the Chicago archdiocesan Office of Assistance Ministry and himself a survivor of sexual abuse by a priest when he was a minor.

A news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said the full board should be named by mid-July. It said the core group discussed review board procedures, the structure of the planned USC-CB Office of Child and Youth Protection, which the board will oversee, and a job de-

scription for the office's director.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago announced the removal of eight priests from all priestly ministry June 23 because of credible accusations against them in the past. Three of them were pastors, one an associate pastor, one a hospital chaplain, two working in administrative jobs and one a 72-year-old retiree who was assisting with weekend Masses.

Cardinal George said five of the priests plan to appeal their removals, while two plan to resign from the priesthood.

In Evansville, Ind., Father Michael Allen was removed as pastor of St. Peter Parish in Celestine. Father Allen, who sexually abused a teenager in 1976, had received national news coverage before the bishops' meeting as an example of a former offender who repented and converted and was loved by his parishioners.

Father Thomas R. Malia was asked to resign as pastor of two Baltimore parishes when it was learned that he had hired Robert Gee in 1999 as interim music director of one of the parishes, knowing that Gee had been convicted of sexual abuse of a teenager two years earlier.

Archdiocese may settle sexual-abuse lawsuits

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Lawyers for the Boston Archdiocese and for more than 200 sexual-abuse plaintiffs have agreed to postpone further legal actions for 90 days while they enter preliminary discussions about possible settlement of all the claims.

Initiated by attorney Jeffrey Newman, who represents more than 100 plaintiffs, the agreement also includes plaintiff attorneys Roderick MacLeish, Robert Sherman and Carmen D'Urso.

Not immediately included was Mitchell Garabedian, attorney for 86 plaintiffs with claims against defrocked priest John J. Geoghan. Garabedian's earlier \$15 million to \$30 million agreement with the archdiocese to settle all Geoghan cases was scuttled at the last minute by the archdiocesan finance council.

The decision to postpone depositions and other pretrial actions, reached late June 19, came on the heels of reports that a grand jury in Massachusetts was investigating whether Boston's Cardinal Bernard F. Law or other archdiocesan officials should face criminal charges for having allowed sexually abusive priests to engage in parish ministries.

In other Boston Archdiocese news, a grand jury indicted Father Paul R. Shanley June 20 on 10 counts of child rape and six counts of indecent assault and battery.

The 71-year-old retired Boston priest is accused of sexually abusing four children at now-closed St. John the Evangelist Parish in Newton between 1979 and 1989.

Pope names successor to Milwaukee's Abp. Weakland

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Auxiliary Bishop Timothy M. Dolan of St. Louis to be archbishop of Milwaukee. He is to be installed Aug. 28 in ceremonies at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Milwaukee.

He succeeds Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, who turned in his resignation when he turned 75 on April 2 as required by canon law. In May his resignation was accepted by Pope John Paul II following disclosure of a financial settlement in a sex-

ual harassment case brought against him.

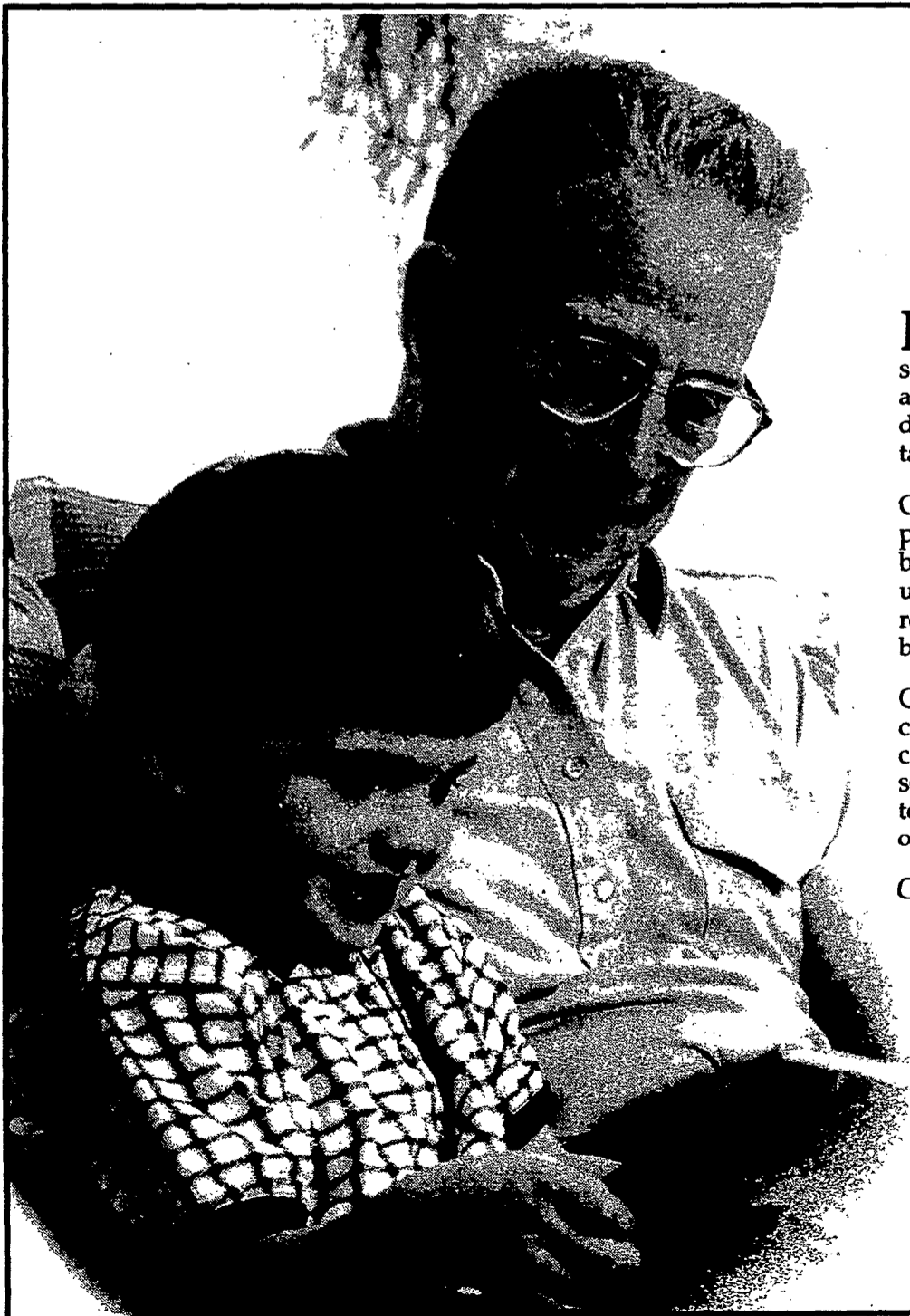
Archbishop Dolan, 52, was named an auxiliary bishop for St. Louis last year following a seven-year stint as rector of the North American College, the U.S. national seminary in Rome.

Timothy Michael Dolan was ordained a priest of the St. Louis Archdiocese June 19, 1976. After parish assignments in the St. Louis Archdiocese and advanced academic study, he served for two years on the staff of the Apostolic Nunciature, or Vatican

Embassy, in Washington.

He returned to St. Louis as vice rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. In 1994 he was named rector of the North American College in Rome and was made a monsignor. On June 19, 2001, the silver anniversary of his ordination, he was named an auxiliary bishop of St. Louis. He was ordained a bishop Aug. 15.

He is author of *Priests for the Third Millennium*, published by Our Sunday Visitor Books.



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