



Religion

Catholic Church Bishops Elect First Black President

Church leader is a powerful orator known for speaking bluntly about prejudice

BY RACHEL ZOLL

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bishop Wilton Gregory, who is taking over as the first black president of the nation's Roman Catholic bishops, will help lead an increasingly diverse church as it works to provide moral guidance on the war against international terror.

Gregory, of Belleville, Ill., is a powerful orator known for speaking bluntly about prejudice. He said he plans to con-

tinue to do so in his position as the voice of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on religious, social and political issues.

"When the church addresses racism, you have to maintain the principle that it's a sin," said Gregory, who won election to the presidency at a conference meeting last week. "But even people who are racist are God's children, and people can change."

Gregory said the bishops must ensure the fight against terror is "driven by justice rather than by revenge."

Gregory will be leading an American Catholic community that is becoming more diverse through a growing number of Asian and Hispanic immigrants.

Black Catholics see Gregory's selection as evidence of recognition they have long sought from church leaders. Estimates of the number of black Catholics range from 2 million to 3.5 million, out of 63.7 million Catholics nationwide.

Gregory, 53, is an expert on liturgy and has written exten-



Bishop Wilton Gregory

sively on Catholic opposition to physician-assisted suicide and the death penalty. Monsignor Richard Duncanson, of Solana Beach, Calif., recalled a Thanksgiving

years ago when the two were in graduate school together. A prayer was offered that noted how early Americans came full of hope, to which Gregory responded with one of his trademark straightforward observations: "Some didn't come. Some were brought over as slaves."

"It was a memorable moment," Duncanson said. "He makes us aware without a sense of resentment." Gregory was in sixth grade when he first considered becoming a priest. His parents, Christians without a denomination, had sent him to St. Carthage Catholic School on Chicago's South Side, where



his family lived. He was drawn by the warmth and intelligence of the two parish priests and wanted to follow their example.

He was ordained in 1973, earned a doctorate in sacred liturgy from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome and soon was in demand as a public speaker.

Gregory said he continues to experience racism from Catholics and others, despite his position in the church. Still, the bishop said the prejudice has never made him consider leaving the faith.


"You'd have to leave the planet to escape racism," he said. "It's a day-by-day struggle."

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obituaries

Lillie Mae Johnson

A memorial service was held Nov. 9, 2001, in Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes for Lillie Mae Johnson, who died Nov. 2 at age 83.

Mrs. Johnson was born Lillie Mae Jackson on Sept. 13, 1918, in Augusta, Ga. She moved to Portland in the late 1940s and was a homemaker. In 1938, she married Emory Johnson; he died in 1986.

Survivors include her daughters, Betty Jones, Vandella Johnson and Rosezia Avery; sons, Harold, Rogers, Albert and George; sister, Anna Brown; brothers, Romeo Jackson, George Jackson and Albert Jackson; 20 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Interment in Rose City Cemetery.

Diann Sarah Murphy

A funeral was held Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2001, in Neighborhood Church in Tualatin for Diann Sarah Murphy, who died Oct. 31 at age 56.

Mrs. Murphy was born Diann Sarah Campbell on Nov. 6, 1944, in Muskegon, Mich. She moved to Portland as a child and graduated from Girls Polytechnic High School. She was a homemaker and a lifelong member of the church. In 1963, she married Leon A. Murphy.

Survivors include her husband; daughter, Kimberly Lloyd; son, Ray; sister, Katherine Hensley; brothers, Roy Domine, Dick Domine and Larry Domine; and five grandchildren.

Interment in Cliffside Cemetery in Sandy. Arrangements by Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

David Lee Stanley

A funeral was held Monday, Oct. 29, 2001, in Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes for David Lee Stanley, who died Oct. 22 at age 55.

Mr. Stanley was born July 7, 1946, in Thebes, Ark. He moved in 1976 to Portland. He was an automobile mechanic until about 1980.

Survivors include his daughter, Anita; brothers, Percy, Willie, Matt and Calvester; sisters, Eartha L. Gilbert-Wisdom, Oletha Roberts and Rosetta Alexander; and four grandchildren.

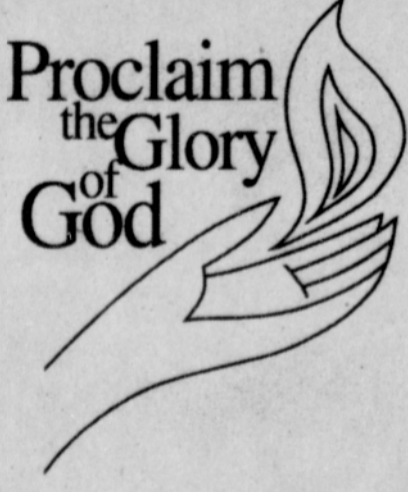

Mary Lee Herbert

A memorial service was held Nov. 10 at Full Holy Ghost Mission Church of God in Portland for Mary Lee Herbert who died Nov. 7, 2001, at age 90.

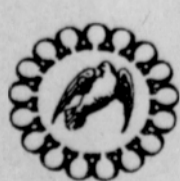
Mrs. Herbert was born Mary Lee Haynes on Dec. 10, 1910, in Forest Home, Ala. A homemaker and farmer, she moved from Alabama to Portland in 1997. She married Lester Herbert; he died earlier.

Survivors include her sister, Inez Sims. Her son, Tom E., preceded her in death. Remembrances to Full Holy Ghost Mission Church. Arrangements by Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

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