

People and Events of the World and Nation

Navy Rejects Bid To Rename U.S.S. Corpus Christi

Washington (RNS) — Navy Secretary John Lehman has rejected a plea by Bishop Thomas J. Drury of Corpus Christi to find another name for the nuclear submarine recently named for that city.

The secretary acted before receiving a letter from Archbishop John R. Roach, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. It conveyed a unanimous vote from the prelates backing Bishop Drury's request.

Navy officials, however, said the secretary's answer to the archbishop would carry the same response.

Lehman, a Catholic, quoted St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas to support his assertions that Catholic Church teaching permits a nation to maintain arms for its defense.

He also declared that use of the name would serve to remind the commander and crew of the submarine that her mission is essentially peace.

"It is vitally important that we be reminded constantly of the humanistic values of peacekeeping," Lehman wrote. "I believe that a venerable name like Corpus Christi is a valuable asset to those responsible for the management of the fearful weapons of our national defense."

Corpus Christi is a Latin phrase meaning Body of Christ. Distributors of Holy Communion say it each time one of the faithful receives it.

Bishops Gather At Chicago Mass For Cardinal Cody

Mundelein, Ill. (RNS) — A sustained applause resounded through St. Mary of the Lake Seminary as some 800 Chicago priests, six cardinals, 22 archbishops and 140 bishops honored Cardinal John P. Cody at the close of a Mass marking his 50th year as a priest.

Pope John Paul II sent his congratulations to the cardinal in a letter read aloud by the apostolic delegate, Archbishop Pio Laghi.

Aside from the annual meetings, this was one of the largest gatherings of American bishops in recent years. Archbishop John R. Roach of Minneapolis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, called the cardinal's 50 years "a pilgrimage of extraordinary achievement and service to the Church. Like any authentic pilgrimage, it was one marked by successes and failures, joys and sorrows, and above all, an intimate sharing of the struggle of the cross and death of Jesus Christ."

In what many read as a reference to the 16 years the cardinal has served in Chicago and the current investigation into his alleged misuse of archdiocesan funds, Archbishop Roach said priests must "run the risk of misunderstanding and even scorn in leading our people to restoring justice, love and reconciliation to a torn world."

Pope Names Three To Vatican's Foreign Affairs Unit

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed three new members to the governing body of the Vatican's foreign affairs agency, the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church.

Named are Cardinal Giovanni Benelli, Archbishop of Florence; Cardinal Giuseppe Caprio, president of the Administration of



Pilgrims Pray at Vatican

More than 200 Polish pilgrims carry a banner reading, "Parishioners from Bialski — Homage to the Holy Father," as they gathered among some 30,000 others on Dec. 13 for the regular weekly blessing from Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square. Alluding to the dawn decree of martial law imposed a few hours earlier by Poland's Communist regime, the pontiff appealed to his fellow Poles to pray for peace and do everything in their power "to peacefully build a peaceful future." He said, "Polish blood must not be spilled. Too much of it has already been spilled, especially in World War II."

the Patrimony of the Holy See, and African Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, who heads the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the Church's central relief organization.

The foreign affairs agency handles diplomatic and other relations with civil governments.

Whether to Laugh Or Cry Department

Religious News Service could never be characterized as frivolous, so editors, we suppose, would have to believe that a recent dispatch is not meant as a joke.

Dated Grand Rapids, Mich., the story told of a future seminary student who came up with an unusual, if not unique, way of raising money for a Christian Reformed Church missionary program in West Africa.

George DeJong, 25, so the story goes, rounded up 17 of his friends and started "a good night, sleep tight, tuck-in service" for co-eds in area colleges. At \$1 a crack, some \$80 was raised within a few weeks of reading bedtime stories to coeds. DeJong, according to the story, said women choose from several bedtime tales with the story-reading taking about 10 to 20 minutes.

Crazier things, it is possible, are going on somewhere. But where?

Pope Attacks Mafia, Urges Sicily Bishops To Keep Up Battle

Vatican City (RNS) — Meeting with the bishops of Sicily, Pope John Paul II urged them to keep up their battle against Mafia violence which plagues the island and the entrenched mafioso mentality and structure.

He spoke strongly against the blanket of silence which he said cloaks Mafia crimes out of a mistaken "conception of honor."

Meeting with 21 Sicilian bishops who

were at the Vatican to present ad limina reports, the pope praised the "native goodness" of the people of Sicily and described it as an "island of saints."

Praising what he called "the truly precious nature of human and Christian values" transmitted by "good people of Sicily," he added:

"There nevertheless appear some shadows which must cause all men anxious about the human, spiritual and social development of the island to pause and reflect. There exist, unfortunately, some aberrant phenomena, which are, at this point, centuries old — I mean the so-called 'mafioso' mentality or structure."

In Palermo, the Sicilian capital, alone, more than 90 persons have been murdered in 1981, while some 40 others have disappeared or are presumed dead. Police blame the Mafia.

Palermo's Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo recently made a strong anti-Mafia statement of his own in which he scored "indifference" to Mafia activity. He called on his fellow bishops and priests to make the struggle against the Mafia the major theme of sermons and other addresses.

Catholic Bishops Not Pushing Unilateral Disarming

St. Paul, Minn. (RNS) — Contrary to reports that gave a different impression, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops is not seeking unilateral disarmament, says the conference president.

Only a few bishops would support such a stance, said Archbishop John R. Roach of the archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

The bishops, at their recent meeting in Washington, were talking about "negotiated disarmament," the archbishop said in an interview with the Minneapolis Star.

He said the bishops recognize that the United States "cannot strip itself of total defense posture if Russia continues its buildup."

He said he "applauded" President Reagan's invitation to the Soviet Union to enter into negotiations on nuclear weapons — an invitation that came the day after he told the bishops publicly that the Church "needs to say no clearly and decisively to the issue of nuclear weapons."

"I think he (Reagan) made the invitation in good faith and is serious about it," the archbishop said. "I pray the negotiations (started recently in Geneva) continue and they will end up in point zero nuclear arms capacity."

Hans Kung Resents Claims He Doubts Divinity of Jesus

Edwardsville, Ill. (RNS) — Swiss theologian Hans Kung said here he is fed up by constant bombardment on the lecture circuit by people who accuse him of casting doubt on the divinity of Jesus.

Lumping together several questions on the issue into one response in a lecture at Southern Illinois University, the Catholic priest declared:

"Jesus Christ was one person in two natures. He was a divine person, but he also had a human nature. For me as a Christian, Christ is the son of God, the word of God, the real revelation of one real God. I repeated this all the time, again and again. I get a little sick of it!"

Barred by the Vatican from speaking as a Catholic theologian, Father Kung also said that the oft-repeated charge that he had not appeared to answer the complaints against him in 12 years was "lies."

He said, "I just did not submit to the inquisition" of the Vatican, whose calls to Rome he has refused to heed on the grounds that an accused person had no rights.



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