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Bishops view U.S. as world's guardian at meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a clarion call against isolationism, the nation's Catholic bishops Wednesday declared the United States the world's keeper in Somalia, the Balkans and Central America.

The bishops also called on the United States to keep a ban on nuclear testing, stop being the world's leading arms peddler and to increase its humanitarian aid to countries where it once fought proxy wars against communism.

"Liberty and justice for all is not only a profound national pledge; it is also a worthy goal for a national leader," the bishops said in a follow-up statement to their historic peace pastoral of 1983.

Also at their annual fall meeting Wednesday, the bishops approved a major policy statement on the family that declares Catholic husbands should submit to their wives and should help with household chores and parenting.

In language that draws from the nascent men's movement, the bishops in particular encourage Catholic men to be caring spouses who are willing to share tears along with the laundry and changing diapers.

"Marriage is a partnership of a man and woman equal in dignity and value," the bishops state in "Follow the Way of Love: A Pastoral Message of the U.S. Catholic Bishops to Families."

A decade ago, the bishops' pastoral letter "The Challenge of Peace" drew a firestorm of protest from critics both inside the church and in the Reagan administration for its calls to reduce military spending and the nation's nuclear arsenal.

In their new statement, titled "The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace," the bishops said the challenge for peace today is no less urgent in a world suffering from massive starvation, regional wars and arms trading.

"After the Cold War, there has emerged an

'Liberty and justice for all is not only a profound national pledge; it is also a worthy goal for a national leader.'

— Catholic bishops

understandable but dangerous temptation to turn inward, to focus only on domestic needs and to ignore global responsibilities. This is not an option for believers in a universal church or for citizens in a powerful nation," the bishops said.

Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles said the statement "is as relevant today in 1993 to the new world order as the 1983 document was then."

But Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit criticized the statement for continuing to rely on the just-war tradition which states military force is valid to attain goals such as feeding starving children or preventing the slaughter of whole populations.

In reality, Gumbleton said, nearly three-quarters of people killed in wars in the late 1980s were innocent noncombatants.

The statement on marriage and family addresses a wide range of issues, with a central theme being the importance of friends, family and the parish community in helping married couples work through difficult times.

But some of the document's strongest language comes in a section on "mutuality" that represents perhaps the prelates' most comprehensive attempt to address relations between the sexes.

Many conservative Christians espouse a hierarchical view of the family, referring to a passage in the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians that speaks of the husband as "the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church."

But the bishops instead hold up the apostle's statement in his Letter to the Galatians that "there is not male and female" in the "new creation" made possible in Christ.

In particular, the bishops encourage men to be nurturing parents and sensitive spouses. The prelates recognize that "sharing feelings and a willingness to be vulnerable can be difficult, particularly for those of us raised in the 'strong and silent' tradition."

The issue of sexual equality has been a difficult one for the bishops, who have come under intense criticism from groups favoring the ordination of women. Disagreement over that issue caused them last year to abandon a pastoral letter on women after nine years of work.

Several bishops said the document would find a place not only in Catholic homes, but would be received well by the larger faith community.

"I believe that we, at this moment, have an awful lot to offer all Americans to encourage them to strengthen their families," said Bishop John J. Nevins of Venice, Fla.

In other business Wednesday, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops voted to try and make it easier to dismiss from the priesthood clerics guilty of sexually abusing minors.

The bishops voted to ask the Vatican to lift the church's five year statute of limitations on dismissals, to raise the age when abuse victims are considered minors from 15 to 17 and to speed up the judicial process by requiring initial appeals to be filed with regional tribunals in the United States rather than Rome.

Lawyer says police lied to kids about photos

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Detectives in the Michael Jackson child-sex probe are intimidating young friends of the pop star by claiming they have nude pictures of the boys, Jackson's lawyer claimed in a court document.

In an Oct. 28 letter to Police Chief Willie Williams, attorney Bertram Fields accused detectives in the criminal molestation probe of lying to children in their search for evidence.

"I am advised that your officers have told frightened youngsters outrageous lies, such as, 'We have nude photos of you,' in order to push them into making accusations against Mr. Jackson," Fields wrote. Fields wrote that no nude photos of the youths exist.

The letter was filed with other court documents in the civil lawsuit brought by a 13-year-old boy who said Jackson sexually molested him. A hearing in that case was planned for Tuesday.

Jackson has not been charged with wrongdoing, and police have declined to comment on their four-month investigation.

Fields didn't immediately return telephone calls Wednesday. But Jackson security consultant Anthony Pellicano said he knew of reports of alleged

coercion.

Williams defended the investigators Wednesday.

"I am satisfied with everything that our department and most of the other agencies are doing to date" he said.

Last week, Jackson canceled his international *Dangerous* tour, saying that accusations he sexually molested the boy had contributed to an addiction to painkillers. The painkillers were prescribed following recent scalp surgery for burns he suffered filming a Pepsi commercial in 1984.

In another development, Jackson has been dropped as the 1994 recipient of the prestigious Scopus Award given annually by the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

Jackson asked that his name be withdrawn after disclosing his addiction problems, his publicist Lee Solters said Wednesday. The university Board of Directors agreed Tuesday to withdraw Jackson's name.

The Scopus Award, which was to be presented Jan. 29 in Los Angeles, recognizes individual humanitarians. Past recipients included Elizabeth Taylor, Quincy Jones, Barbra Streisand and Steven Spielberg.

Ruling gives schools authority off campus

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP) — School officials have authority over students off campus when they reasonably believe rules are being broken, a court commissioner ruled.

The ruling Tuesday by Chelan County Juvenile Court Commissioner Pete Young means marijuana seized from a Wenatchee High School student caught smoking the drug just off the school grounds can be used as evidence in her trial next month. She is charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

"I believe school authorities have certain rights off school grounds, as long as they are conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to the efficient operation and the maintenance of discipline of the school," Young said. "Otherwise, you'd have a football team drive off in a bus and no longer be under school authority."

The 15-year-old girl's attorney, Tomas Caballero, argued that a teacher had no right to send her to the principal's

office because she was not on school property when the teacher allegedly smelled marijuana smoke.

Caballero contended the marijuana and pipe found in the girl's purse in the principal's office was improperly seized and should not be allowed as evidence in her trial.

But Young found that search standards for teachers are not as strict as those for police officers.

Where police must establish "probable cause" before searching someone suspected of criminal activity, school officials need only have a "reasonable belief," Young said.

Appeals court rulings have established that the school must act in a reasonable manner when searching a student and must be acting on specific information, he said.

"The original attention-getter was the smell of marijuana," Young said. "Clearly, this was a legitimate exercise of investigation."

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