

Briefs

METRO

City Unemployment Rate Reaches 8.1 Percent

The New York Times reported that New York City's unemployment rate jumped last month to 8.1 percent from 6.9 percent—"the biggest jump in any month on record." According to The New York Times, "the city lost 3,600 jobs in February."

Prominent Art Dealer Arrested for Stealing More Than \$88 Million

A well-known Upper East Side art dealer has been arrested for allegedly stealing more than \$88 million from investors, collectors and artists, the New York Times reported. Lawrence B. Salander is accused of selling the same painting to multiple investors and attempting to sell paintings that he did not own.

NATIONAL



MCT

Compound in Food and Cosmetics May Prevent Spread of HIV

The University of Minnesota discovered that a compound found in food and cosmetics prevents the spread of HIV in monkeys when used as a sexual lubricant. The compound, glycerol monolaurate (GML), is recognized as safe by the FDA, according to the University of Minnesota's Web site. Researchers believe GML has the potential "to effectively prevent transmission of HIV to women, which is how a majority of new cases are acquired around the globe."

4,000 Troops to be Deployed to Afghanistan

President Obama announced Friday that he would send an additional 4,000 troops to Afghanistan, according to FOX News. This is in addition to the 17,000 Marines and Army personnel Obama already announced he would send.



MCT

INTERNATIONAL

DNA Tests Prove 13-Year-Old British Boy is Not Father

According to Britain's The Mirror, 13-year-old Alfie Patten, who was believed to have conceived a child with his 15-year-old girlfriend when he was 12, is not the father. The story sparked international outrage, and Alfie was "believed to be Britain's youngest father," according to the San Francisco Chronicle. Chantelle Stedman, Alfie's girlfriend, had previously stated that she lost her virginity to Alfie. Other boys have come forward claiming that they have been with Stedman.

North Korean Missile Supposedly in Place

North Korea, according to the New York Times, placed a long-range missile "on a launching pad before a test that the United States, Japan and South Korea said would violate a United Nations Security Council resolution."

Outgoing Archbishop's Comments Ignite Debate over Clergy Celibacy

By CASEY FELDMAN
News Editor

Edward M. Egan, New York Archbishop, reignited the debate over clergy celibacy in the Catholic Church during a March 10 interview in which he called the discussion of whether to make clergy celibacy voluntary "perfectly legitimate." Experts at Fordham said they see the benefits of celibacy—but not for everyone. Many stated that they feel that making celibacy optional would increase the quality and quantity of men and women interested in pursuing religious life.

According to the New York Times, when asked whether he thinks the Catholic Church would have to reconsider allowing clergy to marry, Egan said he thinks the issue "is going to be discussed." He said the matter "has to be looked at" and suggested that he did not think an "across-the-board determination" should be made either way.

Peter Steinfels, co-director of Fordham's Center on Religion and Culture, said he feels Egan's statement is particularly significant because, in the past, Egan has always advocated a "pray-and-try-harder" approach to the shortage of priests in America.

"Coming from him, this statement is an admission that some other approach is probably needed," he said.

Rev. Michael Tueth, S.J., professor of communication and media studies and chair of the department, pointed out the fact that men who feel a call to the priesthood may not "automatically" also feel a call to celibacy, which he called a "grace" and a gift.

"I think [not requiring clergy to be celibate] could definitely work," he said. "It's like we have our head in the sand. It works in every other religion."

Aristotle Papanikolaou, associate professor of theology and co-founding director of the Orthodox Christian studies program at Fordham, agreed.

"I'm not Catholic; I'm an Orthodox Christian of Greek descent. In our church, priests can marry," he said. "...Allowing [clergy] to marry would help ecumenical relations between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches."

Tueth explained that clergy celibacy did not become very common until around the 16th century and



ROMAIN BLANQUART/MCT

Edward M. Egan, (right) sparked debate with his comments regarding priestly celibacy.

the Council of Trent. He said that celibacy was instituted in an effort to improve the church because the quality of priests had dropped, and that monks—who were celibate—were thought to be holier and more moral. In addition, he pointed out the fact that the existence of heirs would make it difficult for land to remain in the church's possession after a priest's death.

Steinfels said, "On a very practical basis, the Catholic parish system is not set up to support a married clergy with families." He also noted that active sexuality would be a "practical problem" in monasteries.

Nevertheless, Steinfels said, "I'm for changing the celibacy requirement, perhaps in the limited, step-by-step ways that Cardinal Egan reminded us were possible... I don't think celibacy will disappear from the Catholic tradition," but "a pledge of celibacy as a requirement for ordination to the priesthood is another matter." Steinfels stressed that if the rule was changed, "those people who felt called to celibacy could still, of course, make that choice."

Both Tueth and Steinfels pointed out the fact that eliminating the celibacy requirement might solve the

current dearth of men interested in the priesthood.

Steinfels said, "There is little question that the pool of candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood would be greater if celibacy were not required. That would probably allow an increase in both the quantity and quality of priests."

Tueth said, "I think we've reached the stage now with a shortage of priests that I think we're willing to lower the standards just as long as someone will remain celibate."

He said, "I can think of a lot of guys who are smart, who are very generous, spiritual... They would be wonderful priests, and they would raise the standards [of priesthood]... except they want to get married."

"I am in favor of optional celibacy for priests," said Joan Cavanagh, associate director of Campus Ministry. "It sure seems like [Egan] is inviting conversations about this, and I am happy to see it!"

Tueth called celibacy "a calling" and said, "For me, the biggest advantage has been the availability. [If] somebody wants me to do an assignment, they want to move me to another part of the country, I don't say, 'Well, what are we going to do with the wife and kids?' So, practi-

cally, it's a big consideration. Psychologically, I have found over the years that when I'm with somebody and we're really talking seriously... I'm totally emotionally available."

Nonetheless, Tueth said he feels that the Church should be more flexible. He pointed out the fact that Episcopalian priests who convert to Catholicism and are already married "bring their families with them."

Tueth said, "[The celibacy requirement] would be easy to change because it's a discipline, not a law. So it's no problem changing it. I think it will happen before the church considers ordaining women because there is no history of women being priests, unfortunately. But there is a history of 1,000 years of male, married clergy."

When asked to comment, Joseph Zwilling, director of communications for the New York Archdiocese, referred to a statement Egan made to Catholic New York in response to the media attention generated by his comments.

In the statement, Egan said, "Celibacy is one of the Church's greatest blessings... I will have to be more careful about trying to explain a somewhat complicated matter in 90 seconds."

College Graduates Largest Uninsured Group; Fordham Offers Assistance

UNINSURED FROM PAGE 1

also step up to the plate.

"It's a system that's in need of repair. The whole system has become unaffordable for the average American," Pappas said. "Hopefully our new president will work out a plan that will offer affordability and good coverage to the average American whether they're employed or not."

Jes Campbell, FCLC '08, expressed a desire to see government action, as well.

"Especially in our current economic and employment climate, I think that a government-based fund should be made available, where recent college graduates can buy into this special medical insurance plan until they find a job with benefits," she said.

David Patterson, governor of New York, is working on a plan to allow parents to claim children as dependents on their insurance until the age of 29—something that many

other states have already enacted. This helps some, but not everybody has the luxury of parental support.

Sarah Devine, FCLC '09, said that she is going straight to graduate school after graduation and therefore will still be covered by her mother's insurance.

"I think if I had been considering time off the questions of health insurance would definitely be a factor in what I ended up doing," she said.

Samuel Wong, FCLC '09, said that he is also going right to graduate school next year but still has concerns about health coverage.

"I'm not going to call for a government overhaul of medical insurance, but health insurance companies should continue to provide coverage until the student gets a job. In other words, when I graduate this May and attend graduate school, they should continue to provide coverage," he said. "Otherwise... especially during this recession, many young adults [would]...rather be

sick than pay for the costs of medical care."

Kelley Mowatt, FCLC '09, said that she feels Fordham should do more to inform students about their options concerning health care once they are no longer in school.

"Fordham should show what is a good plan versus a bad plan," she said.

Campbell ceased to be a full-time student when she graduated in December 2008 and was therefore ineligible for her father's insurance as of Jan. 1. Campbell said that she was "fortunate enough to find a job which offers full medical benefits and a dental plan." She suggested that setting up a booth on the Plaza to give students information about insurance coverage might be beneficial.

Wong and Mowatt both suggested that Fordham provide a workshop for seniors in order to educate them about health coverage from insurance companies. Wong said,

"The company representatives could provide us with some of their experiences and advice in this hard economic climate."

Pappas advised students who are purchasing coverage on their own to buy the least expensive catastrophic plan they can find.

"Get a plan... where if something really bad happened, the coverage is going to be there, but you're not going to be paying a higher premium for things you won't be using," he said.

Malara advises students and alumni to "get creative and look for clinics that offer sliding scale care. A lot of clinics do, especially when they are funded by the state." However, she said, "you might come at 8 o'clock in the morning and not be seen until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. But you're getting health care."

Pappas said that these issues are not unique to Fordham graduates. "This is a big problem," he said. "It's a problem for everybody."