

People and Events Of the World and Nation

New Protests Greet Spanish Resumption Of Abortion Trials

Madrid, Spain (RNS) — Spain's decision to resume the trial of 11 working class women accused of performing or submitting to abortions has sparked new protests here by women's groups.

The trial was suspended indefinitely in October 1979 after it provoked a wave of demonstrations including one in Madrid that had to be broken up by riot police.

The trial resumed June 16 in the Basque city of Bilbao where 300 protesters surrounded the courthouse and demanded that the charges be dropped and abortions legalized.

The case involves a woman who allegedly conducted backstreet abortions in 1972-73, her teenage daughter and nine married women said to be her clients. The prosecution seeks prison terms of 60 years for the woman abortionist and 55 years for her daughter who, defense lawyers claim, did nothing more than give patients aspirin and brandy.

Minimum sentences of six months and a day are sought for the other defendants.

Mother Teresa Offers Guarded Comment in Ulster

Ballycastle, Northern Ireland (RNS) — Against the background of a hunger strike by Irish nationalist prisoners in British-ruled Northern Ireland, reaction to the strike by a visitor from India, Mother Teresa, attracted much attention here.

Asked repeatedly at a news conference about the hunger strikes in the H-blocks at the Maze Prison near Belfast, she replied guardedly that "anything that destroys life we must not do."

"We have no right to destroy the gift of life, ourselves or anyone else's. I have seen many people die of hunger because they have no choice. I have never dealt with people who are hungry by choice."

Mother Teresa was here to attend a "summerfest" at nearby Corrymeela Community. The media attention given to her hunger strike remarks overshadowed other aspects of her visit. She spoke constantly of the need for prayer, reconciliation and forgiveness — qualities symbolized in her work all over the world, from India, London and New York to Latin America.

Urban Ministry Unit Leaves ND as Protest on Reagan

Notre Dame, Ind. (RNS) — A loose national social justice network of some 10,000 persons who have participated in its seminars and other activities during the 1970s is seeking a new executive director and a new location.

After 11 years under the auspices of the University of Notre Dame, the Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry moved off-campus as a symbolic protest against the university's conferral of an honorary degree to President Ronald Reagan.

The group relocated in the non-university area of Moreau Seminary here. But it will "go into storage" until new directions are determined by its board of directors, according to Sister Maureen Kelleher, RSM, board chairman. One more initiation is scheduled in August at Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

Sister Helen Volkomenre, SP, the committee's executive secretary since 1978, resigned in April to take a new job. Her resignation pre-dated the protest over the Reagan visit.



BISHOP GLEMP Names Make News

Father Robert F. Drinan, the Jesuit priest forced last year by the Vatican to retire from Congress, has been elected president of Americans for Democratic Action, the first clergyman to head the organization. Pope John Paul II has named Bishop Josef Glemp of Warmia archbishop of Gniezno and Warsaw and primate of Poland. Bishop Gemp succeeds Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski who died May 28. A canon lawyer, Bishop Glemp also speaks Italian, French, English, German and Polish. In Boston, Msgr. John J. Grant, editor of The Pilot, is leaving the newspaper after 30 years with the diocesan weekly. Msgr. Grant will become coordinator of an oral history project for the archdiocesan archives. A replacement is being sought. Acting editor of the paper is Father Paul A. White, who became associate editor and then executive editor of the 152-year-old weekly in 1972. Three St. Joseph, Minn., nuns are going a long way — or is it that they already have? Sisters Katherine Howard, 45, Renee Genevex, 35, and Christian Morris, 34, completed the 26.2-mile Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, Minn., recently. The three Benedictines finished in the same time of four hours and 36 minutes.

Catholic Prelate: Tax Protests May Be Moral

Seattle (RNS) — Saying that "all nuclear war is immoral," Roman Catholic Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen reiterated a call for unilateral disarmament and said taxpayers who withheld half of their taxes to protest the arms race were justified.

The 58-year-old prelate said that "failure to achieve mutual disarmament leaves us with only one moral position in this tragic situation, the position of unilateral trust and reliance on the Lord as security."

"Any nation which makes as a first priority the building up of armaments and not the creative work of peace and disarmament is immoral," he said.

His views were published in a letter in the July 2 issue of the archdiocesan newspaper, the Catholic Northwest Progress.

He said he realized his stand "provoked deep pain" in some instances, noting that the Seattle area was especially dependent on jobs in the nuclear armaments industry.

But, he added, "In a question like the nuclear arms race, I believe it is God almighty who is calling us to take such a stand."

On the refusal to pay taxes, he said, "It is a tactic that may or may not be used by persons who agree with the main points I made on disarmament. I have no intention of urging it strongly on anyone."

NFP Slates 2 Information Sessions

Two information services have been scheduled by the Natural Family Planning office. The first will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Monday, Aug. 3, at the Bishop Kearney Building, St. Mary's Hospital. The second will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at Rochester General Hospital.

Information sessions are open to the public at no charge and registration is not necessary. More information is available from the NFP office, 464-8705.

'Two Worlds' Offered for Viewing

"Two Worlds," an award winning audio/visual study course, is being offered to diocesan groups through the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation and Sister Grace Vincent of the former Ladycliff College.

The program, which has been lauded by Freedom Foundation, "examines mankind's struggle for individual freedom and the principles and philosophies involved in the struggle," according to Gertrude F. Newberry of the Cardinal Mindszenty organization.

The 24-filmstrip program probes communism, socialism and the free enterprise system and offers "a provocative orientation and background to contemporary history," Mrs. Newberry said.

Sister Grace Vincent taught history at Ladycliff, and on the closing of the school, she presented the program and its study course to the Mindszenty group.

The program is free and inquiries are welcomed by Mrs. Newberry, 160 Azalea Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14620; (716) 473-7475.

Rochester Native Makes Mark in Del.

Wilmington, Del. — Margaret McGee, deputy director of Catholic Social Services here, was recently honored as the Social Worker of the Year by the Delaware Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Miss McGee is a native of Rochester and worked for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester prior to taking a post with CSS in 1956.

In an interview published in The Dialogue, the Catholic newspaper in Wilmington, Miss McGee stated that a social worker is faced with a

wide range of responsibility, which reaches beyond the scope of the Church. "I think that we have always considered that we were catholic with a 'c' in the truest sense of the word 'catholic.' We have responsibility for all people."

REUNION

The Class of 1976 at Bishop Kearney High School will hold its five year reunion at 7 p.m. Friday, August 7, at Arena's Party House. Further information is available by calling Julie Hanna, 482-0067; or Pat Kowalik, 544-5737.

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