

Vatican opposes death penalty for Saddam

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — A top Vatican cardinal said he felt compassion for Saddam Hussein after seeing video pictures in which, the prelate claimed, American forces treated the captured Iraqi leader "like a beast."

In the first Vatican comment on Saddam's capture, Cardinal Renato Martino said Saddam should face

trial, but he stressed the Church's opposition to the death penalty. He told reporters the Vatican hoped Saddam's arrest would "contribute to the pacification and the democratization of Iraq."

Martino said he felt "compassion" for Saddam, even if he was a dictator, after seeing images of "this destroyed man" being "treated like a

beast, having his teeth checked" by an American military medic. Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, was speaking at a news conference to launch Pope John Paul II's annual message for the World Day of Peace, which the church celebrates on Jan. 1. "It seems illusory to hope that it (Saddam's capture) will

repair the drama and damage of the defeat against humanity which war always is," Martino said, reiterating the Vatican's deep opposition to the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Martino said the Vatican hoped Saddam would face trial in "an appropriate place," but didn't say whether that should be in Iraqi or before an international court.

Ala. justices to step down from Moore appeal

By Bob Johnson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The eight associate justices of the Alabama Supreme Court will step down from hearing Roy Moore's appeal of his ouster as chief justice by a judicial ethics panel, a court official said Monday.

Supreme Court Clerk Bob Esdale told The Associated Press the justices have not issued a formal order, but plan to hold a meeting at 3 p.m. CST Monday to randomly draw the names of qualified judges and attorneys who could hear the case.

The names will be submitted to Gov. Bob Riley, who is expected to make the final appointment of a replacement court.

The Alabama Court of the Judiciary voted Nov. 13 to remove Moore from office for refusing U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson's order to remove a 5,300-pound Ten

Commandments monument from the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building.

The eight associate justices had the monument moved from the rotunda into a storage room in August after Moore refused to do so. Moore's attorneys had asked acting Chief Justice Gorman Houston to disqualify himself from the case because of comments he had made to news reporters and because of the part he and the other justices played in having the monument moved.

Houston had previously said that he could review the case objectively and had no reason to disqualify himself. The eight justices did not immediately say why they decided to step down.

Moore's attorneys did not seek to disqualify any justices other than Houston.

Moore attorney Phillip Jauregui said Monday his

motion also asks that Houston have no part in the selection of replacement justices. Jauregui said his motion sought to remove Houston "from all parts of the case."

"Houston is participating in a manner contrary to what we requested in our motion," Jauregui said.

Houston had suggested the process of drawing names if any justices stepped down from hearing the appeal. He said that process would eliminate criticism that either the justices or the governor tried to influence the final decision of the replacement panel.

Moore's attorneys filed notice last week that the former chief justice is appealing his removal from office. In an interview last week, Moore said he will argue that he was removed from office because his Christian faith requires him to acknowledge God.

Separating meaning from fantasy

Continued from page 8B

white man who comes down a chimney and brings toys while eating the cookies and drinking milk you leave.

I believe the goal of the Evil One is to have people confused to the point where you don't know what to

believe. Some people will choose to believe nothing and then his purpose is done because without faith in Jesus there's no salvation.

I know some may not think mixing fact and fiction together at Christmas is no big deal, but it is. It's as if no

one has thought about maybe if you got rid of Santa Claus and all of the materialism that becomes associated with the birth of the promised Messiah maybe there could be peace on Earth and good will toward men.

The Charlotte Post

Word Of Faith West

Invites You To
WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2003, 10PM

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Odell Beasley



Rev. & Mrs. Guthrie

A Church that cares for your soul 2 Chron. 7:14

Pastor, Rev. Samuel Guthrie, Jr.
2300 Sanders Ave. • Charlotte, NC • 358-1709

REEDER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Come and share "The Journey" with us.

Sunday Morning Worship - 8 am and 10:45 am

Sunday School - 9:30 am

Tuesday Bible Study - 7:30 pm

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY MAKING CONNECTIONS
WITH YOUR FUTURE

3725 Beatties Ford Rd. • 704-398-2914

Obituaries

Long & Son Mortuary Service

Marshall F. Little died November 24 at Grant Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio. Funeral was held November 29 at Rock Hill AME Zion Church, Indian Trail. Burial at Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury.

Master Richard McCullough died November 24 at his residence. Funeral was held November 29 at Christ Resurrection Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

Thomas E. Alexander died November 27 at his residence. Funeral was held December 3 at East Stonewall AME Zion Church. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

James Lawrence Sr. died November 29 at Beverly HealthCare Nursing Home. Funeral was held December 6 at Long & Son Mortuary Chapel. Burial at Crown Memorial Park.

Mother Carolyn Rose Zinnah Stryker died November 17. Funeral was held December 6 at Cokesbury United Methodist Church. Burial at Gethsemane Memorial Gardens.

William G. "Pee Wee" McKnight died December 3 at Carolinas Medical Center. Funeral was held December 8 at Johnson C. Smith University Chapel. Burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery-West.

A.L. Jinwright Funeral Service

Alfred Guyton, 49, of 3023 Parkway Ave. #1 died December 13. Funeral will be held December 19 at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Elmont, N.Y.

Lizzie Anderson, 90, of 6540 Peace Haven Drive, died November 23. Funeral service held November 28 at Bentah Baptist Church, Newark, N.J.

Alexander Funeral Home

Janice Patterson died December 4 at Carolinas Medical Center. Visitation and funeral were December 10 at The Way of Holiness Christian Church. Burial at Sharon Memorial Park.

Zennie Williams died December 11 at Presbyterian Hospital. Visitation and funeral held December 14 at Zechariah Alexander Sr. Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

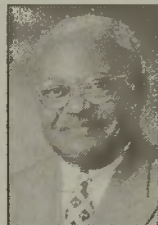
Ernest Wade died December 10 at Presbyterian Hospital. Visitation and funeral held December 16 at Zechariah Alexander Sr. Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens.

Ola Mae Jones died December 11 at Presbyterian Hospital. Visitation December 14 and funeral held December 15 at Gethsemane Baptist Church. Burial at York Memorial Park.

Jessie Avent died December 13 at Carolinas Medical Center. Memorial service at Zechariah Alexander Sr. Memorial Chapel.

"A Word From Our Partners"

"Giving Is A Blessing"



Don Stegar, Ph.D.,
Pastor of Reeder Memorial Church

Giving is high profile this time of year, but we really do it every day. Christmas gives extra emphasis to the need to give, and it can be quite expensive. Many people enjoy the spending and plan for it in their budgets. How you spend your money is your personal choice. However, giving at Christmas can create unwanted debt. This is because many of us want to give more than we can actually afford. It is their way of sharing the joy and the meaning of Christmas. Actually there is another way to share the true meaning of Christmas. This approach might give Christmas new meaning to those who do not know or those have forgotten what it is all about. Perhaps we should be reminded that God's gift of love is the real meaning of this special time and season. Then we can discover giving that does not cost money.

Some gifts are priceless. These gifts are so valuable that no amount of money would be a fair price. When your "loving heart" is greater than your cash flow, focus on the value in these priceless gifts. You may not be able to give what you most desire to give, but you can always give what you have. The receivers will welcome these gifts and you benefit from the joy of giving.

Give the gift of *listening*. Someone needs you to hear what he or she has to say, they don't need you to respond, just listen. Give the gift of *affection*. Be generous with appropriate hugs and expressions that demonstrate your love. Give the gift of *kindness*. Make a special effort to give kindness to someone who least expects it. Give it without expecting something in return. A simple and sincere compliment can brighten someone's day. Give the gift of *laughter*. Share a funny story or incident and share the laughter. Give the gift of *forgiveness*. Forgive someone who thought you never would or could forgive. Forgive yourself! Give the gift of a *written note*. Send a personal note to say hello or to say thank you. It tells the receiver that you care enough to take time for them. Give the gift of a *cheerful disposition*. An easy way to feel good is to offer a friendly greeting with a smile. Give of your *time*. Take time to visit someone living alone, or living in an "in-care" facility. Often patients with long term illnesses have diminished visitation. Sharing your time with them is a gift. They need to know that they are not forgotten. Provide *comfort* and show *appreciation*. This is a very limited list of valuable gifts that do not cost a cent. Can you see God in your gift giving? Giving is a blessing. All these are gifts that last all year long.

These are God's blessings to us, and God blessings are meant to be shared. God has demonstrated this kind of giving, and Jesus is the demonstration of this kind of "on-going" giving -- day-to-day. He loves us, forgives us, listens to us, comforts us, and shares His grace, mercy and peace with us. His love keeps on blessing, accompanied by joy that lasts for a long, long time. God's most precious gift is the gift of His love. He gave us His precious son -- the greatest expression of love. He is the gift of life, only God can give life.

Don't remove anyone from your list because you don't have the money. Many people need what money can't buy. Consider folk to whom you can give these priceless gifts. There are so many ways to give and share the joy of Christmas. It just stands to reason that we have been blessed so that we can share the blessings. I have discovered that, "Giving is a Blessing."

2004

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO BE ON

NEW YEAR'S EVE?

At The Park!!!!

For two dynamic worship services at
University Park Baptist Church



Pastor Claude R. Alexander, Jr.

Serve More in '04

Two Services at
8:00pm & 10:00pm

Services Interpreted for the Hearing Impaired.

Producing Kingdom Citizens through
Evangelism, Discipleship, Worship,
Fellowship & Service

6029 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216

704-392-1681

www.theparkministries.org