Prayer Keeps Ecumenical Moment Alive

BY LINDA BUSETTI

A small congregation chanting evening prayers on Wednesday, May 23, as about 60 Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant clergy gathered for the ecumenical gathering on the grounds of Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Brooklyn Heights.

The diocese hosted its annual ecumenical gathering on May 23, at which Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, retired Bishop Thomas V. Daily and Auxiliary Bishop Octavio Cisneros were joined by clergy from many Orthodox and Protestant churches.

Participants included: the Bishop Michael Thomas, Archimandrite John Purcell, Archbishop Michael Tarchia, Archbishop Eugene Papas of the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, Brooklyn, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M., of the Eparchy of Stamford; the Rev. Charles DiFerraro of Queens, as well as representatives of St. Nicholas Naxiatius Greek Orthodox Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island.

Msgr. Guy Massar, chair of the diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Office, coordinated the service.

Bishop Gregory Mansour, who leads the Maronite Diocese of St. Mary in Brooklyn, was the homilist. He recalled that last December many of the same clergy, as well as Muslims and Jews, had gathered for an interfaith prayer service for the people of war-torn Lebanon. Five months later, "Lebanon is again in crisis," he said, referring to the recent fighting between the Lebanese Army and Hezbollah.

"On that evening a common refrain was heard, 'It is good to be here.' ( Mk 9:35) These words, spoken by Peter himself, are quite familiar to us and also define our prayer tonight," Bishop Mansour said.

"Between the Resurrection and Pentecost (which we celebrate together) we come to pray. We repent and lament that we do not pray and work together often enough. It is easier for us to stay within our own communities. We know our way around there; it is comfortable for us. But this is not acceptable to the One who prayed to his Father just before he died and was raised up."

Bishop Mansour went on to say that each Christian group has its own "strength and beauty" - the "Catholic Communion of Churches" as in "her universality, her unity with the pope in Rome and in the order discipline and uniformity of her law"; the "orthodox churches it is "found in their love for Sacred Tradition, their Synodal (team) government of the apostolic college of bishops, and in the episcopal principle which allows bishops to accommodate to human need and weakness"; and for the "Protestant ecclesial communities," it is "in their fervent love for the Scriptures, their evangelical zeal, their flexibility, and their desire to listen to the work and movement of the Holy Spirit to witness Christ in every circumstance of life and society."

Bishop Mansour continued that the virtue of humility is needed for the Christian churches to recognize, "that we are missing something, perhaps missing someone... for us, it is the unified Church, fully herself, one, holy, catholic and apostolic; one flock with all her shepherds united in full communion. This is the true image of the Body of Christ."

The bishop concluded, "If we cannot enter into an official theological dialogue, which is important, if we cannot work together in ecumenical service projects, which are also important, if we cannot further the common date for Easter or the receiving of the one cap and one set of liturgical vestments, if we cannot love one another. A gathering like this one helps us do just that."

ECUMENICAL GATHERING: Clergy from Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches came together for an ecumenical Vespers service at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Brooklyn Heights, on May 23. Among those were retired Bishop Thomas Daily, above center; Bishop Gregory Mansour, at right below, of the Maronite Diocese in Brooklyn, who gave the homily; and at left, Auxiliary Bishop Octavio Cisneros and Archimandrite Eugene Papas.

Bishop Places Retired Pastor from Queens on an Administrative Leave

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of the Diocese of Brooklyn has placed a retired Queens pastor on administrative leave from exercising priestly ministry after accepting a finding from the Diocesan Review Board that sufficient evidence existed of sexual abuse of a minor three decades ago.

The bishop announced his decision on the status of Msgr. Nicholas J. Capuca, who was the pastor of St. Luke's Church, Whitestone, from 1983 until 2005, in a letter read to parishioners here by Msgr. Sean G. Ogle, the territorial vicar for the Queens North Vicariate, at Masses on the weekend of May 26-27.

As a priest on administrative leave, Msgr. Capuca may not present himself as a priest, celebrate Mass publicly or administer the sacraments, the letter said.

He is permitted to offer Mass privately.

Bishop DiMarzio said the diocese will submit documentation on the matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican for review and for "direction on further action it may wish to take."

The letter said the allegations of inappropriate behavior referred to a time when Msgr. Capuca was assigned to another parish of the diocese. He has denied the allegations.

In his letter, the Bishop apologized to the persons who made the allegations "for the emotional suffering... endured over these many years." He said "even the passage of time has not dimmed their memory of a difficult experience encountered at early stages in their lives."

Bishop DiMarzio's letter, which was read in Italian at the parish's Mass in Italian, asked the parishioners of St. Luke's to pray for the well-being of those who presented the allegations.

The bishop also asked for prayers for the former pastor, expressing the hope that celebrating the Eucharist privately "will sustain him in what is clearly a painful period in his life" and asking parishioners "to remember the good works" he performed in more than 50 years as a priest.

As the group that investigates allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, the Diocesan Review Board consists of eight members "of outstanding integrity and..."
Possibilities in Iraq

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite claims there are still secrets connected to the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Benedict XVI and his secretary of state said the entire message has been published and has been interpreted accurately.

The Marian apparitions to three children in Fatima, Portugal, began 90 years ago May 13, and Pope John Paul II ordered the so-called “third secret” of Fatima to be released in 2000.

As the Fatima anniversary approached, the Vatican press was unleashing stories. “The Last Fatima Visionary: My Meetings With Sister Lucia,” the 150-page Portuguese-language interview with Cardinal Dominik Dardenaux, Vatican secretary of state, opens with a letter of presentation from Pope Benedict.

Dardenaux says Pope John Paul II published the “third secret” and to write an official commentary on it, making its deposition public rather than keeping it in a category that also downed the riddle of a raised side wing at a pagan grotto in the 1917 attempt to annihilate Pope John Paul.

In the new book, Cardinal Dardenaux says Cardinal Sister Lucia dos Santos, at the time the last surviving member, confirmed the Vatican’s interpretation.

He also said Pope John Paul felt that since the consecration attempt had already taken place and had succeeded, the 2001 beatification of Sister Lucia’s remains, Prescett and Lucia Martins, was an appropriate occasion for announcing the publication of the secret.

The controversial rumors that the Vatican is still hiding something puzzle Cardinal Dardenaux and he said that, in his mind, Sister Lucia, who died in February 2005 at the age of 97, in the book, Cardinal Dardenaux, “The most celebrated Fatimist,” like those who follow Father Nicholas Gruner’s Fatima Croon magazine, remain unimpressed.

Father Gruner, a priest based in Canada, repeatedly has said that the Vatican’s text does not match other

Women’s Ordinations in Canada

Were Not Part of Catholic Church

TORONTO (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Toronto said an ordination ceremony held by a group that calls itself Roman Catholic Womenpriests has no connection whatsoever to the Roman Catholic Church.

The archdiocese said that, unlike its name, “Roman Catholic Womenpriests” has no connection whatsoever to the Roman Catholic Church, nor do its ceremonies have any relationship with the sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church.

The statement said the organization has no authority to consecrate the sacraments, especially that of holy ordination.

The Catholic Church does not allow women to be ordained. One Canadian and two American women were ordained “priests” at the May 27 ceremony in the tiny West Hill United Church. Three others, including the group’s first male, were ordained as deacons.

The organization kept the site of the ordination secret until the day of the event. The ceremony attracted little media coverage.

Former Pastor on Leave

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The Fatima Secret: It’s All Out in the Open

Virgin: "My immediate heart will triumph."

Cardinal Dardenaux’s knowledge of the Fatima secret is not the only surprise that comes just from a book.

As secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he was sent by Pope John Paul II to Fatima to discuss the opening publication of the secret with Sister Lucia.

What was known as the “third secret” was, in fact, the third part of a vision shown to Sister Lucia and her sisters.

Sister Lucia had made the first two parts public in the late 1930s. They included a vision of hell shown to the children, along with prophecies concerning the outbreak of World War II, the rise of communism and the ultimate triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, especially in Russia if the country was consecrated to her Immaculate Heart.

Sister Lucia wrote down the third part of the message, sealed it in an envelope and gave it to her local bishop. The message was sent to the Vatican in 1957, where successive popes read it, but decided not to reveal its contents.

As for objections that the secret could not refer to said rich objections show an ignorance of the spiritual nature of prophecy. "Prophecy is not guided by a deterministic fatalism," he said.

Victims and penances are stronger than evil and thus bullies.

While prophecy warns of what could happen if people do not pray and repent, he said, it also demonstrates the fact that "conversion, penance and prayer can change the course of history."

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June 5-13, 2007

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Phone: (212) 777-2725
www.stanthonysoho.org

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Religious articles and refreshments in the Church Hall on June 6, 10, and 13.
The Fatima Secret: It's All Out in the Open

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Despite claims there are still secrets connected to the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Benedict XVI told his secretary of state the entire message has been published and has been interpreted accurately.

The Marion apparitions to three children in Fatima, Portugal, began 80 years ago May 13, and Pope John Paul II ordered the so-called "third secret" of Fatima to be published in 2000. As the Fatima anniversary approached, the Vatican released 360-page copies of "The Last Fatima Visionary: My Meetings With Sister Lucia." The 146-page, Italian-language interview with Cardinal Terrissimo Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, opens with a letter of presentation from Pope Benedict.

The two men worked with Pope John Paul to publish the "third secret" and to write an official commentary on it, describing its depiction of a "man dressed in white" shot down amid the rubble of a ruined city as a prophetic vision of the 1961 attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul.

In the new book, Cardinal Bertone said Carlotta Sister Lucia dos Santos, at the time the last surviving visionary, confirmed the Vatican's interpretation. He also said Pope John Paul felt that since the assas-

sination attempt had already taken place and he sur-

vived, the 2000 beatification of Sister Lucia's cousin, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, was an appropriate occasion for announcing the publication of the secret.

The continuing rumors that the Vatican is still hid-

thing something puzzle Cardinal Bertone and, he said, irritated Sister Lucia, who died in February 2005 at the age of 97.

In the book, Cardinal Bertone said, "The most
doubtful Fatimists, like those who follow Father

Nikolas Gruner's Fatima Crusader magazine, remain
disturbed." Father Gruner, a priest based in Canada, repeatedly has said that the Vatican's text does not match other

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One Canadian and two American women were ordered "priests" at the May 27 ceremony in the tiny West Hill United Church. Three others, including the group's first male, were ordained as deacons.

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Former Pastor on Leave

Continued from page 3

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The board was formed as directed by the "Essential Norma" that accompanied the U.S. Catholic bishops' 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The members are "generous in their commitment to serving the Church," the bishop said.

Bishop DiMarzio also stated his gratitude to Amityville Dominican Sister Ellen Patricia Finn, the deaconess who administered and five mem-

bers of the diocesan Healing Intervention Team, who were available after the seven weekend Masses to meet with parishioners who wished to comment on the information they had heard.

The letter also invited anyone who as a minor was the victim of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy of the diocese to make it known by calling the diocesan toll-free number, (888) 634-4499. The caller "will be treated courteously and with respect," the letter noted.

accounts by Sister Lucia and, basically, does not contain anything worrying enough to have prevented Pope John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II from publishing it earlier.

The strange thing, Cardinal Bertone said in the new book, is that Pope John Paul decided to publish the secret privately to put an end to the wild speculation that had surrounded it.

"The pressure from the Fatimists was extremely strong," the cardinal said.

"The most absurd things" were being spread, mainly presuming that the secret predicted catastrophic world events or widespread heresy at the top levels of the church, Cardinal Bertone said.

"Clearing up the question was a pastoral concern," he said.

Pope Benedict's letter, written in late February, reflects that concern.

The publication of the third secret "was a time of light, not only because the message could be known by all, but also because it unveiled the truth amid the con-

fused framework of apocalyptic interpretations and speculation circulating in the church, uprooting the faithful rather than asking them for prayers and repen-

tance," Pope Benedict wrote.

The pope, as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said he wrote the Vatican com-

mentary "after having prayed intensely and meditated deeply on the authentic words of the third part of the secret of Fatima, contained on sheets written by Sister Lucia."

Pope Benedict said that for him the secret can be summarized "by the ensuing promise of the Most Holy Virgin: 'My immaculate heart will triumph.'"

Cardinal Bertone's knowledge of the Fatima secret is not something that comes just from a book.

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As for objections that the secret could not refer to Pope John Paul since he did not die, Cardinal Bertone said such objections show an ignorance of the spiritual purpose of prophecy.

"Prophesy is not guided by a deterministic fatalism," he said, "Prayer and penance are stronger than evil and than bullets."

While prophecy warns of what could happen if people do not pray and repent, he said, it also demonstrates the idea that "conversion, penance and prayer can change the course of history."
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