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## News Briefs

### NEWS BRIEFS Jun-23-2011

By [Catholic News Service](#)

#### U.S.

### Washington pastor first African-American priest to head Josephites

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Josephite Fathers and Brothers, 140 years after their founding in 1871 to serve the African-American community, elected their first black superior general in Father William Norvel. Currently pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Washington, Father Norvel, 76, will serve a four-year term at the order's Baltimore headquarters. Father Norvel had served as consultor general for the Josephites 1983-87, and as president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, 1985-87. He is credited with starting the gospel choir movement in Washington and Los Angeles. He also opened a Josephite house of spiritual formation in Nigeria, where he served for five years. The house has been the source of a number of Josephite vocations. "Having more black leadership in the church is fulfilling the dreams of many," Father Norvel said in remarks posted on the order's website. "My election shows that the Josephites feel that it's time that we have black leadership and they will support it." A native of Pascagoula, Miss., Father Norvel was pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Pascagoula when Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005. "My church and my school were completely destroyed. My rectory and the convent were flooded with 4 feet of water," he said a few weeks after Katrina devastated much of the Gulf Coast. For Father Norvel, one of the more uplifting moments in the aftermath of the hurricane came when he greeted volunteers from the North whom he likened to angels of mercy. That winter, he took part in a pulpit swap with St. Isidore Parish in Bloomingdale, Ill., raising more than \$40,000 to help his Mississippi parishioners.

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### John Jay investigator criticizes bad reporting about abuse report

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Many news stories about the recently released report on "The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010" tried -- and failed -- to capture its complex findings in

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a sound bite, according to the principal investigator for the study. Karen Terry of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York said researchers who prepared the report have received "malicious and even threatening calls and letters" from some people who criticized the findings based on overly simplistic and sometimes factually inaccurate news reports. Writing June 23 in *The Crime Report*, an online publication of the Center on Media, Crime and Justice at John Jay and the Criminal Justice Journalists organization, Terry said some media wrongly said the report attributed the clergy sex abuse crisis to social attitudes attributed to Woodstock or the "swinging '60s." Instead the report concluded that "the factors associated with the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church were complex," she said. "Another fallacy contained in the early media reports included the 'fact' that we did not address the problematic actions of the bishops," Terry wrote. "Critics suggested that since we relied only on data from the dioceses, the bishops influenced the study findings." But she said the data in the report came from "seven unique sources -- a fact overlooked in most media reports. The data were derived from bishops and priests, victim assistance coordinators, victim advocates, survivors, clinicians, seminaries, historical and court documents."

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## WORLD

### **Japanese bishops plan to boost quake recovery aid in two dioceses**

TOKYO (CNS) -- Japanese bishops have decided to boost church support for recovery and reconstruction efforts in the two dioceses most severely affected by March's massive earthquake. Developed during the bishops' June 13-17 plenary assembly, the aid package calls for the country's remaining 14 dioceses to participate in reconstruction assistance for the church in the Sendai and Saitama dioceses, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. The decision formalizes a policy of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan in effect since late May of having a coordinated nationwide earthquake relief effort within the church. The bishops' conference has established an Office for Reconstruction Assistance to coordinate communication with the various ecclesiastical provinces, religious orders and mission societies in the region. Financial assistance will be spread over three years beginning this year. The bishops' conference will send \$373,000 annually to the Sendai Diocese. The Saitama Diocese will receive about \$124,300 per year.

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### **Mexican human rights center weathers challenges to its advocacy work**

MEXICO CITY (CNS) -- Jacinta Francisco Marcial sold ice cream in the state of Queretaro until she was accused in 2006 of kidnapping six federal agents who were searching for illegal merchandise. Marcial, an indigenous Otomi and unable

to speak Spanish, spent three years in prison until lawyers from the Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez Human Rights Center, also known as Centro Pro, assumed her case, which eventually became a national scandal. Mexico's Office of the Attorney General finally dropped the case in September 2009. Centro Pro has won fame for defending the poor and oppressed, wading into difficult land disputes and confronting impunity -- all in a country with a less-than-transparent legal system and frequent abuses of power. The center's work has won awards. The Mexico City legislative assembly, for one, cited the Centro Pro for its work on behalf of Marcial. But with the fame and awards have come controversy. The Archdiocese of Mexico City and foreign critics have charged that Centro Pro improperly associated itself with groups working to decriminalize abortion and implement same-sex marriage laws. The accusations, made in a letter signed by Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City, prompted the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the charitable arm of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, to drop funding for Centro Pro earlier this year. The controversy once again highlights the conundrum of how Catholics should support foreign groups, including those that might occasionally work on broader human rights issues with groups openly in favor of public policies that go against church teachings. It also points to the tensions in Mexico between the country's most senior prelates and human rights groups.

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### **Transformation of bread and wine like personal conversion, pope says**

ROME (CNS) -- The transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ is like the transformation people undergo when they give themselves up to the love of God, Pope Benedict XVI said. By partaking in the Eucharist, Christians become like Christ, he said. They are "part of his body, one with him," and so are open to God and united with others near and far, Pope Benedict said. In a Mass at Basilica of St. John Lateran June 23 celebrating the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, the pope said that the transformative power of the Eucharist made it "the food of eternal life." At the Last Supper, he said, Jesus overturned the meaning of death. The changing of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ "is the fruit of the gift Christ made of himself, the gift of love that is stronger than death." Its purpose is to transform lives and therefore transform the world, the pope said. The sacrament of communion underscores the social commitment inherent in the church, Pope Benedict said, because whoever recognizes Christ in the host "also sees him in his brother who suffers, who is hungry or thirsty, or who is alone, naked, sick or imprisoned." The recognition and commitment to help others is even more important in a world where globalization makes everyone more dependent upon each other, the pope said.

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### **PEOPLE**

## **Pittsburgh priest to head Catholic Near East Welfare Association**

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Msgr. John E. Kozar, former national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, has been appointed president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. When the appointments take effect Sept. 15, he will succeed Msgr. Robert L. Stern, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York who has been the chief executive of the agency since 1987. Msgr. Kozar, a 65-year-old priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was elected to the post by the Catholic Near East Welfare Association's board of trustees, chaired by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, and confirmed by the Vatican. Pope Benedict XVI named him to head the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. Following studies at St. Meinrad Seminary College in Indiana and St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, he was ordained a priest May 1, 1971. As part of his seminary training, he spent a summer at a mission in Juliaca, Peru. Then-Father Kozar spent the early years of his priesthood as an associate pastor at various parishes in the Pittsburgh Diocese. From 1978 to 2001, he served as development director for the diocese, making yearly pastoral visits to a mission in Chimbote, Peru.

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## **From Rome to Jerusalem, Irish pilgrim prays at churches, mosques**

JERUSALEM (CNS) -- Ann Milner, 61, sensed she was being called by God, so she left her home in England for the nearly 2,000-mile pilgrimage from Rome to Jerusalem. "I wanted to do something good for the world and I felt I was being called to walk again," said Milner, a native of Ireland, who had also walked the Way of St. James and from Rome to Assisi, Italy. "I have never been a walker, but I felt I was being called to do this for spiritual reasons. It feels like I am doing good. I am praying for specific people." She set off on foot from Rome June 24, 2010, and arrived in Jerusalem June 2. There, she sought refuge in a convent because, having spent so much time on her own, she said, she found the enclosed environment of the Old City intimidating. Milner walked with a collection of written prayer requests from people she met along the way. During her pilgrimage, the member of Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Parish in Hitchin, England, stopped and prayed at every church and shrine she came across; she said some parishioners had requested that she place their written prayers in Jerusalem's Western Wall. "In Turkey, I stopped and prayed outside mosques because I felt they were holy places," said the soft-spoken retired computer professional, Pax Christi volunteer and mother of adult two sons. "I prayed each day for peace."

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## **Indianapolis archbishop, founders of MP3 project for military honored**

PITTSBURGH (CNS) -- Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, publisher of The Criterion, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese, has received the Bishop John England Award from the Catholic Press Association. The archbishop, a Benedictine, has headed the archdiocese since 1992. The England award is named for the Irish-born bishop of Charleston, S.C., who founded The Catholic Miscellany, the oldest Catholic newspaper in the U.S. in terms of continuous publication. Presented annually, the award recognizes publishers in the Catholic press for the defense of First Amendment rights, such as freedom of the press and freedom of religion. It is the CPA's highest award for publishers. This year's Clarion Award from the Catholic Academy for Communications Arts Professionals has been presented to Cheri Lomonte and Jeff Gardner of the Frontline Faith Project, which delivers compact MP3 players to members of the military that are preloaded with Catholic spiritual content, especially as it pertains to military service. Both awards were announced at a June 23 luncheon during the two organization's joint Catholic Media Convention in Pittsburgh. The Clarion Award recognizes "a timely contribution to Catholic communicators through organizational service; through creativity in a communications effort or product; through service to a diocese, institution or religious order; at a personal or career milestone; through excellence in communications leadership, ecumenical cooperation or industry collaboration." Lomonte, of Lakeway Texas, is an author and co-host of the award-winning radio program "Mary's Touch." Gardner, of Columbia, Mo., co-founded and became CEO of Catholic Radio International.com -- an Internet-based Catholic radio network. He currently is the executive producer of "Mary's Touch," Frontline Faith and other projects.

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