

POPE TO BEATIFY NUN DURING TRIP

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (CNS) — A nun who saved a priest from communist secret police is one of two Slovaks Pope John Paul II will beatify during his Sept. 11-14 visit to Slovakia.

Holy Cross Sister Cecilia (Zdenka) Schelingova was arrested by then-Czechoslovakia's communist regime Feb. 29, 1952 when she was working in a hospital. Although the charges were never published, a fellow prisoner testified that Sister Schelingova had described helping a hospitalized priest, Father Stefan Kostial, escape from secret police detention after giving tea laced with sleeping pills to the ward guard.

CHURCH LEADERS URGE 'YES' VOTE ON EU

MOSCOW (CNS) — Catholic leaders in the former Soviet republics of Latvia and Estonia are encouraging the faithful to vote "yes" in September referendums on whether to join the European Union.

"By our faith we are members of Western Europe, not Eastern Europe," Cardinal Jans Pujats, head of the 500,000-member church in Latvia, said in a telephone interview. Latvia is voting Sept. 20 on whether to join the European Union.

Estonians will cast their votes a week before Latvians. Msgr. Philippe Jourdan, a French priest who serves as vicar general for the apostolic administration of Estonia, said he supports membership in the union.

BAR NAME OFFENDS ILLINOIS CATHOLICS

ROCK ISLAND, ILL. (CNS) — Plans for the opening of a sports bar called "Hail Mary's Last Chance Sports & Spirits" have generated protests from the area's Catholic community and "profound horror and enormous dismay" from Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria.

Developers Jeff Guthrie and Bruce Millage say the bar's name refers to the so-called "Hail Mary" football pass, a commonly used sports term for a long pass or desperate attempt. However, Bishop Jenky and area pastors and parishioners believe the name is insulting to the Blessed Mother and the Catholic faith.

Effects of Sept. 11 still felt

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Two years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Catholic Charities agencies continue to help families and communities recover by providing counseling, job placement and training, and financial assistance.

"Catholic Charities agencies are committed to support and assist those impacted by the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, and our help will not end until their need for help ends," said Father J. Bryan Hehir, president of Catholic Charities USA.

"Recovering from traumatic loss often takes years," said Kevin Duffy, a family advocate for Catholic Charities of Paterson, N.J. "Sept. 11 was a traumatic event for our nation, but it affected many families on an extremely personal level."

His agency continues to respond to the bereavement needs of widows, children and parents.

This summer, Catholic Charities of Paterson conducted an art-therapy program for children. Dozens of parents and children also participated in the agency's "Family Going On After Loss" program, which provides families with resources, information and skills to deal with grief.

The agency is also developing a family legacy program for parents to record their family histories and preserve the memories of their deceased child for their grandchildren.

To handle an increased demand for trauma counseling, Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens, N.Y., hired additional therapists this year to provide counseling at various locations throughout the community.



Leila Navidi/Catholic Courier

Rochester's St. Michael's Church held a Mass Sept. 7 in honor of those lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as well as current and deceased local emergency-services workers. Members of the Rochester Fire Department salute a procession of police and fire officials as it passes the church prior to the Mass.

In addition to counseling services, many agencies are providing financial help or job training for those who lost their jobs after the terrorist attacks. Some recent estimates have put job loss in New York at close to 250,000 jobs since Sept. 11, 2001, and thousands of people have remained out of work or underemployed since then.

To deal with the widespread unemployment, Catholic Charities of New York launched an employment program last February which has helped more than 1,583 displaced workers with job skills and training and has placed 251 people in permanent jobs.

Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre, N.Y., has teamed up with the

Financial Planning Association to offer financial-planning workshops. Laura Messano, disaster response and relief program coordinator for Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre, noted that many people who suffered huge financial losses did not apply for government aid and quickly went through their personal savings.

Catholic Charities USA, based in Alexandria, has allocated more than \$30.5 million in grants to local Catholic Charities agencies for Sept. 11, 2001, recovery efforts. These grants — which come from \$31.8 million donated to Catholic Charities USA for Sept. 11 disaster assistance — support the long-term needs of families affected by the tragedy.

Bishop offers prayers on Sept. 11 anniversary

The following is Bishop Matthew H. Clark's reflections on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy:

Two years ago, we shook with grief and horror at the terrorist attacks in New York City, Pennsylvania and our nation's capital. On this second anniversary, I pray, and ask others to pray, for the comfort of those who lost loved ones, for the comfort of a nation whose daily sense of security is forever changed, for the comfort of a world in seemingly perpetual conflict.

We must never forget Sept. 11. We must never forget not just because of the innumerable dreams shattered and incomprehensible number of lives lost, but because the day now must become a tragic

but crucial reminder of the work still to be done by those who seek an end to human hatred and division.

Now, and always, we must pray that people everywhere will look not toward their differences, but toward the similarity of dreams and ideals and the world they wish for their children.

We must pray that our servicemen and women come home soon, free of violence and war and the dangers of policing so many parts of the world.

And, never forgetting the enormity of the Sept. 11 tragedy worldwide, we must also pray that each one of us — in our own spheres of influence — can find the resolve and the resources to end the everyday tragedies in our community:

poverty, street violence, abuse of the most vulnerable, addiction, economic injustice and the unmet needs of the disadvantaged, the elderly and the infirm.

Last year, on the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 tragedy, Pope John Paul II said, "Freedom and peace can only come from truth and justice. Only on these values is it possible to build a life worthy of human beings. Without them there is only ruin and destruction."

Let us then pray and work for this truth and justice always — in our homes, our communities and in our world. And let's pray for truth and justice together, by whatever name we beseech our God, all eyes toward our shared longing for peace.