

PONTIFF ACCEPTS BISHOP'S RESIGNATION

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y., and named new bishops for Brooklyn, Charlotte, N.C., and Houma-Thibodaux, La.

In Brooklyn, Bishop Daily's successor is Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Camden, N.J. The pope transferred Bishop Sam G. Jacobs of Alexandria, La., to Houma-Thibodaux, and he named Father Peter J. Jugis, a Charlotte diocesan priest, as the new bishop of Charlotte. No successors were immediately named in Camden or Alexandria. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio to the United States, announced the changes in Washington Aug. 1.

ARCHBISHOP NAMES SEX-ABUSE LAWYER

BOSTON (CNS) — The lawyer who helped Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley of Boston settle clergy sex-abuse cases in the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., has been named to head the Boston archdiocesan legal team handling the more than 500 civil suits involving abuse that are facing the archdiocese.

In a July 31 statement the archbishop said he hopes that Thomas Hannigan's "expertise in facilitating settlements in matters such as this will move the process toward a just and timely resolution."

STUDY RECONFIRMS SAINT'S EXISTENCE

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A year after Pope John Paul II canonized America's first indigenous saint, researchers released a new study reconfirming the existence of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin.

The investigation was made public July 31, the same day several thousand Catholics descended on Mexico City's Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe to celebrate the anniversary of the canonization.

The report analyzes recently uncovered evidence, including several letters and a document that researchers claim is St. Juan Diego's will. "The evidence supports the historical case that this character existed," the report's main investigator, Asuncion Garcia Samper, said in a press statement.

State cites Auburn center

Medicaid, Medicare payments on hold

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Medicaid and Medicare payments for new patients at Auburn's Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center temporarily have been halted because the New York State Department of Health cited the center for 20 deficiencies during a June 2-6 inspection.

The deficiencies included failure to consider a patient's requests to end unwanted mental-health treatments; improper care of patients with bedsores and incontinence; and inaccurate assessments of patients' dietary needs. In its report, the health department cited Mercy for several "G" violations, which are considered serious enough to "compromise the health of the patient," according to Robert Kenny, spokesman for the state health department. Other deficiencies included complaints about cold food and violations of patient confidentiality.

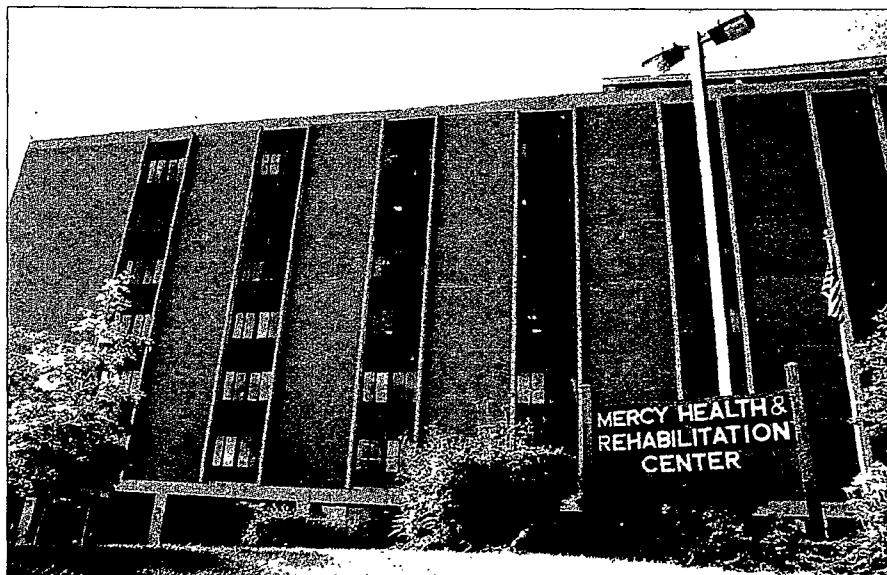
Kenny said Mercy has submitted to the state a written plan of correction, which is currently under review. He said the Health Department also will conduct another unannounced inspection of the facility to ensure that Mercy has corrected the deficiencies.

"The home has been cooperative, and we're working toward a resolution," Kenny said. He added that the center faces possible fines of up to \$2,000 per violation.

A report summary on the health department's Web site stated that although "significant corrections" were needed, Mercy was not providing a substandard quality of care.

Mercy provides elder care and rehabilitation services for 240 residents. It is sponsored by the Sisters of the Third Franciscan Order in Syracuse, but the religious order announced earlier this year that — due to the declining number of sisters available to staff it — it was seeking a new sponsor for the facility.

The state also found the following



File photo

deficiencies at Mercy:

- A resident complained that she suffered swelling and discomfort in her hand after an aide forcefully removed a call bell from her hand. The health-department report also stated that there was no evidence "that measures were taken to ensure the resident's protection against mistreatment during any facility investigation."

- Injuries of unknown origin to two patients were not properly investigated.

- A patient's treatment team failed to intervene to prevent him from losing too much weight.

- A patient's treatment team did not ensure that the patient consistently received the oxygen she needed.

- A certified nurse's aide was overheard loudly asking a resident "Why do you always have to make things

so difficult?"

In a written statement, Mercy said it had conducted its own mock survey prior to the health-department survey and had already been working to correct the deficiencies. Mercy added that several of the deficiencies were related to food and nutrition programs, and that it was working with Morrison Senior Dining, its food-service provider, to correct any problems.

The Mercy statement also criticized the health department's approach to surveying.

"The DOH survey process is not designed to focus on the thousands of times things go well, but to identify only problems," the statement said. "This most negative process produces a report, which can be alarming to the public, while not describing the good quality of care overall."

Pope fills long-vacant Vietnamese see

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After more than 11 years, Catholics in the Diocese of Hung Hoa, Vietnam, will have their own bishop.

Pope John Paul named Father Antoine Vu Huy Chuong, 58, a professor of dogmatic theology at the Can Tho interdiocesan seminary, to lead the diocese.

The appointment was announced

at the Vatican Aug. 5.

According to Vatican Radio, Hung Hoa is Vietnam's largest diocese in terms of square miles covered. It has been without a bishop since the May 1992 death of Bishop Joseph Le Phung Hieu.

Although Vatican-Vietnam relations have improved greatly over the past decade, the Vietnamese government continues to insist the Vatican inform it of potential nominees for the office of bishop.

More than 7 million people live in the Hung Hoa diocese, and about 192,000 of them are Catholic.

Bishop-designate Vu Huy Chuong was born in Ben Thon in the Diocese of Hung Hoa. In 1954, he fled with his family and millions of Catholics from North Vietnam to South Vietnam.

CORRECTION

The July 31 article "Cyclists highlight poverty" incorrectly identified Pittsford's Saint's Place as a food shelter indicating "poverty in the midst of affluence." That quotation — from ride organizer Ruth Putnam, who coordinates the diocesan Works of Love program — actually referred to the Pittsford Food Pantry, which had been a planned stop along the cyclists' ride. Saint's Place, a separate facility which the cyclists visited on July 28, is a ministry providing furniture and clothing for refugees resettling in Rochester.