

The nation and ...



... the world

From Courier-Journal Services

The number of marriages performed in the U.S. during 1974 declined for the first year since 1958 while the number and rate of divorces increased for the 12th consecutive year, according to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. There were 2,223,000 marriages, 54,000 fewer than in 1973. The 970,000 divorces represented an increase of 57,000 over 1973. The Gulf Oil Corp., challenged by several Catholic nuns' groups on its strip-mining policies in Montana, has nominated a nun to its board of directors. Sister Jane Scully, RSM, a 57-year-old native of Pittsburgh who is president of Carlow College there, would become the 13th member of what is now a 12-member board if she is approved by a stockholders meeting April 22.

Pope Paul VI has named an Irish priest to be his personal secretary. Father John Magee, 38, a member of St. Patrick's Missionary Society, has served in the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The Canadian Supreme Court has ruled that the nation's five-year-old abortion law permits abortions at licensed hospitals by doctors only if the mother's life or health is endangered. The court ruled in the case of Montreal doctor who operated an abortion clinic and said he had performed 5,000 abortions before his arrest in 1973. He was acquitted by a lower court; the Quebec Court of Appeals reversed the decision, and the Supreme Court upheld the appeals court. An American priest, Father Gerald J. Brown, told a National Press Club meeting in Washington that outside criticism of the military government in Chile misses the mark. The Vincentian priest who has worked since 1964 in Chile says such "criticism made against the regime consisted of serious distortions, exaggerations or sometimes seemingly deliberate falsehoods."

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution has been killed for this year in South Carolina. The state House voted, 46-43; to table action on the amendment. Of the required 38, only 34 states have approved the amendment. Parishioners at Sacred Heart Church in Appleton, Wis., are loaning money at no interest to the church to keep it going. Father Wilbert Staudenmaier, pastor, devised the unusual plan under which parishioners can loan \$1,000 to the church at no interest with the provision that the money may be withdrawn when desired.

Two groups of nuns in St. Paul, Minn., have criticized the Priests Senate for calling for support of a bill rescinding Minnesota's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The sisters Council voted 23-1 to send a letter to the legislature to support ERA. The Provincial Chapter of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Paul also criticized the priests for their stand, calling it an "affront." Episcopal Bishop William E. Creighton will not ordain any person to the priesthood until the Church's General Convention in 1976. "It does not solve our basic dilemma," he said, "but it will at least place all deacons on a basis of equality until the General Convention acts."

## Dr. Menninger: Death Penalty No Deterrent

Notre Dame, Ind. [RNS] — Capital punishment does not deter crime and serves to impede the search for creative and innovative ways of effectively dealing with crime, according to participants in a conference sponsored by the Nation Council of Catholic Laity here.

Dr. Karl Menninger, noted psychiatrist and founder of the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kans., epitomized a consensus when he said he could find no good reason for capital punishment and expressed his amazement at the "mad rush" of many state legislatures to bring back the death penalty.

While 36 states have reinstated capital punishment, said Elmer Gertz who argued the case for setting aside Jack Ruby's death penalty, "the future of abolition looks good." He predicted that the U.S. Supreme Court would rule against the constitutionality of capital punishment.

He said that since 1900, the trend has been away from capital punishment and he doubted that the court would attempt to buck the trend. He noted that the central issue is whether the mandatory penalty for specific crimes is constitutional.

Dr. Menninger, in rejecting the deterrent factor, said that

"because people engaged in desperate acts such as murder do not govern their actions with cognitive reasoning" the threat of a death penalty has no meaning to them.

Prof. James Kane, chairman of the University of Nebraska's Department of Criminology, said the states with the highest numbers of executions also have the highest homicide rates.

He agreed with other participants that rather than capital punishment the real need is for strategies that deal with the causes of crime.

### ERA FALTERS

Indianapolis [RNS] — The proposed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution was defeated, 27 to 21, by the Indiana Senate.

The action came less than a week after the Illinois Senate voted to require a three-fifths majority for ratification of ERA, rather than a simple majority vote — in effect, killing chances for passage of the amendment in Illinois.

To date, 34 of the 38 states required for ratification of the ERA have approved it. The deadline for ratification is 1979.



### Spiritual Lift

In a photo marred by transmission difficulties, Edward Daley, president of World Airways, a U.S. airline which flew the last evacuation flight of Vietnamese refugees out of Danang, receives Holy Communion from Father Louis Roberti, SJ, of Montreal during Mass for staff personnel at a Jesuit school in Saigon.



### Laetare Medal

Sister Ann Ida Cannon, BVM, president of Mundelein College in Chicago, has been chosen to receive the Laetare Medal, given annually by the University of Notre Dame to outstanding American Catholics. She will be the first nun to receive Notre Dame's highest honor. The Laetare Medal has been given annually since 1883, but only lay persons were eligible for the award until 1968. While Sister Ann Ida is the first nun to be honored, she is the 20th woman among the 94 recipients. [RNS]

### FOREIGN STUDY

Marian L. Allen of Canandaigua has been appointed advisor for a Foreign Study League 1975 summer program for area high school students.

Mrs. Allen has taught French in Fairport, in Gorham, at the Community College of the Finger Lakes and in East Bloomfield, and is a veteran traveler to Europe. She will accompany a group of eight students flying from Rochester and New York City on July 7. They will spend four weeks in travel and study including a few days in each of these areas: Madrid, Rome, Florence, Venice, Austria, Paris and London. Young men and women wishing to make this trip can arrange to enroll by contacting Mrs. Allen, 4100 West Lake Road, Canandaigua, New York 14424 (315/394-7198).

**M. L. ALLEN & SON**  
Corning, N.Y.  
*Quality Furniture*  
62 Bridge St.  
Phone 936-8431

**A. W. BEILBY & SON**  
Funeral Home  
James Rotsell  
Darrell O'Brian  
Arthur Grabowski  
139 Walnut St.  
Dial 936-9121  
Corning, N.Y.

# The Chest Works

## at the Al Sigl Center.

The seven health and rehabilitation agencies located at the Al Sigl Center deal with problems like heart disease, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and mental retardation. With the help of United Community Chest funds, each agency maintains a year-round program of training, therapy, companionship, and hope.

Let's keep it working.

The United Community Chest Red Cross Campaign



## 15 Day Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome & the Holyland

WITH FATHER FRAATS

### September 25 to October 9

7 Days and Nights in Rome, plus 7 more in the Holy Land provide an unforgettable religious, historical, cultural experience of a lifetime.

\$1035 per person

Price includes: air fare via Alitalia, first class accommodations, excellent meals, tours and more.

Your Tour Director: Father Ralph Fraats



Fill in this Coupon for Free Brochure  
Make Your Reservations Now

St. Lawrence Rectory 1000 North Greece Rd. Rochester, N.Y. 14626

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Clip - Mail