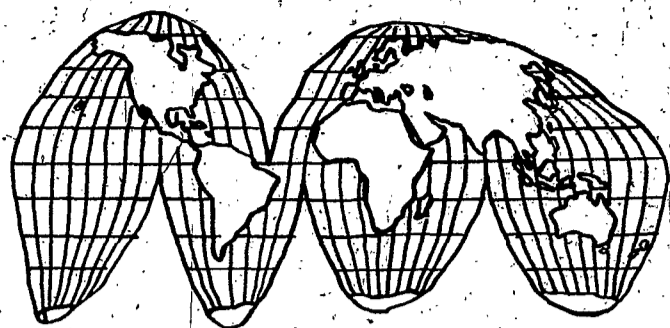


the nation and ...



... the world

From Courier-Journal services

Staggering food shortages are predicted for Bangladesh in late February and March, according to the Rev. A.C. Forrest, editor of the United Church Observer of Toronto. Just returned from a visit to Bangladesh, Dr. Forrest said such dire predictions are being made by both church and government agencies. While famine is taking a heavy toll in some parts of the world, voluntary fasting as a political weapon is making news in the Philippines. An undetermined number of priests and nuns of Catholic religious orders are fasting to note their support of two priests who themselves are on a hunger strike in their cells to protest alleged torture of political prisoners. The two priests have been jailed for "acts inimical to national security and public order."

In New York City, the St. Joan's Alliance, an international women's organization (with a Rochester chapter), has again protested the Scriptural text read at Catholic Masses on Holy Family Sunday (Dec. 29) which directs wives to "be submissive" to their husbands. The alliance suggested that a reading from St. John (1 John 4:7-12) would be more conducive to family harmony today. It reads, "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love, one another God abides in us and His love is perfected in us."

Bishop James Rausch of the U.S. Catholic Conference recently said that Catholics are receptive to the idea of fasting to help feed the world's hungry peoples. Now Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon has revealed that many Americans have written to him concerning the topic after the Senate passed a resolution setting aside Nov. 23, 1975, as a national day of fasting. He said the great majority of the letters "have been" positive, expressing interest in voluntary relief agencies involved in food relief work. Many cannot understand the calculated indifference to the needs of the hungry which is expressed in the manner in which our Food for Peace has been administered."

The Washington Post said editorially that the canonization of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Md., focuses attention on the work of all Roman Catholic nuns and the contributions they make to an improved social order. "If the attention now being given Mother Seton helps reverse the decline in numbers of women joining religious orders then her canonization will have had a practical as well as spiritual effect," the editorial stated. Meanwhile the association of religious writers — those working for secular newspapers — has chosen the "irregular" ordination of 11 Episcopal women to the priesthood as the top religious story of the year. Religious News Service, a news gathering agency for religious newspapers, had a different selection — the challenge to religion to offer moral leadership in solving the interrelated world problems of hunger, energy, population and inflation.

In Minneapolis the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, citing canon law, has ordered a Minneapolis parish to cancel a scheduled homily by Dr. James P. Shannon, a former auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese who resigned his post and later married. Dr. Shannon was to have spoken during Sunday Mass, Jan. 5, at St. Joan of Arc Church in Minneapolis. "I regret this keenly," Dr. Shannon said after the order had been made, "but people at the chancery are doing what they feel they must to maintain Church discipline." A spokesman for the archdiocese explained that Roman Catholic canon law forbids excommunicated persons, such as Dr. Shannon, from speaking during Mass.



Priest Taken into Custody

South Korean police take away a man identified as Father Didier T'Serstevens, a Roman Catholic priest from Belgium, during a demonstration in Seoul protesting the deportation of the Rev. George Ogle, an American United Methodist missionary, and demanding the release of political prisoners. (RNS)

Boston Gets New Bishops

Boston [RNS] — Four new Auxiliary Bishops, averaging age 48, have been named to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston by Pope Paul.

Among the four auxiliaries — a record number to be named at the same time in Boston — is the first priest of Italian ancestry elevated to the archdiocesan episcopacy.

The bishops-elect are Father Joseph J. Ruocco, 52, pastor of St. Timothy's Parish, Norwood, who is of Italian descent; Father Thomas Vose Daily, 47, chancellor of the archdiocese; Msgr. John Joseph Mulcahy, 52, pastor of St. Mary's, Lynn, and Father John M. D'Arcy, 42, resident spiritual director of St. John's Seminary, Brighton.

Bishops Press For Amnesty

La Paz [RNS] — Bolivia's Roman Catholic bishops here urged President Hugo Banzer to declare a general amnesty for political prisoners and to restore all rights of trade unions that were suppressed by government order in early November.

The bishops made their request at the conclusion of a four-day meeting in which they discussed and considered the current political situation in Bolivia. They asked the Bolivian president to declare the amnesty as part of the celebration of Christmas.

Earlier, three Bolivian bishops and the bishops' unofficial Justice and Peace Commission issued separate statements questioning the new order established by the Banzer government two days after he had squelched an attempted coup.

President Banzer's new order included the indefinite postponement of general elections, the establishment of military rule until 1980, suppression of trade unions, and the abolition of political parties.

ENVOY TO CUBA

Havana, Cuba [RNS] — Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa has accepted the credentials of the Vatican's ambassador to Cuba, Havana, Radio reported. The Vatican envoy is Archbishop Cesare Zacchi, who was named apostolic nuncio to Cuba by Pope Paul last May. He had served as charge d'affaires in Havana since 1962. The raising of the level of the Vatican's diplomatic representation in Cuba followed an eight-day visit to Cuba in early April 1974, by Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, Pope Paul's top foreign affairs aide.

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