

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Amnesty International Plans to Spotlight 'Disappearances'

Amnesty International (AI) has launched a worldwide campaign to expose and halt the use by governments of "disappearances" as a means of eliminating suspected opponents.

The human rights organization, active in more than 100 countries, will make an effort to spotlight the practice by which uncounted thousands have been abducted and made to "disappear" either by government forces or with their complicity.

The abuse has been documented by AI in many countries — Chile, Argentina, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea, the Philippines. In addition to the mass killings that took place in Kampuchea under the Khmer Rouge and in Uganda under Idi Amin, there were also many "disappearances."

AI also has called for an end "of hypocrisy by governments on the subject of human rights." In its annual report, the movement detailed governmental deprivation of human rights from political killings in Bolivia to confinement in remote labor camps of Soviet citizens who dissent from governmental policies.

AI members around the world use letters, appeals, posters and meetings to call attention to such victims.

Pope Sends Notes To U.S., Russia on Disarmament Hopes

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II has sent personal messages to President Reagan and to Leonid Brezhnev expressing hope that Soviet-American talks on reducing nuclear forces in Europe would lift the threat of a "possible nuclear conflict."

Telling 30,000 persons in St. Peter's Square that he sent both world leaders his best wishes, the pontiff also said on the eve of the Nov. 30 talks in Geneva, Switzerland, that he expressed "a vivid interest in the outcome of the conversations, toward which, with anxious expectation, millions around the world have turned their attention." He said he urged "common efforts of goodwill so that this opportunity may not pass without the attainment of results capable of consolidating the hope of a future no longer threatened by a possible nuclear conflict."

Vatican Donates \$10,000 to Aid Palestine Refugees

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican has donated \$10,000 to the United Nations fund for aid to Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.

Vatican Radio said that Archbishop Giovanni Cheli, the Vatican's permanent observer to the U.N., had made the presentation to underscore "the importance the Holy See attaches to helping the Palestinian people."

Archbishop Cheli noted that the Vatican in 1981 alone had given \$100,000 in aid to blind children through the Pontifical Mission for Palestine.

NBC Plans Telecast On Life of Pope for Sunday, Dec. 20

New York (RNS) — A new film dramatizing the life of Pope John Paul II will have its American premiere on NBC's Sunday Night at the Movies, Dec. 20.

The film, "From a Far Country: Pope John Paul II," traces the life of Karol Wojtyla from his childhood in Poland through his election in 1978 as the first non-Italian pope in more than 400 years. It ends with his triumphal visit to his homeland in 1979.

Following a private screening of the film at the papal summer residence in Castelgandolfo, Vatican Secretary of State Agostino Cesaroli said that the pope was very pleased with it and hoped that it "would be pleasing to the general public."

The role of Karol Wojtyla is played by Polish actor Cezar Morawski. It was shot on location in Poland and at the Vatican.

USCC Aide Rejects Post Attack On U.S. Bishops

Washington (RNS) — Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, has denied charges in an editorial in the Washington Post that the American Catholic bishops perpetuate "fraud" in their opposition to military aid to El Salvador.

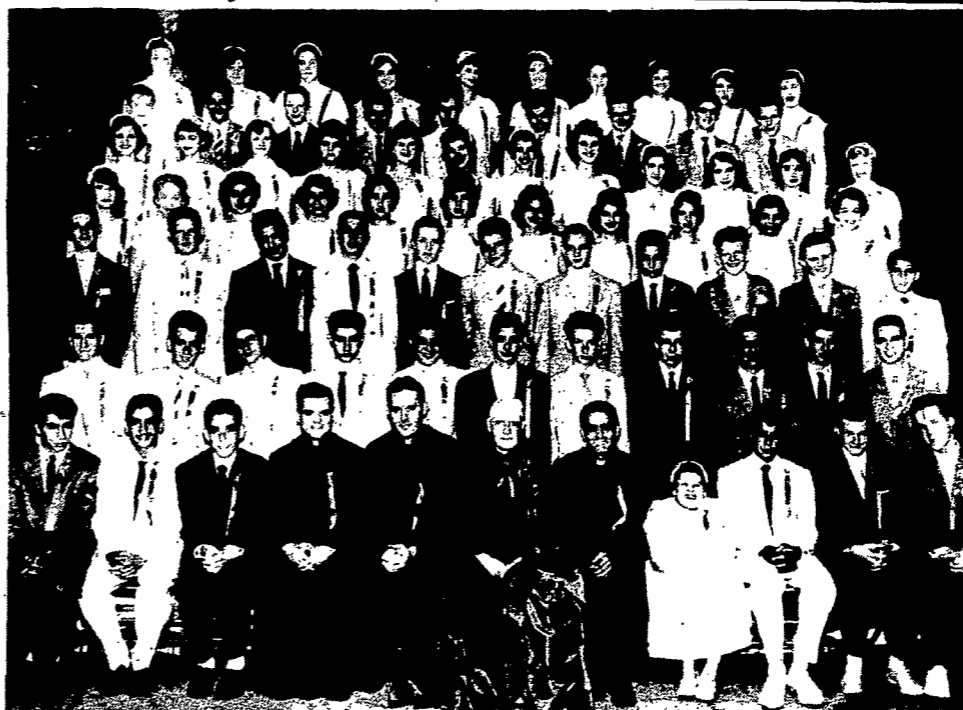
The Post, Nov. 23, criticized the bishops for refusing to grant a hearing at their annual meeting to Bishop Pedro Aparicio of El Salvador, who came to Washington to try and persuade the American hierarchy to abandon their position on the conflict in El Salvador.

Bishop Aparicio is vice president of the five-man Salvadorean bishops conference and heads the diocese of San Miguel. The Post chided the Americans for giving "this brother bishop a cold shoulder" and instead quoting Bishop Arturo Rivera y Damas of the San Salvador archdiocese. The Post said this was "bishop shopping" and that the bishops "are perpetrating a certain fraud."

Bishop Kelly in a letter to the Post said the American bishops "categorically reject the Post's charge of 'fraud'..." He pointed out that Archbishop James Hickey of Washington met for two hours with Bishop Aparicio and that they also had "a lengthy visit" with a USCC committee.

Names Make News

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, a leading Catholic theologian and archbishop of Munich, has been named to succeed Cardinal Franjo Seper as head of the Vatican Congregation for Doctrine, the office charged with upholding orthodoxy. Cardinal Seper, 76, resigned after 13 years as head of the congregation, known as the Holy Office... Wasyli M. Lew, 41, director of operations for the Bell and Howell Satellite Network, has been hired as the first president of the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America, the U.S. bishops' network scheduled to go into operation in March... Auxiliary Bishop Theodore E. McCarrick of New York has been named to head a new Roman Catholic diocese being carved out in central New Jersey. The new diocese of Metuchen will consist of the counties of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Warren, until now part of the Diocese of Trenton... The apostolic delegate, Archbishop Pio Laghi, also announced that Msgr. Thomas J. O'Brien, vicar general of the Phoenix diocese, has been named to succeed the late James S. Rauch in that diocese.



Reunion Call

Members of the Holy Apostles School graduation class of 1957 will hold a reunion Saturday, June 19, with Mass at Holy Apostles Church followed by a dinner-dance at the Party House on Beahon Road. The planners are seeking to contact Paul Girvin, Bonita Kane, Richard Nevins, and Harry Rehak. Further information is available by calling Angela Ferina Cerame, 170 Scholfield Road, (716) 544-8616.

CDA Plans Essay Contest

New York — The Catholic Daughters of America are offering a \$1,000 prize for an essay dealing with heretofore unknown or little known aspects of local Catholic Church history.

The CDA, which has established a chair in Catholic Church History at the Catholic University of America, will announce the winner July 30 at its 39th Biennial Convention in Chicago.

According to Mary E. Murray, national regent, the contest is open to clergy, religious and lay persons, members and non-members of CDA.

Manuscripts must be no more than 1,000 words and must be thoroughly documented with citation of reference lists. Complete rules may be obtained from Mrs. Lila Dilis, 2309 Huntleigh Drive, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120. Deadline for entries is July 1.

Festive Giving

Elmira — The Christmas season is approaching and Notre Dame High School students are preparing for it with the school's annual Christmas Basket Drive. Mrs. Amanda Buckley is working on the Golden Mass to be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, at which the students will present the food and presents that will fill the baskets for the needy families.

Business in Diocese

John F. Crilly of Rochester, a social work major, has been named to the 1982 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. He is one of 37 students from the Catholic University of America to achieve the honor. Father Charles Lavery, CSB, chancellor of St. John Fisher College and president of that college from 1958 to 1980, has joined the faculty of the University of Rochester's Graduate School of Education and Human Development as an adjunct professor in the Center for the Study of Educational Administration.



CHRISTMAS YOU'RE IN BETHLEHEM

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This Christmas you'll be remembered in the Midnight Mass in Bethlehem. The celebrant, Archbishop James J. Beltritti, will offer the Mass for the members and benefactors of this Association... How better can we say thank you? In 18 mission countries (where Catholics, though few, are mostly of the Eastern Rites) the Holy Father helps millions because you read this column. Blind boys in the Gaza Strip (not one of them a Christian) are learning rug making, basketwork, the ABCs, at the Pontifical Mission Center for the Blind. Lepers in India are cared for by native priests and Sisters. The poor have the Gospel preached to them in Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon and Ethiopia... This season especially, won't you remember the missions in your prayers? Our priests and Sisters depend on you. They ask the Christ Child to bless you always!

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