

RELIGION

Renowned speaker addresses evangelization

The Archdiocese of Portland will resume the Catholic Scholar series on the church in the Third Millennium with Father Richard J. Neuhaus. The series is being held in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Portland. Father Neuhaus will speak on "Catholic Evangelization in the Third Millennium" on Sunday, September 22, 8:00 p.m., at St. Mary's Cathedral (N.E. 18th and Couch, Portland) and on Monday, September 23, 8:00 p.m., at St. Mary's Church in Eugene (1062 Charnelton Street).

Father Richard John Neuhaus is acclaimed as one of the foremost authorities on the role of religion. He

is president of The Institute on Religion and Public Life, a nonpartisan interreligious research and education institute in New York City. He is editor-in-chief of the Institute's publication "First Things: A Monthly Journal of Religion and Public Life."

Formerly a Lutheran Clergyman, he was senior pastor of a low income parish in Brooklyn, N.Y. for seventeen years. He has been active in leadership roles in organizations dealing with civil rights, international justice and ecumenism. Among awards for his work in this area is the John Paul II Award for Religious Freedom. He was ordained a Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of New

York in September, 1991.

Father Neuhaus has published several articles and books including Freedom for Ministry, the Naked Public Square: Religion and Democracy in America, and The Catholic Movement: The Paradox of the Church in the Postmodern World. In 1988, U.S. News and World Report named him one of 32 "most influential intellectuals in America."

Father Neuhaus was born in Canada, and is a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

On Sunday in Portland, the presentation by Father Neuhaus will be preceded with a concert presented by Keith Des Rochers. The concert is

part of the Archdiocese Young Artist series being held in conjunction with the Catholic Scholar series. Keith Des Rochers is a virtuoso at the piano, and is a master of a remarkably wide repertoire for a young artist. He often performs at St. Elizabeth Church in Portland. His program will include Beethoven's Waldstein sonata, Ginastera's Argentine Dances, and movements from Olivier Messiaen's Twenty Regards upon the Infant Jesus.

The Piano concert will begin at 7:00 p.m., and Father Neuhaus will begin his presentation at 8:00 p.m. Both events are open to the public and are free of charge.

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Religious leaders organize fight for workers

One of the largest and most diverse groups of religious leaders assembled to support the cause of worker justice will announce a new organization — the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice (NICWJ) — to fight for the rights of low-wage workers and to forge a new relationship between the religious community and labor organizations.

The initial focus of the NICWJ is the poultry processing industry, particularly Case Farms, a poultry processor in Morgantown, N.C. Case Farms workers have raised serious concerns relating to hazardous working conditions, including excessive line processing speeds that increase the chance of carpal tunnel syndrome, chopped-off fingers and the inability to detect contaminated poultry.

Members of the NICWJ board are national leaders from 18 denominations, orders and faith communities, including African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Baptist, Catholic, Church of God, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Reform and Reconstructionist Jewish movements and Unitarian Universalist. Repre-

sentatives include: — Rev. Dr. Joseph Echols Lowery — president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference — Bishop James Malone — former president.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops — Karen McLean Hessel — program director, Justice for Women, National Council of Churches — Rev. McKinley Young — bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Atlanta — Evely Shlensky — chairperson, Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism — Bishop Jesse DeWitt (ret.) — bishop, United Methodist Church.

With a work force of 240,000, mostly immigrant laborers, poultry processing is one of the nation's fastest-growing industries. Workers are raising serious concerns about working conditions, wages and attempts to stop them from organizing.

The NICWJ is forging links between the nation's religious communities and worker-led organizing efforts fighting to improve wages, benefits and working conditions, particularly for low-wage workers like those in the poultry industry.

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In Loving Memory Lavada Jean Harris



Lavada Jean Harris died on Friday, August 30 of congestive heart failure. Mrs. Harris was born Lavada Jean Land on December 14, 1914 to Reverend Richard Land of the Church of Christ and Lida Jackson. The Land family moved to Tyler, Texas. Lavada later joined St. James Methodist Christian Episcopal Church (CME) in Tyler and was a member of Allen Temple Church in Portland. She entered into matrimony with Robert Williams and Bernard Navarro Harris, who preceded her in death.

After receiving her B.S. Degree in Home Economics Education from Texas College in Tyler, Texas, Mrs. Harris taught primary grades in Texas and Oregon. Mrs. Harris enjoyed reading, writing, and family gatherings. Ever mindful of the spiritual side of her life, Mrs. Harris was prayerful, in constant study of the word of God. She put her Christian beliefs into practice each day of her life. Mrs. Harris was quiet, kind and generous. She believed in sharing with others and gave unselfishly. She enjoyed her family and a small circle of friends.

Mrs. Harris leaves to cherish her memory: three daughters; Lydia Roy, M. Yvonne Williams, and Linda Jean Harris (Nickerson); two grandsons; Darryl Nickerson and Nathan Jay Nickerson; two sisters, Lois A. Sayles of Portland, and Velma L. Grays of Austin, Texas; one brother of Portland, Richard Land Jr., son-in-law, Linzy Roy, Jr., The Wheat Family of Austin, Texas; niece, Harovel G. Wheat; great niece, Danelle Wheat; great nephew, Daniel Wheat; The Land Families of Los Angeles, CA; nephew, Harold Land, wife Lydia Land, great nephew, Harold Land Jr., wife Sushie Land; grand nephew, Alvin Armstrong Land and many other beloved relatives and friends.

Pope gender-bender

Popes weren't always conservative old men. Hollywood is making a movie about Pope Joan, who apparently posed as a man to become head of the Catholic Church in the 9th century.

The legend has existed for centuries, with some claiming it's truth, others fiction. An embarrassed

Catholic Church has removed her from the record books. The story was previously filmed in 1972, with Liv Ullmann playing Joan.

Ted Turner's arthouse studio Fine Line Features is making the latest version, having paid six figures for the rights to Donna Woolfold Cross' upcoming novel, "Pope Joan."

The book, a bestseller in France, will be published by Crown in the U.S. Sept. 18. The film is expected to begin shooting in Europe next year.

According to Cross' book, Joan was brought up in a society in which women were not allowed to learn to read. She was exceptionally bright and overcame obstacles by posing

as a man. The truth is uncovered when she becomes pregnant by a knight. Set against turbulent events that include the Saracen sacking of St. Peter's, a fire that destroyed most of the Vatican and the bloody Battle of Fontenoy, the film is an ambitious undertaking for Fine Line.

Parliament passes liberal abortion law

Poland's leftist-dominated lower house of parliament voted Friday to liberalize the country's abortion law in a measure denounced by the Roman Catholic Church as complicity in a monstrous crime.

The house voted by 208 to 61 with 15 abstentions for amendments to the restrictive 1993 anti-abortion law, which will let women end pregnancies before the 12th week if they are too poor to raise a child or have other personal problems.

The vote, a blow to Polish-born Pope John Paul II, aroused instant condemnation from the Catholic Episcopate and from the Vatican, which had rallied political allies and believers to oppose the measure.

"The lower house ... is simply lending its hand to a monstrous crime which will be carried out in the full majesty of the law on tens or hundreds of thousands of human beings," spokesman Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek said in a statement.

He appealed to doctors and nurses to boycott abortions, which the church equates with killing.

Pope John Paul described abortion as a terrible crime Friday just hours after the lower house voted to liberalize the laws and told a delegation of bishops from Thailand that

families in their dioceses needed special pastoral care in the face of growing materialism which, he said, was alien to Thai culture.

"The result is the advance of a 'contraceptive mentality' which not only contradicts the full truth of conjugal love but also leads to a more ready acceptance of the terrible crime of abortion," the Pope said.

The present law, passed under a previous, center-right government, allows abortions only if pregnancy threatens a woman's life or health, results from rape or incest, or when the fetus is irreparably damaged.

Supporters of the change say the current law leads to many personal tragedies, bungled back-street abortions and abandoned babies. There has been a thriving business in abortion tours to neighboring countries for those women with enough money.

"Liberalization does not prevent believers from living according to their religious principles," leftist deputy Danuta Waniek, a backer of the move, told PAP news agency.

Parliament passed similar amendments in 1994 but they were vetoed by the then President Lech Walesa, a devout Catholic.

Walesa lost elections last year to

ex-communist Aleksander Kwasniewski, who has said he will sign the new law after it passes the Senate—which is unlikely to present obstacles.

It should take effect 30 days later, probably this year.

Several deputies said their votes had been wrongly recorded by parliament's computerized system and deputy speaker Marek Borowski said he would consider a possible recount.

Some other parliamentary opponents of the bill, who led a mass walk-out from the chamber in hopes of preventing a quorum, said they would appeal against the bill to the country's Constitutional Tribunal in hopes of still blocking it.

Although 90 percent of Poles are formally Catholics, surveys suggest a majority favor liberalization.

The new measure provides terminations free of charge for women who meet the specified conditions but contains safeguards to prevent a return to the routine use of abortions, freely available before the 1989 fall of communism.

Women applying due to so-called social reasons have to first undergo counseling and three days of reflection.

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