

ECUMENICAL SYMPOSIUM DEALS WITH REDEMPTION

NEW YORK (CNS) — An effort begun in 1996 to explore common Catholic and Protestant commitments to basic Christian doctrines concluded with an international symposium on redemption April 20-23.

Jesuit Father Gerald G. O'Collins, Catholic co-chairman of the Redemption Summit, said that the scholars agreed on the basic point that Christ is the redeemer of all people. Although Catholics and Protestants have differences over the place of the church and the sacraments in making redemption effective for individuals, the denominational disagreements do not keep them from a common affirmation of Christ's redeeming role, he said.

PRIEST NAMED AUXILIARY FOR ORANGE, CALIF.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named a Vietnamese-born priest from New Orleans as auxiliary bishop of Orange, Calif.

Msgr. Dominic Dinh Mai Luong will be the nation's second Asian-American bishop. He attended the diocesan seminary in Buffalo, N.Y., from 1958 to 1960, and St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., 1960-66, before his ordination in Buffalo on May 21, 1966.

POPE BEATIFIES SIX ITALIAN NUNS, PRIESTS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified six Italians April 27 during a Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Among those beatified were 17th-century Capuchin Father Marco d'Aviano, who encouraged the city of Vienna to resist the Turkish army — and with it, the advance of Islam in Europe. The others all founded religious orders in the late 19th and early 20th centuries: Father Giacomo Alberione, considered Italy's "apostle of the mass media"; Sister Maria Cristina Brando, who left a wealthy family to devote her life to eucharistic spirituality; Sister Eugenia Ravasco, who founded schools in northern Italy; Sister Maria Domenica Mantovani, known for her care of the poor and sick; and Sister Giulia Salzano, who made a special effort to influence the religiously indifferent.

Embattled legislation signed

Minnesota women must now be given abortion information

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — After nine years of legislative battles, the Woman's Right to Know Act became law in Minnesota April 14.

Once it takes effect this summer, it will require that women in Minnesota be given information and wait 24 hours before having an abortion. The legislation also mandates that a woman be informed about the risks and alternatives to abortion, as well as the probable gestational age of the unborn child and the medical and financial assistance that may be available to the mother.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed the bill just hours after the Minnesota Senate passed the legislation by a 41-24 margin after a nine-hour debate. The House previously approved the measure.

The wait will go into effect July 1, but it could take another 90 days for the Minnesota Department of Health to prepare the mandatory information.

Pro-life groups such as Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life view the bill's passage as a major victory.

"This is a good, solid bill with better provisions to empower women than any other informed consent law in the nation," said Marice Rosenberg, vice president of the Minnesota pro-life group.

"Women have been denied information about abortion and fetal pain and about the beautiful world of a developing unborn child for far too long," she added. "This bill will now give every woman in Minnesota the opportunity to see the various stages of fetal development and learn about abortion's complications and alternatives."

The Minnesota Department of Health will provide both printed and Web site facts about abortion by Oct. 1. For example, more than 100 Minnesota women experienced serious medical complications, such as cervical laceration, hemorrhage, uterine perforation, incomplete abortion and infection requir-



Dianne Towalski/CNS

Former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura talks with a reporter from the *St. Cloud Visitor* in this March 8, 2001, file photo. Ventura had twice vetoed the Woman's Right to Know Act, which was recently passed by current Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The law goes into effect this summer.

ing hospitalization during 2001, according to the Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health.

The legislation also would enable women to sue abortionists who fail to provide this information.

"Although 77 percent of Minnesota's women voters support the Woman's Right to Know Act, the abortion industry continues to vehemently oppose it," said Rosenberg. "The abortion industry has even indicated that it will challenge this law in court, even though it has been upheld as constitutional in other states and by the U.S. Supreme Court."

At least 16 other states have enacted similar informed consent legislation. Twice in recent years, similar measures have passed the Minnesota Legislature only to be vetoed by former Gov. Jesse Ventura. Former Gov. Arne Carlson, Ventura's predecessor, also opposed such legislation.

"For nine years and through three governors, the grass roots have struggled to get a Woman's

Right to Know bill passed," said Scott Fischbach, executive director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. "And now, finally, it's law."

Fischbach said opponents of the new law have indicated they will challenge it in court.

"MCCL, to their credit, has done great work to pass this law," said Christopher Leifeld, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, social policy voice of the state's bishops, which also has advocated for informed consent legislation.

"The law emphasizes the importance of educating women as to their health, and it has the potential to save lives and result in fewer abortions," he said.

Meanwhile in Kansas, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius vetoed a bill April 21 that would have directed the state's Department of Health and Environment to set minimum standards for abortion facilities' supplies, equipment, lighting and ventilation, as well as minimum sizes for interview rooms, bathrooms and dressing rooms.

The legislation also would have required every abortion facility to have a doctor as its medical director, mandated the presence of a female staff member during any abortion and required ultrasound equipment if the facility does abortions after the 12th week of pregnancy.

In her veto message, Sebelius said Kansas sets high standards for medical care and abortion facilities are "already subject to those high standards."

But Mike Farmer, executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, said the bill's requirements were less stringent than those imposed on veterinary clinics by the state.

"Surely everyone would agree that we value the health and safety of women more than that of our dogs and cats," he said.

House Speaker Doug Mays has promised to seek an override of the veto when the Legislature returns April 30.

Contributing to this story was Joseph Young in St. Cloud.