



No Language Barrier

Photo by Susan McKinney

Johannes Rill proves song is the universal language as he directs the 48 voice German Domchor [Cathedral Choir], of Fulda during a matinee concert at Midtown Mall. The touring group which was hosted by Nazareth College and the Sisters of St. Joseph also gave a concert in the chapel of the St. Joseph Motherhouse.

Bishops' Agency Cites Persecution in Bolivia

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The Justice and Peace Division of the U.S. Catholic Conference has issued a 1,000-word statement on "Human Rights in Bolivia."

The agency cited Christian concern for the Bolivian people and expressed its solidarity with the Bolivian Catholic bishops' Justice and Peace Commission, which has reported widespread abuse of governmental power.

The USCC statement was signed by Father J. Bryan Hehir, director of the Justice and Peace Division, and sent to Dr. Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, an executive of the Bolivian bishops' agency. The statement was released here July 26.

Lamenting in the statement that for the past 25 years — since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was published following World War II — human rights have been "routinely violated," Father Hehir said "the

Diocese Announces Transfers

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Murphy has been doing chaplain duty at Genesee Hospital for the past two years, while serving as an assistant at St. Mary's downtown. He will continue to live there.

A priest for 15 years, Father Murphy has spent much of that time on the spiritual formation of seminarians, at St. Andrew's, King's Prep and Becket Hall.

In addition to the diocesan assignments, the Pastoral Office noted a change at the Capuchin house in Geneva. Father Camillus Protomastro, OFM Cap., has been posted there to replace Father Bede Cucchiari, who has been transferred by the order to parish work in the New York Archdiocese.

Father Connor Elected To Vocation Committee

Father Gerald Connor, diocesan vocations director, has been elected to a one year post on the Executive Committee of the newly formed Eastern-Regional Association of College Seminarians (ERACS)

The election was held at the first meeting of ERACS at Wadhams Hall, a seminary-college in Ogdensburg. Rectors, professors and scholars from 11 states and Canada attended the

last two years have seen the systematic and violent repression of human rights in Bolivia."

"We are asking Christians the world over to call for justice and reconciliation in that country," he added. "We echo the call and join with our fellow Christians in Bolivia in asking others to express their solidarity with them and all who suffer persecution for justice's sake."

Among the recent alleged atrocities cited in the USCC Justice and Peace statement are the torture and execution of several prominent political figures and numerous lesser known activists; "forced" exile of more than 5,000 persons; imprisonment of more than 300 (some figures go as high as 1,500) political prisoners being held "under conditions of extreme brutality."

Father Hehir said in the statement that reports of such atrocities have increased during the past year, "despite recent statements by the Bolivian government to the contrary."

According to the statement, the Bolivian bishops' Justice and Peace Commission has urged a revision of the system of government "which is based on repression and persecution." The Commission has called for "an end to arrest on mere suspicion," reform of inhuman jail conditions, especially for women prisoners, the total abolition of torture as a means of interrogation, and speedy and fair trials for those charged with civil crimes.

The commission also called for immediate amnesty "for the vast majority (of political prisoners) who are guilty of no crime except that of holding dissident political views."

According to the USCC statement, it has been two years since a military coup placed Gen. Hugo Banzer Suarez in power

there followed a "reign of terror directed not only against known Communists and members of the National Liberation Army (a guerrilla force) but quite indiscriminately against anyone engaged in progressive, social action programs."

In the months following Gen. Banzer's takeover, a number of foreign priests and religious were expelled from Bolivia by the military government. Last January, a large number of foreign priests faced expulsion for signing a document charging President Banzer's government with repression, persecution and "massacre" of political opponents.

The document signed by about 100 priests, nuns and lay was published in the La Paz Catholic daily, Presencia, and cited the "institutionalized violence" present in the Banzer regime.



ALL IN THE FAMILY Sarah Child

I was using a small scrubboard the other day rubbing some spots out of the kids' playclothes before throwing them in the washer when the significance of what I was doing dawned on me.

In spite of modern technological miracles scientifically created to removed soil from clothing there I was using precisely the same method my grandmother used 50 years ago. All that was missing was the bar of soap. And it was working better than chemicals.

As one who believes that central heating, food freezers, penicillin, permanent press and super highways are marvels that make our lives easier, safer and a great deal more pleasant, I also have to admit that too many of the simple things of life we discarded when modern inventions came in should never have gone out the window.

Some of the old items never did go very far and are now coming back stronger than ever.

Take aspirin for example. Doctors are now saying that it is a better painkiller than most of the newer formulas including Demerol which is commonly used during labor.

Or take the matter of children's playthings. This past week, the kids in the neighborhood discovered a pile of dirt bulldozed under the oak tree in the ungraded lot next door. Five kids spent three hours moving tiny trucks around the dirt and through tunnels made of stones. At our house at least the sophisticated racing tracks and shiny racers are considered successful if they keep a kid occupied for 15 minutes.

And if there is any older plaything than a swing I don't know what it is. To see how popular they still are check the backyard of any house with kids under 10. If the kid isn't lucky enough to possess a tree big enough to hang an old tire from,

the parents may be forced to buy a metal set that includes a glider and slide. But principally it's still just the swing the kid wants and enjoys the most.

For adults doctors are recommending exercise that is easy and available to one and all — walking. You need no mechanical equipment, no partner, no destination. Simple and old-fashioned.

It is man's instinct for simple pleasure, also, I suppose, that has him enjoying cooking his food outside over a grill or sitting in front of a crackling fire in the winter.

And then there's the matter of prayer. How often have you found yourself in what seems like a fantastically complicated, involved set of words someone else wrote? You switch to your own brief words of thanks or supplication and all of a sudden feel you are getting through.

Regions Get 'Family Life' Coordinators

At the request of Father Robert Collins, Family Life director, regional coordinators have been named to help with the work of his department, the Pastoral Office reported this week.

Father Donald Schwab will serve the Monroe County Northeast Region; Father Joseph Hart, Monroe Southeast; Father John L. O'Connor, Monroe Southwest; Father Robert Bradler, Monroe Northwest; Father Bernard Dollen, Monroe North.

Father Gary Shaw, Yates-Ontario-Wayne; Fathers Thomas Watts and David Mura, Tompkins-Tioga; Father Edward Palumbos, Cayuga-Seneca; Father Vincent Panepinto, Schuyler-Chemung.

A coordinator for Livingston-Stauben will be appointed soon, the announcement said.



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