

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Days of Prayer Urged for Children Slain in Atlanta

New York (RNS) — The National Council of Churches has asked American religious leaders to help promote a national weekend of prayer for the people of Atlanta, where 20 black children have been murdered over the past year and a half.

"Many religious leaders of several faiths have taken the initiative locally to express their outrage over the situation in Atlanta, but more and more we recognize Atlanta as a national crisis," said M. William Howard, NCC president, in a letter to 44 Protestant, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Unitarian leaders.

He asked them to encourage their members to pray during the weekend of March 27-29 "for the end of this horrible nightmare."

Bishop Says Nothing Can Justify Military Action in El Salvador

Memphis, Tenn. (RNS) — A Roman Catholic bishop who has been active in anti-war movements for more than two decades said he could not support U.S. military action in El Salvador even if convinced the Soviet Union was trying to take over the Central American country.

Rather, said Bishop Carroll T. Dozier, "we must right the conditions that force people to seek liberation wherever they can find it. I think we are driving some people who are attempting to maintain some of their dignity into the arms of the Communists."

Bishop Dozier drew parallels with American involvement in Vietnam 20 years ago.

"First, the rhetoric remains the same," he said. "There is the same attempt by the use of words to portray a situation as a Communist effort. That may or may not be the case."

Bishop Dozier said he believed President Reagan "is sincere" when he says he has no intention of sending troops into El Salvador but warned that circumstances could lead to moves in that direction later.

Asked what he would do about the violence in El Salvador, the bishop replied, "We don't do very much about that in our own country. We use that word 'violence' to suit our own purposes. Nothing in El Salvador is any more violent than what has been happening in Atlanta."

Minnesota Bishops Oppose Creationism 'Equal Time' Laws

St. Paul, Minn. (RNS) — Any legislation to give equal time for teaching creationism is opposed by Minnesota's Roman Catholic bishops.

"We are against this procedure on the basis that the state should not be in the position of determining religious truth and causing this to be part of the curriculum of the public schools," wrote Msgr. James Habiger in the Catholic Bulletin.

"If this belief in creationism is translated into law, what will be the next state-determined religious truth that must be taught?"

Msgr. Habiger, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, said creationism, "the doctrine that ascribed the origin of all we see to be acts of God," and the theory of evolution are not necessarily contradictory.

"One can hold both," he said.

"As Catholics we believe that the Bible contains God's revelation of Himself and the relationships which He has with His creation, the crown of which is the human person. In short, the Bible teaches religious truths and is not intended to teach scientific facts."

He said the question for Catholics is "not whether we believe in creation, but what is the theory that best explains for us God's creation which we experience each day."

Public School Aide Hit for Lobbying Vs. Tuition Credits

Albany (RNS) — The head of a Catholic education organization has complained that a public school superintendent has used public money to lobby against passage of the Packwood-Moynihan tuition tax credit bill.

J. Alan Davitt, executive secretary of the State Council of Catholic School Superintendents, has asked the state Education Department and attorney general to investigate the legality of a memo circulated by Charles A. Szuberla, superintendent of the North Colonie Central School District.

The memo, which was sent to members of the local board of education and to parents of students at the Boght Hills School, advocated "opposition to the legislation in the strongest possible terms."

Davitt said that "nothing in education law provides funds to a district to use in such lobbying efforts. I object to the fact that a public school official would use my tax money to lobby against me. I have to use my money to pay for my stamps to reach my constituency. The public school officials can use theirs."

Davitt also charged that the memo contained misleading information. While it said the bill would give a \$500 tax credit to each parent sending a child to a private school, it would actually give a tax credit equal to 50 percent of the tuition, with the total amount not to exceed \$500.

In addition, he said, the memo implied that the credits would go to racist schools, while the bill precludes use of the tax credit for students attending schools which discriminate on the basis race, color, ethnic or national origin.

English Cardinal Probes Charges Against Opus Dei

London — Cardinal Basil Hume of England has begun his own inquiry into charges brought against Opus Dei, the Roman Catholic secular institute, by a former member.

Dr. John Roche, an Oxford University professor and former senior member of the institution, asserted in an article in the London Times last January that Opus Dei was using questionable psychological pressures in recruiting and forming its members.

Dr. Roche has turned over to the cardinal, head of the British hierarchy, the documents he furnished the London newspaper for its story.

An official of the Archdiocese of Westminster, which the prelate heads, said documents had also been sought from Opus Dei. The archdiocese explained that Cardinal Hume's action was personal and did not constitute a formal inquiry.

The secular institute was founded in 1928 and claims a membership of 70,000.

Shroud Is Topic

Corning — Father Vincent J. Donovan, pastor of St. John's, Oswego, will present an up-to-date, illustrated lecture on the Holy Shroud of Turin at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 27, at St. Vincent DePaul Church.

Father Donovan has studied the Holy Shroud for more than 35 years. He was in Turin, Italy, in October 1978, where he saw the Holy Shroud several times. He also participated in the International Congress of Scientists and Scholars, which gave him the opportunity to listen to and visit with Shroud experts from Europe and America.

The Holy Shroud is an ancient piece of unbleached linen preserved in the Cathedral of Turin, which contains the complete image, front and back, of a man who was scourged and crowned with thorns, whose side was pierced and who was crucified. Many who have studied the cloth believe it to be the cloth in which Jesus was buried.

Father Donovan will display a full-scale photographic reproduction of the Shroud.

United Way Grants Funds

Nine human service agencies, including DePaul Mental Health Services and Genesee Settlement House, were awarded \$234,248 last week from the United Way of Greater Rochester.

DePaul Mental Health Services received \$44,839 to improve care to mentally ill adults living in the area. Genesee Settlement was awarded \$44,882 for a youth services project for young people in the 14621 zip code area. Both groups are member agencies of Catholic Charities.

Other recipients are Mount Hope Family Center who received \$20,308; Genesee Mental Health Center who were awarded \$33,333 and a \$6,000 grant for an alcohol

counseling program sponsored by the Center for Youth Services.

\$22,425 went to Planned Parenthood; the Hillside Children's Center was awarded \$26,389, and the Salvation Army received \$28,400.

The Lewis Street Center received \$7,672 for career employment services for youth, through the agency's Project FIND.

The projects were among 69 applications the United Way received amounting to over \$1.8 million. Seventeen were selected for further review by the allocations committee.

Campus Ministry Topic for Bishops

Albany — The special religious needs of those involved in life on the college campus will be the topic for the annual statewide meeting of the some 30 bishops of New York State. About 80 guests will participate in the conference, including priests, religious and laity with diverse relationships to campus life.

The meeting will take place at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, Long Island, April 2 to 4.

On the agenda are special multimedia presentations, small group discussions, feedback sessions, and other forms of interaction programs.

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Five Palmer Locations To Better Serve You

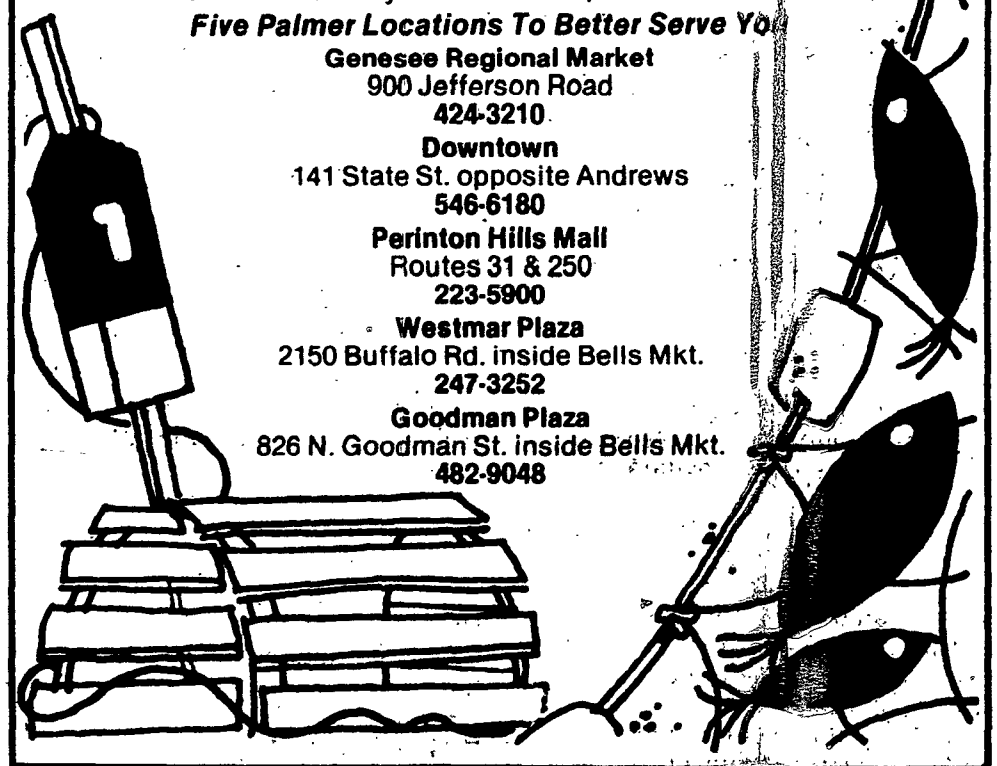
Genesee Regional Market
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141 State St. opposite Andrews
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Goodman Plaza
826 N. Goodman St. inside Bells Mkt.
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