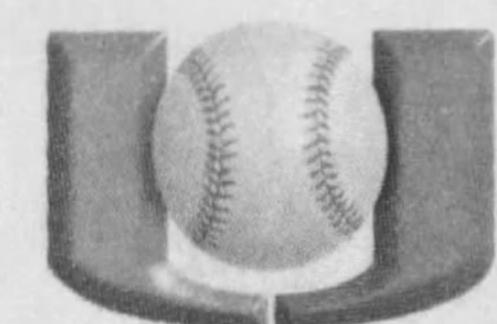


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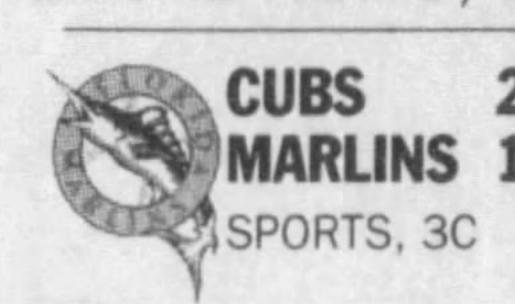


UM sent home

Long Beach State breaks late tie for 6-3 victory

Royal Palm may slam door on smaller apartments

LOCAL NEWS, 1B



WEATHER: Partly cloudy, humid conditions. High 94. Low 79.

Ine Palm Beach Post

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1998

FINAL EDITION

50 CENTS

Neutrals helped fuel Nazi war effort

By Norman Kempster Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Nazi Germany's war machine might have broken down months or even years sooner had Adolf Hitler's government not been able to use stolen gold to purchase crucial raw materials from neutral nations like Turkey, Portugal and Sweden, the U.S. government reported Tuesday.

Without ball bearings and high-quality iron ore from Sweden, chromium ore from Turkey and tungsten ore from Spain and Portugal, Germany could not have produced warplanes, submarines, tanks and other arms, according to the report, produced by 10 agencies coordinated by the State Department.

The 180-page document supplements an earlier report that was sharply critical of Switzerland for buying gold from the Nazis, even though Swiss bankers knew the bullion was plundered from central banks of occupied countries, and, in some cases, pried from the teeth of people murdered in concentration camps.

The new report follows the Nazi money trail to the capitals of the war's other neutral nations. It concludes that all of them assisted the German military in some way, although some did so with extreme reluctance. And all of them ended the war with more money in their treasuries than they had when the conflict began.

Some of the looted gold made its way to the other neutrals, but most of it was converted into

Please see NEUTRAL/10A

Turnpike not actually renamed

By Charles Elmore Palm Beach Post Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Is the Gipper getting gypped?

A new state law now in effect says Florida's Turnpike shall be designated Ronald Reagan Turnpike. But the bill's sponsors and turnpike officials are not interpreting it as a true name change, and are not revising any maps, stationery or existing signs.

Reagan will be honored with 10 new signs of unspecified size and content, placed every 75 miles, at a cost of \$2,500.

The result has been confusion not only among the general public but also among those who pushed to honor the Republican ex-president.

"It was my idea," said Jim McConnell, a self-described conservative activist in Gainesville. "I lit the fuse. I thought it was renamed ... now it looks like we may have to go back next year and get it straightened out."

Michael Kamburowski, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project in Washington, D.C., said he also thought "designated" meant a name change.

"I thought it was more concrete than that," he said.

"Designated" is the same · word used in legislation that changes the name of Washington's National Airport to include Reagan's name, Kamburowski

noted. The bill's sponsor, House Majority Leader Jim King, R-Jacksonville, acknowledged, "Sure, the Ronald Reagan fan clubs say, 'Why don't we spend \$9 million to change all the signs?""

But that was not necessary to honor Reagan, King said. Both names will be correct, though he added, "I think people will continue to refer to it as Florida's Turnpike."

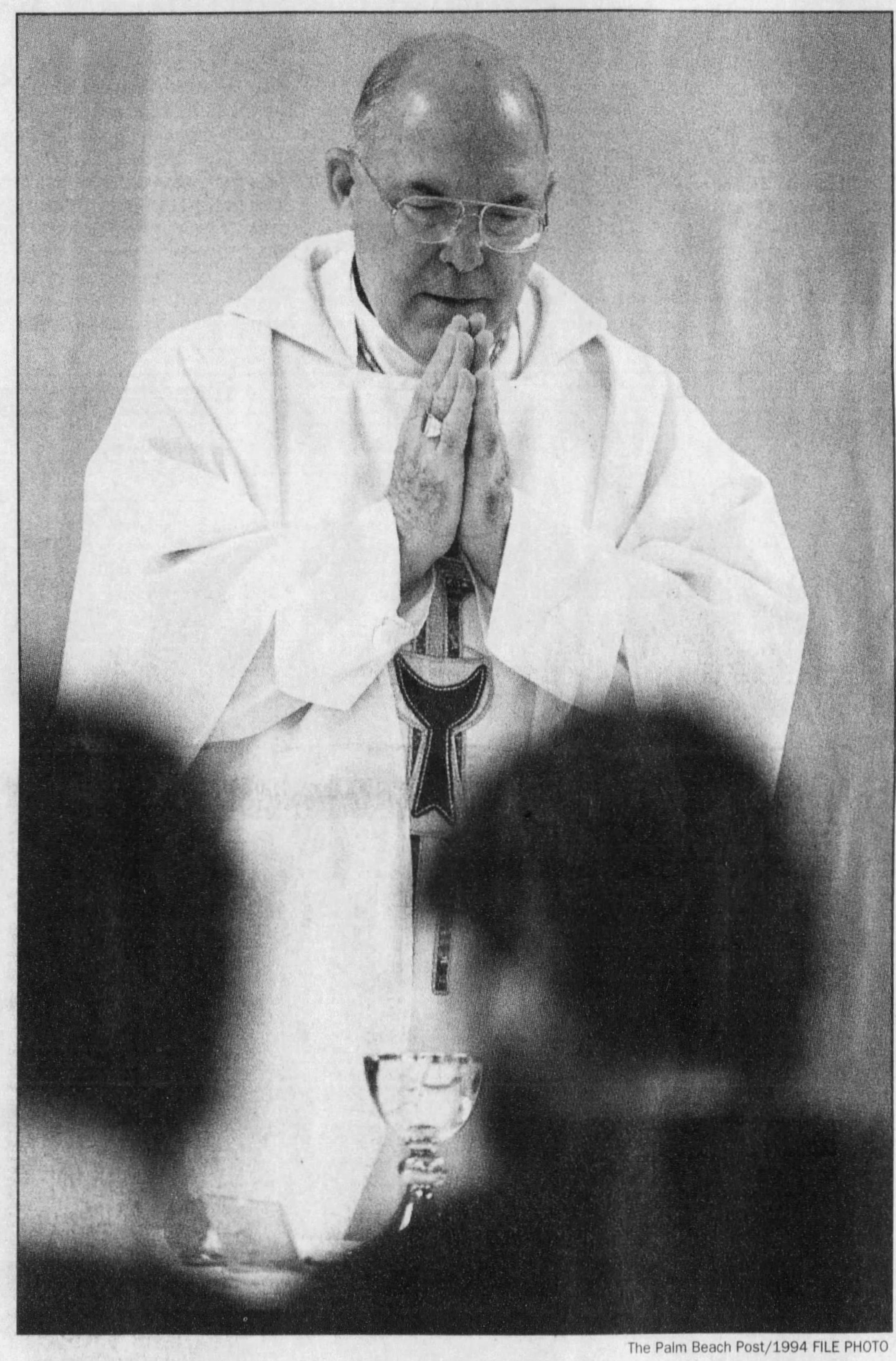
57 PAGES

Bishop Symons resigns

I have prayed each day for these persons and their families. It is a memory

with which we have lived far too long. I apologize to all whom I have hurt in any way.'

BISHOP SYMONS, HIGHEST-RANKING AMERICAN CATHOLIC TO BE FORCED OUT FOR MOLESTATION



Bishop J. Keith Symons, shown celebrating Mass in 1994, has resigned after one of five sexual molestation victims came forward to an undisclosed church official.

Diocese leader admits 'inappropriate sex' with children early in career

By Dan Moffett Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Bishop J. Keith Symons resigned Tuesday as spiritual leader of the Catholic Palm Beach diocese, admitting he sexually molested five boys early in his long career as a priest.

His stunning confession brought a crisis of faith that reaches from here to the Vatican.

Symons, 65, is the highest-ranking American Catholic to be forced out of church office for molestation of mi-

Pope John Paul II accepted his resignation Monday morning, moving with uncharacteristic speed to name Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg the temporary administrator over the more than 200,000 Catholics in the five-county diocese.

Lynch would not disclose the names of the victims, and he called for any others who may have been molested by Symons to come forward and contact the church.

"As painful as it is for me and for others, I feel it important to make public the reason for my resignation," Symons said in a written statement. "Early in my 40 years of priestly ministry, I was involved in inappropriate sexual behavior with minors."

Lynch said the church became aware of Symons' abusive past five weeks ago when one of the victims came forward to an undisclosed church official. Symons admitted to assaulting that boy.

This past weekend, Lynch confronted him about other assaults, and Symons gave the names of four more victims.

"He claims strongly and vehemently that there are no victims in Palm Beach County," Lynch said. "He has said these are the only ones. I want

Please see BISHOP/6A

Looking to heal

'My primary task at this time is to help all overcome the shock of the moment and to promote the healing of those who are hurting,' says the Most Rev. Robert Lynch (above), who will fill in for Bishop J. Keith Symons.

STORY, 7A

Taking swift action

The swift removal of Symons from the Diocese of Palm Beach was an example of the church's new philosophy on handling molester clergymen.

STORY, 7A

Symons' apology

In a written statement, Symons expresses regret and urges his followers to pray for him and 'forgive my failings of the past.'

FULL TEXT, 6A

Clergy, laity react with shock, sorrow

By Steve Gushee

Palm Beach Post Religion Writer

Bishop J. Keith Symons left a diocese in tears, disbelief and disarray Tuesday.

Clergy wandered aimlessly about the grounds of the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola after Symons' resignation — in disgrace — was announced at a morning news conference.

Pain was evident in most faces. Tears streaked some. Expressions of sorrow were quietly uttered for those hurt by the bishop, for the bishop, for the faithful and for the church.

"We are like the disciples after Good Friday," said the Rev. Timothy Lynch, pastor of Mary Immaculate Church in West Palm Beach. "We have more questions than an-

For almost eight years as leader of the Diocese of Palm Beach, Symons was known as a man of vision formed by prayer and hard work.

He built churches, raised money, said Mass daily, ran a diocese of more than 200,000 people, 51 churches and 17 schools. In that vast ministry, he endeared himself to countless Catholics.

Tuesday, he admitted in a resignation statement that, more than 25 years ago, he was involved in "inappropriate sexual behavior with minors."

Symons has left the diocese for a Maryland facility to undergo psychological evaluation and treatment, according to Bishop Robert Lynch of St. Petersburg, who was appointed by Pope John Paul II to fill in for Symons until a new bishop is appointed.

"The religion is scarred," Bishop Lynch said. "This is a tough day for all of us."

Please see REACTION/6A

Inside

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We are like

the disciples

after Good Friday.

We have

more questions

than answers.

THE REV.

TIMOTHY LYNCH

Pastor,

Mary Immaculate

Church

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Lewinsky probe

Kenneth Starr asks the Supreme Court to compel reluctant Secret Service employees and a top White House aide to testify before

a grand jury.

STORY, 3A

One perfect SAT score inspires another By Stephanie Desmon

RIVIERA BEACH — Jason Kelly did it first. And if there's any kid you want your kid to follow off that bridge, it's

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Jason Kelly.

The Suncoast High School junior scored a perfect 1,600 on his SATs in March, so classmate Blake Gottlieb figured he'd better give those study guides a workout.

Gottlieb got the good news in a crisp envelope 10 days ago: He, too, scored a 1,600.

"I was a little jealous," Gottlieb conceded Tuesday. "If he didn't get a 1,600, I don't know if I would have worked as I kind of owe it to him a little





Such perfection is pretty rare. Of last year's 1,127,021 U.S. high school graduates who took the SAT - now called the Scholastic Assessment Test — 453 earned top scores.

"I think this is the first time we've had two," Suncoast Principal Kay Carnes said.

Kelly and Gottlieb, both 17, will tell you they're good buddies who don't compete for grades. They even studied together for the SAT.

And they'll tell you that getting a 1,600 doesn't mean they're super

"The SAT is not a measure of intelligence," said Gottlieb, who lives in Palm Beach Gardens. "It's all about knowing how to take the test. We cracked it."

Gottlieb is one of those guys who loves math. He took advanced placement calculus as a freshman and just kept going from there. He's in the Math

Please see PERFERT/10A

BISHOP SYMONS RESIGNS

Symons being sent away for treatment

BISHOP

From 1A

to believe him, but sometimes people with this disease are in such deep denial that they don't remember what they did."

The middle-aged man who came forward to accuse his assailant told church officials he was abused by Symons for about two years. All the molested boys were parishioners, and all are believed to be former altar boys.

Lynch said Symons assured him he had not participated in sexual activities for the last 25 years.

"I want to believe that," Lynch said. "But I don't know for sure."

Symons did not attend the press conference at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens that made public his disgrace. Church officials said he would be sent to the St. Luke's treatment facility in Suitland, Md., where many priests have undergone therapy for their sexual abuses in recent years.

Criminal charges unlikely

"He'll be sent away for evaluation," Lynch said. "The therapy protocol could be nine months to a vear — even longer, depending on the depth of his disease. I don't know what his future as a priest is."

Prosecutors and attorneys familiar with sexual abuse cases believe it unlikely that Symons could be held accountable in the courts for crimes that were committed four decades ago.

"Before 1972, we could not go after someone who molested a male because the language of the law made rape a capital offense but applied it only to female victims," said Assistant State Attorney Scott Cupp, head of the crimes against children unit at the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office. "If these victims were over 11 years old, then the crime wouldn't be considered a capital felony, rather a life felony, and the statute of limitations would have run out."

Lance Block, a West Palm Beach attorney who has tried civil cases against sex offenders, said the statute of limitations would be a difficult hurdle to overcome.

"Without doing any research on the specific case, I believe that this happened too long ago," Block said. "The plaintiff has a duty to come forward within four years of the date of the incident."

Block believes a case can be made only if a victim successfully argues recent recovery of repressed memory. "That would be difficult," he said.

The Catholic Church has been increasingly plagued by incidents of priests forced to resign for molesting minors. But Symons' resignation was the first by a bishop in the United States, Lynch said. Two archbishops -Robert Sanchez of Santa Fe, N.M., and Eugene Marino of Atlanta — quit after admitting sexual affairs with adult women.

Symons' name has surfaced in a recent lawsuit involving a Catholic priest who was accused of molesting 10 boys.

Boynton abuse case settled

Rocco D'Angelo, now 75, a priest at St. Mark's Church in Boynton Beach in the 1960s, in court papers admitted being a molester. The Archdiocese of Miami promised victims' parents that D'Angelo would not be permitted to continue working with children, but he subsequently was transferred to St. Petersburg - where Symons served as diocesean chancellor. Victims charged that church officials moved D'Angelo to the Tampa Bay area, knew about his past and did nothing to monitor him.

Kevin Sidaway, a Lake Worth victim who is now 42, pursued criminal charges against D'Angelo on learning in 1993 he

was still in the priesthood. Last week, the victims and the church reached an out-of-court settlement in a civil case, the terms of which were not disclosed.

Sidaway is continuing a separate action against D'Angelo, who is believed to be at the treatment facility in Maryland where Symons was sent.

'Something terrible'

Lynch said he wasn't aware of any links between D'Angelo's victims and Symons'. No known legal action is pending against Symons, church officials said.

Members of the congregation at St. Ignatius greeted the news with anger and disappointment, yet they also expressed faith in their church.

"It is a very big scar for the parish to have a bishop make such a mistake," said Marie Rollande Leclerc of Palm Beach Gardens, a retiree who makes altar clothes at the church. "The priests are supposed to be examples for the kids and everyone. It was something terrible for the bishop to do."

The Rev. Francis Lachiara, the diocese vicar of education, has been a friend to Symons for 39 years. He found out only Monday about the impending resignation.

"I spoke with him for about 20 minutes," Lachiara said. "I was very saddened and disappointed. It's a terrible thing. We all need a lot of healing right now."

Symons was made bishop of the Palm Beach diocese in July 1990, coming here after seven years in the Pensacola-Tallahassee diocese. He replaced Bishop Thomas V. Daily, who was transferred to New York City after becoming the first spiritual leader of the newly created Palm Beach diocese in 1984.

During his tenure, Symons was known as an energetic leader who worked to bring the diverse community closer together. He started an annual Cultural Awareness Mass seven years ago, inviting priests from outside the diocese — usually minorities — to join him in celebrating the sacrament.

"He was an absolute workaholic," Lynch said. "He had a great reputation and interest in helping young people."

When Lynch met with Symons Saturday, he ordered him to be forthcoming about his past. "I don't want any more surprises," Lynch said. "Let me know what I face."

'We're not gods'

Symons was at first "depressed and disappointed" when he was informed last week that the pope would accept his resignation effective 6 a.m. Tuesday, Lynch said. But then he seemed relieved.

"You just have the sense this ugly, dirty little secret has come out," Lynch said of the meeting.

Shortly after Symons became bishop here, he was asked what his goal would be for the sprawling diocese with 51 parishes, 17 schools and the growing populations of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties.

He answered: "It's important that I let people know the bishop is human."

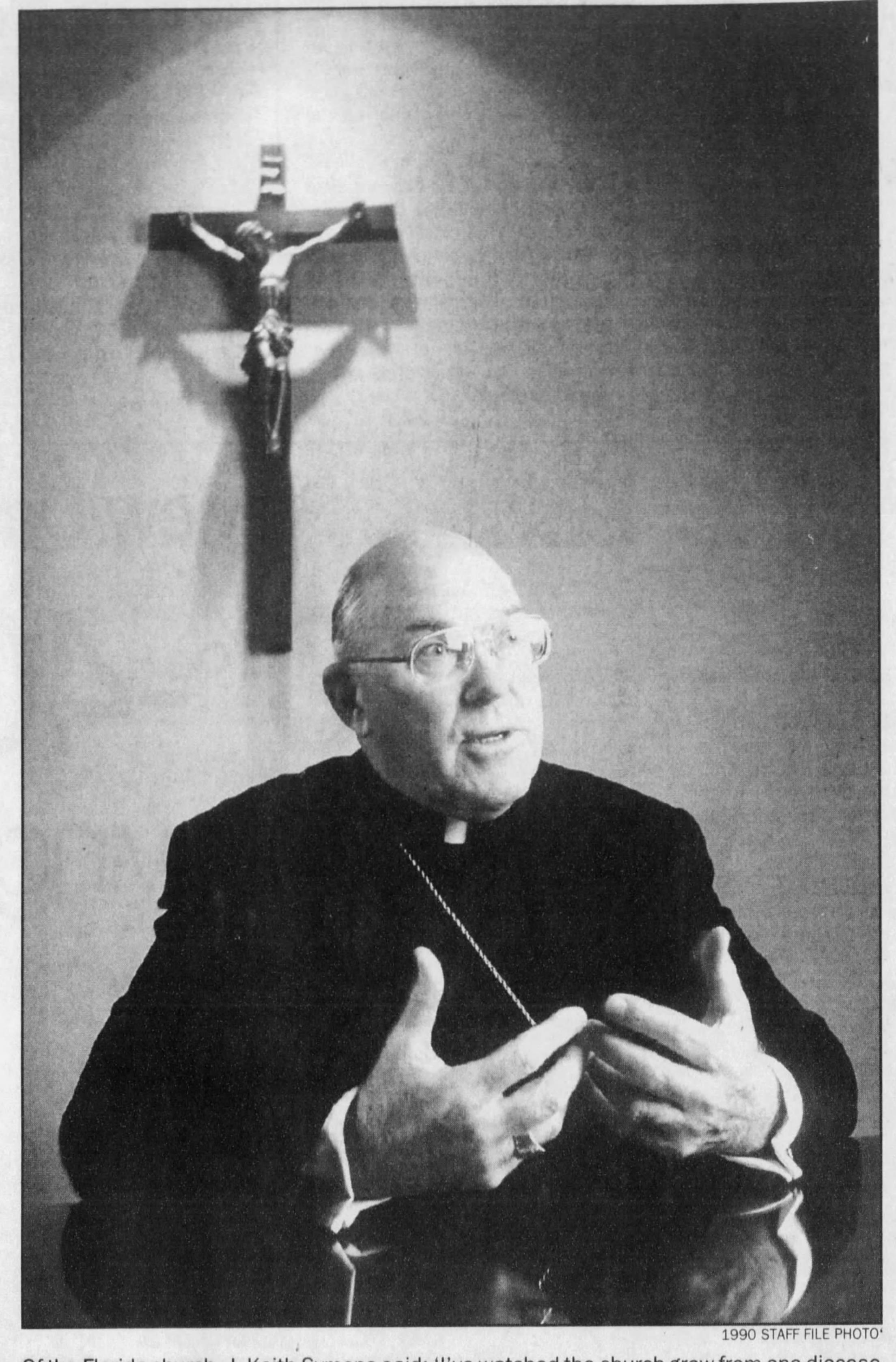
The paradox is that Symons may have achieved this in the most horrible way possible.

"If there's any level of good that comes from this," Lynch said, "it shows people that we're not gods. Priests are flawed like all human beings."

Lynch, who turned 57 last week, said he will set about the task this morning of restoring the faith within his new flock. He will celebrate Mass, and he will look to the highest power.

"If my faith is properly placed, it is not in human beings but in Jesus Christ," he said. "Our faith is in God, and God has never abandoned his people."

SCANDAL ENDS PRODUCTIVE TENURE



Of the Florida church, J. Keith Symons said: 'I've watched the church grow from one diocese and 80,000 Catholics in 1945 to 2.5 million people in seven dioceses.'

Text of statement on resignation

"This morning, it was announced in Rome that Pope John Paul II has accepted my resignation as Bishop of Palm Beach in accord with Canon 401.2. I am grateful to the Holy Father for his paternal concern for me and for this Church of Palm Beach, which I have been privileged to serve for eight years, and for having appointed Bishop Robert N. Lynch as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese.

"As painful as it is for me and will be for others, I feel it important to make public the reason for my resignation. Early in my forty years of priestly ministry, I was involved with inappropriate sexual behavior with minors. Realizing the gravity of my past actions, I have in succeeding years tried to live my promises of celibacy and chastity and have immersed myself in my ministry as priest and as bishop.

"I have prayed each day for these persons and their families. It is a memory with which we have lived far too long. I apologize to all whom I have hurt in any way and if, by this action, they might seek spiritual, emotional, and psychological comfort and assistance, then this painful moment for the Church and for me may prove to be beneficial.

"If you can find it in your heart to pray for me, I seek those prayers and I shall be comforted by them. If you can find it in your heart also to forgive my failings of the past, I shall be grateful.

"At some other time, I hope the people of God in the Church of Palm Beach will be able to appreciate what I have attempted to accomplish while serving as your bishop.

"As I take leave of you, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the priests, deacons, seminarians, religious, and laity who have collaborated with me in building this local Church into a vibrant, caring Diocesan Family.

"May God grant us every needed grace at this moment and throughout the months ahead."

A prayerful, 'pastoral' man

By Steve Gushee Palm Beach Post Religion Writer

Roman Catholic Bishop J. Keith Symons left office Tuesday after nearly eight years as the leader of the Diocese of Palm Beach and 40 years of ministry in Florida.

Symons, 65, was known as a quiet, prayerful figure.

"He was considered a very pastoral man," said Sister Breda Eustace at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach. "He was open to all people. A lot of people feel they could trust him. I suppose that's where the hurt comes from now."

Symons was named the second bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach in June 1990. The diocese includes the Roman Catholic Church in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties.

He was the bishop of more than 200,000 people in 51 churches and 17 schools. Six churches were built on his watch. He raised more than \$25 million in a capital campaign in 1995.

Symons opened housing for the elderly in Jensen Beach, a homeless shelter in Vero Beach and a group home for disabled adults in Boca Raton. He presided over a church in which Mass was said in more than eight languages, including French, Vietnamese and Spanish.

But the call to prayer was his chief counsel to 20 seminarians he met with in 1995.

"If you don't pray, you will be giving yourself and you are to give Christ," Symons told the students.

Symons was born in Champion, in

During his installation as bishop, J. Keith Symons gives a blessing. Six churches were built on his watch. He presided over a diocese in which Mass was said in more than eight languages, including French, Vietnamese and Spanish.

1990 Staff file photo

He was open to all people. A lot of people feel they could trust him. I suppose that's where the hurt comes from now.'

SISTER BREDA EUSTACE

Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center

Michigan's Upper Peninsula. His father was Methodist, his mother Roman Catholic, the faith in which he was raised.

After World War II, the family took a

two-week vacation to Miami and never went

The future priest went to Miami parochial schools and studied in Connecticut and Maryland before ordination in 1958 in

The young priest was named assistant chancellor to the bishop of St. Augustine, the only diocese in the state at the time.

"I've watched the church grow from one diocese and 80,000 Catholics in 1945 to 2.5 million people in seven dioceses," he said.

Ordained a bishop in 1981, he served as

auxiliary bishop of St. Petersburg and later as bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Bishop's career spanned 40 years

1932 — Born Oct. 14 in Champion, Mich. 1945 — Moved to Florida with his family.

1949 - Graduated from Sts. Peter and

Paul High School in Miami. 1958 — Ordained at Gesu Church in Miami after attending seminaries in Bloomfield,

1958-68 — Served at Sacred Heart Parish

in Pinellas Park, St. Paul Parish in Leesburg and St. Joseph Parish in Bradenton.

1971-81 — Resided at St. Mary, Our Lady of Grace Parish in St. Petersburg while serving as vicar general and chancellor of St. Petersburg Diocese.

1981 — Ordained bishop in the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg. And served as pastor at St. Catherine of

Siena Parish in Largo.

1983 — Transferred by Pope John Paul II to bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese.

1990 — Transferred to Palm Beach Diocese.

1998 — Resigned after admitting sexual abuse of boys.

—The Associated Press

Ordination does not remove human faults, priest says

REACTION

From 1A

That sentiment was echoed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

"The recent events in the Diocese of Palm Beach are cause for all of us bishops to reflect again on our pastoral responsibility,'

Bishop Anthony Pilla said. "All of our Catholic people must be able to approach the church with absolute confidence in the integrity of her ministers.'

In his home diocese, Symons was being remembered almost as someone who had died. He was a man of prayer. He served the diocese well. He presided over considerable growth in numbers of people, churches and schools.

"I think he deserves a lot of our sympathy," said Sterling Tremayne, 80, of Juno Beach and



Conn., and Baltimore.

a member of St. Paul of the Cross Church in North Palm Beach. "He really served us very well."

Many were quick to recall that all people, even bishops, can and do sin. Ordination may give a special gift to priests in Roman Catholic teaching, but it does not remove feet of clay, the Rev.

Timothy Lynch said.

"His work became reparations," Lynch said. "He has atoned for the harm he has done by the good he has done."

The parish priest and others were deeply concerned for the victims of Symons' abuse and for the faithful whose trust in church leadership has been shattered.

Sister Breda Eustace of Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach mourned both

the children and the innocent faithful who were victims of Sy-

mons' activities. "It's the poor people that I feel

most for," she said. "Their faith is so simple. Their trust is complete. They believe in their leaders." Still, many continued their

despite the news. "My first reaction was a lump in my throat," said Nancy Mc-

Donald of Palm Beach Gardens.

respect and love for the bishop

"Even though what he did was horrendous, even when I was going head to head with him on some issues, I was always moved by a strange love for him."

leadership and in the church itself is the difficult task that lies ahead for clergy and people.

Rebuilding trust in priestly

"That's where community comes into play," McDonald said.

"We have to help each other.

If we don't, we lose everything."

BISHOP SYMONS RESIGNS

Cleric's removal sign of church's new sensitivity

By Dan Moffett

Palm Reach Post Staff Weiter

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Alarmed by epidemic increases in reports of sexual misconduct by priests, the Catholic Church four years ago moved to deal with the problem.

Which, for the first time, was an acknowledgment that there really was one.

The 300-member Council of Catholic Bishops created the Ad Hoc Communicate on Sexual Abuse, a committee chaired by Bishop John Kinney of Bismarck, N.D. Its mission was to restore faith in the priesthood.

The swift removal of Bishop J. Keith Symons from the Diocese of Palm Beach was an example of the church's new philosophy on handling molester clergymen: Within five weeks of the first disclosure of offenses, he resigned and was replaced and sent to Suitland, Md., for treatment.

Even the Vatican, one of the oldest bureaucracies running, acted quickly on the case, sending a replacement bishop to be available for the public contrition.

Monsignor Francis Maniscalco, director of communications for the Bishops Conference in Washington, D.C., said the handling of the Symons case is a reflection of a new approach.

"This was locally determined and locally done," Maniscalco said, "but the experience of the last five or six years and the work of the Ad Hoc committee has helped crystallize action in these cases."

He said Symons' high profile underscored the need for a quick response.

"I think generally speaking, when the church now sees there are issues to be dealt with, they are done so with immediacy." Maniscalco said

mediacy," Maniscalco said. Critics say the church's re-

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The fact that Symons says the molestation happened 40 years ago really reflects the problem. How has he been a priest for all that time? He is a man that does not belong in the ministry. No risk to even one child is acceptable.'

BARBARA BLAINE

President, SNAP

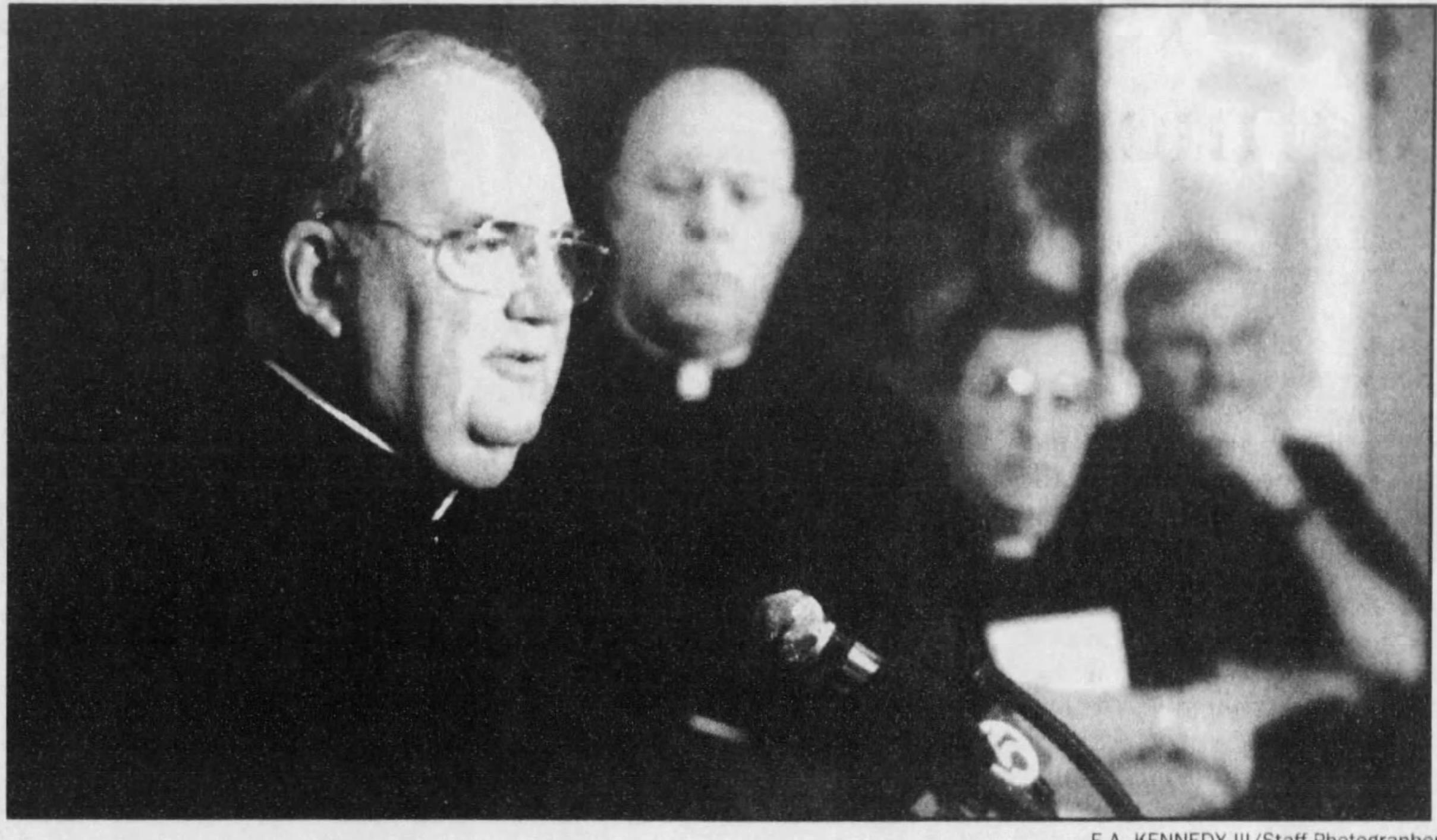
action is still too slow, particularly in reaching out to help the victim. They also charge that spiriting priests away to treatment centers is a technique to keep them out of the reach of legal action.

"They should have stepped in a lot sooner in the Symons case," said Barbara Blaine, president of SNAP (Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests), a Chicago-based support group for victims. "They should have acted five weeks ago when the first abuse came out. I put a challenge to the church: Do something for the victims."

SNAP has about 4,000 members. Between 150 and 200 priests have been removed by the church for molestation of children, according to SNAP and other victims' groups.

"The fact that Symons says the molestation happened 40 years ago really reflects the problem," Blaine said. "How has he been a priest for all that time? He is a man that does not belong in the ministry. No risk to even one child is acceptable. They should put him in a monastery but never let him work around people again. There are no cures for this."

TO PROMOTE THE HEALING'



E.A. KENNEDY III/Staff Photographe

The Most Rev. Robert Lynch, bishop of St. Petersburg, tells a news conference that he has been appointed to lead the Diocese of Palm Beach after the resignation of Bishop J. Keith Symons.

Interim bishop will face double duty

By Steve Gushee
Palm Beach Post Religion Writer

The Most Rev. Robert Lynch was appointed apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Palm Beach in the wake of Bishop J. Keith Symons' resignation Tuesday.

Symons resigned after admitting to charges of sexual misconduct with boys more than 25 years ago. Pope John Paul II accepted his resignation and named Lynch to fill in until a new bishop is appointed. That may take several months.

Lynch, 57, continues as the bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg where he was appointed two years ago. He will spend three days a week in the Palm Beach diocese to help the community begin to heal, he said.

Lynch has wide experience in staff work for the church but has had less than a year's experience as a priest in a local church.

He was ordained to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Miami in 1978 and served St. James Church in North Miami for less than two months.

In July 1978, he left to work for the National Conference of Cath-

olic Bishops in Washington, helping to plan the pope's first visit to the United States.

He then became presidentrector of St. John Vianncy College seminary in Miami for five years before returning to staff work in Washington in 1984. There, he served as associate general secretary and then general secretary of the Catholic Bishops conference.

Lynch was appointed pastor of St. Mark's Church in Fort Lauderdale in June 1995, six months before he was named the fourth bishop of St. Petersburg.

He was born in West Virginia, educated in Ohio schools and studied for the priesthood at Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Massachusetts.

He taught school in Ohio and worked for the Washington conference as a layman for three years before attending seminary.

"I hurt for him (Symons)," Lynch said. "I hurt for the victims. I hurt for the church in Palm Beach."

Lynch has the authority of a diocesan bishop but will use his power cooperatively with local church officials, he said.

There are five known victims of Symons' sexual misconduct whose names have not been released. In a prepared statement, Lynch assured others, if any, that he stood ready to be of help.

"My primary task at this time is to help all overcome the shock of the moment and to promote the healing of those who are hurting."

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WEST PALM BEACH

Roman Catholic hierarchy

THE POPE is the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

John Paul II is the 262nd pope since St. Peter.

Catholics believe the pope is Christ's representative on earth and a successor of St. Peter, believed to be the first pope. The pope is aided in governing the church by cardinals and the Roman Curia.

bishops chosen by the poper to be his advisers. As a group, they make up the College of Cardinals. They hold the highest rank below pope, and they have the responsibility of electing a new pope after a reigning pope dies or resigns. There are 123 cardinals eligible to vote.

THE ROMAN CURIA is the pope's administrative arm. It consists of a secretariat of state and a number of departments led by cardinals, archbishops (highest-ranking bishops) and bishops. John C. Favalora, as the archbishop in Miami, oversees the seven Florida dioceses, including the Palm. Beach diocese.

successors to Christ's apostles. A bishop appoints the pastors of parishes in his diocese, and the pastors are responsible to him. There are 3,035 bishops worldwide. J. Keith Symons was the bishop of Palm Beach, overseeing five counties.

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SOURCE: World Book Encyclopedia and Encyclopedia of Catholicism

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