

ING
SW 32 — C14

The Washington Times

<http://www.washtimes.com>

WASHINGTON, D.C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1996 ★

SUBSCRIB

Gay-sex story rocks Episcopal Church

By Julia Duin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Twenty-seven bishops of the Episcopal Church have demanded an investigation into a magazine report that a "secret cadre of gay and bisexual cross-dressing Episcopal priests" has conducted bizarre sexual rituals at the altars of darkened churches.

An account of the orgies in the Long Island diocese of New York, reported in the December issue of Penthouse magazine, details how the priests call themselves "the girls," using women's names for one another in private.

Bishops demand probe of priests

The rituals included a "sexual baptism" in a child's swimming pool in a church building, followed by the homosexual orgy in front of the altar.

This was followed by a same-sex "marriage" of the Rev. William Andries, 60, rector of St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, to Jairo Periera, 25, recently arrived from Brazil. Several priests attended the ceremony, performed

April 20 in Mr. Andries' home by a priest in ecclesiastical vestments.

In another episode, the pudgy rector, dressed to resemble Marilyn Monroe, approached another Brazilian, standing nude in the church sanctuary, with a whip.

Officials of the Long Island diocese say they will look into the allegations, but the 27 bishops demanding an examination want an inquiry conducted from outside the diocese.

"This should prompt believers to fall upon their faces before the Lord, with tears of contrition for

see **PRIESTS**, page A14

PRIESTS

From page A1

the church," the bishops said in a statement drawn up by the Rev. John Howe, bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida. Bishop Howe was formerly the rector of Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax.

"A church that refuses to demand that even its clergy must conform to this historic biblical standard [of monogamous heterosexual marriage] should not be surprised when some of them don't," they said. In May, a court of mostly liberal Episcopal bishops ruled that the church has no canon law forbidding the ordination of homosexuals.

Photographs of the "wedding" and the ensuing sexual romp accompany the Penthouse account. The magazine reports that the Rev. Howard Williams, who coordinates children's ministries for the Episcopal Church, helped the Brooklyn clergyman recruit Wastclinio Barros, 23, in Brazil for what Mr. Barros said he thought was a \$3,000-a-month job as a translator in New York. He said he was told he would receive free housing and the use of an automobile.

The article was written by Rudy Maxa, formerly a reporter for The Washington Post, who writes that the rituals were those of "priests whose commitment to the Scriptures had long ago been replaced by a pursuit of pleasure that would have fit in nicely in Sodom and Gomorrah."

The lengthy story has been publicized on the Internet and has sent shock waves through the church.

Bishop Ronald Haines of the Diocese of Washington calls the episode "sordid." He said, "It is ironic that a story of gross sexual excess was first broken in such a magazine as Penthouse."

The Rev. Orris Walker, bishop of the Long Island diocese, told Penthouse, a magazine that conservative churchmen have described as "pornographic," that he had heard

rumors of the "wedding" but declined to investigate after reporters from a Brazilian television network showed him photographs of the ritual.

"If they were consenting adults, my position is that they were certainly free to take that action," he is quoted as telling Penthouse. He later released a prepared statement that the Penthouse article "distressed me deeply."

Bishop Walker denied that he had had a personal involvement with the Brazilians, but Penthouse reports that he had dinner with Mr. Andries, the Brooklyn priest, and Mr. Barros shortly after Mr. Barros arrived in the country.

In his Penthouse account, Mr. Maxa writes that Mr. Barros realized upon arriving in Brooklyn that his true job was to serve as a "sex slave" for Mr. Andries, as well as to provide sexual services for at least seven other priests. When he tried to flee the country, he said, Mr. Andries confiscated his passport and returned it on condition that Mr. Barros help recruit additional young men from Brazil.

Feeling trapped and penniless, Mr. Barros said, he agreed to do so, and returned to Brazil with Mr. Andries. One of the men he recruited was the partner with Mr. Andries in the "marriage" ritual.

Mr. Williams resigned as coordinator of Episcopal children's ministries last month after Bishop Edmond Browning, the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, read the Penthouse account. Bishop Browning's term expires next July, and his successor will be elected at the triennial general convention of the church in Philadelphia, where conservative groups may try once more to enact canonical restrictions on sexual activity of priests.

"The deeper scandal," says a statement by Episcopalians United, a conservative group working for reform, "is in Episcopal leaders who seriously propose that sexual intercourse between two men or two women is the moral equivalent of lovemaking by a married man and woman."