

AROUND THE WORLD



Apostle of Non-Violence

A new sculpture of the apostle of non-violence. This work on Gandhi by famed sculptor Fredda Brilliant was unveiled May 17 in London by Prime Minister Harold Wilson. It is set in the city's Tavistock Square. (Religious News Service)

Cardinal Approves of Worker-Priests

Buenos Aires, Argentina—(NC)—Antonio Cardinal Caggiano of Buenos Aires has given qualified endorsement to the worker-priest movement in Argentina, on the basis of the experiment in France.

"Even after some initial errors, the Church is trying to improve the movement in order to serve the religious life of the workers," the cardinal told readers of La Nacion, a large-circulation daily here.

"The worker-priest effort is loved by the Church because it cares for the worker, so loved by Christ," Cardinal Caggiano added.

But he said that worker-priests must follow the proper training and live an intensely priestly life, as advised by the French bishops.

Government-Student Conflict Persists

Brazilia, Brazil — (NC) — Talks aimed at settling a conflict between university students and the government failed to take place because of the refusal of two student groups to negotiate with government representatives.

The regime of President Artur da Costa e Silva and several university student organizations have been locked since March in a violent conflict over educational reform and university facilities.

The government had agreed to the talks through the mediation efforts of Auxiliary Bishop Jose de Castro Pino of Rio de Janeiro. But the leftist National Union of Students, banned in 1964, and the Students United Front declared: "We cannot in principle deal with a dictatorship." They also accused the Church of "lending itself to the imperialistic game."

Peru University Reopened

Lima, Peru — (NC) — The Pontifical Catholic University of Peru has resumed classes after a 10-day interruption because of a student demonstration. The student demands had included the resignation of the rector, Father Felipe McGregor, S.J.

Leaders of the Catholic University Student Federation agreed to drop the resignation demand, and the university authorities promised to deal promptly with administration reforms.

The students had wanted the rector to be elected by the faculty, student body and university council instead of being appointed by the Holy See. Similar conflicts at the University of Santiago and the Catholic University of Valparaiso in Chile ended when the students were promised a voice in the nomination of candidates.

Communist Election Booklet Protested

Vatican City — (NC) — The Vatican City newspaper has protested against a booklet published by the Communist Party during the national elections campaign, aimed at breaking Catholic loyalty to the Christian Democratic Party.

The booklet has pictures of one of the doors of St. Peter's and a study of Pope John XXIII, on the front cover. The title on the front page is "Catholics You Are Free," and on the back, "Catholics You Are Free to Choose."

L'Osservatore said the pages of the booklet "aim at breaking the unity of Catholics because, as the Italian Communist Party has said throughout the electoral campaign — the enemy to be beaten is the Christian Democrat Party."

The newspaper said documents of the Second Vatican Council and papal encyclicals had been distorted and misused.

Rome's daily Il Tempo said the publication had been distributed outside churches on Sunday, May 12, by children in First Communion dress.

Argentines Seek Sainthood For Bishop

Buenos Aires — (RNS) — Argentine Roman Catholics observed two days of prayer for the beatification and eventual canonization of a humble Franciscan priest who became Bishop of Cordoba and died in 1883.

The proposed candidate for the Church's highest honor is Bishop Mamerto Esquiú. If canonized, he would become the first Argentine to be proclaimed a saint.

Besides being widely known for his charity and piety, Bishop Esquiú was regarded as an ardent patriot. He was chosen to deliver the religious oration when the Constitution of 1853 was formally adopted in Argentina.

English Jesuits Restudy Priorities

London — (RNS) — Jesuit leaders in Britain are reviewing the order's priorities in the light of a survey showing a big drop in membership.

According to the survey, the order, largest in Britain, now has 800 men in the English province. The number of men in the 18-40 age group has fallen from 379 to 218 and is calculated to drop to 182 by 1975. In the vital age bracket of 40 to 65 there is likely to be a decrease from 335 today to 314 in 1975.

Clergy Level Criticism at Latin Leader

San Luis, Argentina — (NC) — The clergy of the San Luis diocese, headed by its bishop, have told the governor of San Luis province that his rosy picture of social and economic conditions in the area runs counter "to the reality as we know it."

"And we know it in the length and depth of its anguish, because we live with our suffering people. Social and economic conditions are deteriorating, with no solution in sight," they said.

The document, signed by Bishop Carlos Cafferata of San Luis and his 40 priests (there are 190,000 Catholics in the diocese) came after a series of protest marches by workers demanding a return to their jobs, and the opening of new ones.

For months the area has been plunged into serious unemployment with subsequent privations for working families.

An earlier appeal by Bishop Cafferata to the federal and local governments on behalf of the workers drew the answer from the governor, Col. Matias Laborda Ibarra, that San Luis is on its way "to full economic and social integration."

The clergy's document also included criticism of mass firings by government agencies, the delay in opening labor courts to deal with workers' claims, the retention of back pay, and the stoppage of several public works.

Churchmen Join in Welfare Plea

Hong Kong — (NC) — Anglican Bishop Gilbert Baker of Hong Kong joined with this colony's Catholic Bishop Lawrence Bianchi, in a common appeal supporting a growing public demand for more government action in the fields of labor and youth welfare.

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