

# People and Events Of the World and Nation

## Maryknoll Assails Reagan on Stand On El Salvador

Ossining (RNS) — Maryknoll mission leaders have challenged the Reagan administration's claim that El Salvador's human rights climate has improved significantly.

Father James Noonan, superior general of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and Sister Regina McEvoy, vice president of Maryknoll Sisters, sharply criticized the human rights record of the Salvadoran military-civilian junta.

In a statement issued here at the headquarters of the Roman Catholic missionary society, the leaders said: "Independent news reports continue to tell of massacres of the civilian population by government troops. Figures compiled by the Catholic Church of El Salvador place the death toll in 1981 at 12,000 civilians.

"These facts do not indicate to us an improvement in the human rights situation."

The murders of three nuns, two of them Maryknoll Sisters, and a lay missionary in El Salvador in December 1980 prompted Congress to require the administration certify that El Salvador was making progress on human rights before it could receive more aid.

President Reagan recently certified that the Salvadoran government was "making a concerted effort to comply with internationally recognized human rights" principles and was "achieving substantial control" over violent acts by its security forces.

(The government of President Duarte announced last week that six former army members have been charged in the deaths of the missionaries.)

## Seattle Archbishop To Withhold Tax As Arms Protest

South Bend, Ind. (RNS) — Seattle Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen announced here that he will withhold half of his 1981 income tax to protest "our nation's continuing involvement in the race for nuclear arms supremacy.

"As Christians imbued with the spirit of peacemaking expressed by the Lord in the Sermon on the Mount, we must find ways to make known our objections to the present concentration on further nuclear arms buildup," the archbishop told 300 peace activists attending a meeting at Notre Dame University.

Archbishop Hunthausen suggested last June at an ecumenical dinner in Seattle that withholding taxes was one way Christians might protest the nuclear arms buildup. He said then he had not made up his own mind about doing it.

He said here that his decision to divert half of his federal taxes to charity was made known in a pastoral letter to his archdiocese a few days earlier "after much prayer, thought and personal struggle."

"I am not suggesting that all who agree with my peace and disarmament views should imitate my action of income withholding," he wrote in his pastoral letter. "I recognize that some who agree with me in their hearts find it practically impossible to run the risk of withholding taxes because of their obligations to those personally dependent upon them. Moreover, I see little value in imitating what I am doing simply because I am doing it. I prefer that each individual come to his or her own decision on what should be done to meet the nuclear arms challenge."

He said he is especially concerned about nuclear arms because the Trident submarine and missile system is being deployed in the Seattle area.

"Trident is the Auschwitz of Puget Sound because of the massive cooperation required in our area — the enormous sinful complicity that is necessary — for the eventual incineration of millions of our brother and sister human beings," he said. "Our nuclear weapons are the final crucifixion of Jesus in the extermination of the human family with whom He is one."

## CBN Chief Says Moral Majority 'Vastly Overrated'

New York (RNS) — The Rev. M.G. Pat Robertson, president of the Christian Broadcasting Network, says the Moral Majority "is vastly overrated by the press."

Writing in Video Age International, a television business journal, he said that "if indeed this organization spoke for all the moral people in the country, it would have enormous influence, but it doesn't. It speaks for one narrow segment."

Previously outspoken on a number of political issues, Robertson had been identified with conservative positions on such issues as the Panama Canal treaties and nuclear power.

In October 1980, he resigned from the Religious Roundtable "in light of confusion in the public mind as to my role in political matters." The new article suggests that he is trying to disassociate himself from the religious New Right.

## 64 Episcopal Priests Reported Seeking Catholic Status

Washington (RNS) — Sixty-four Episcopal priests — some of them married men — have petitions pending to become Catholic priests, says the U.S. Catholic bishop charged with arranging the conversions.

Bishop Bernard F. Law said another 20 have asked about the process.

In a report issued in the name of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Law said that all but two of 64 priests are, or were until recently, American pastors — the two exceptions are college professors — and some priests say their congregations wish to join in the move.

Last August, the Vatican announced acceptance in principle of an affiliation request to the NCCB on behalf of the Episcopal clergy and laity. The agreement was to allow those priests already married to continue their ministry after ordination in the Catholic Church.

The report indicated that the decision on the ordinations would be made on an individual basis at the Vatican.

## Names Makes News

The National Conference of Christians and Jews will present its 17th Charles Evan Hughes Gold Medal to President Ronald Reagan who will be the first incumbent president to receive the NCCJ's highest award. It has been given since 1965 "for courageous leadership in government, civic and humanitarian affairs." ... Father John Aurelio, chaplain at the West Seneca Developmental Center, a state facility for the retarded in the Buffalo diocese, has been named to head the new National Catholic Office of Ministry with Handicapped Persons. ... Joseph Breig, a widely syndicated columnist for the Catholic press and retired editor for three Ohio weeklies, died Feb. 6, 1982, while vacationing in Florida. Mr. Breig, 76, was stricken while attending Saturday evening Mass in an Orlando church. Among his survivors is a son, James, assistant editor of the Evangelist of Albany.

## Nazareth Prof to Give Series at St. Charles

Joseph Kelly, associate professor of religious studies at Nazareth College, will conduct a series of five lessons on "The Biblical Concept of God" from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Thursdays, Feb. 25, March 4, March 11, March 25 and April 1, at St. Charles Borromeo School Library, Dewey Avenue at Maiden Lane.

The fee is \$25 and pre-registration is necessary through the Nazareth College Continuing Education office, 586-2525. Forms are available at the St. Charles rectory and information is available from Nancy Humphreys, 227-4296, or Joan Tessier, 865-8196, evenings.

## Lenten Protest Planned

The diocesan Urban Ministry Group, described by Father Laurence Tracy as an informal association of persons engaged in city ministry work, will stage a rite of Public Repentance at 10 a.m., Ash Wednesday, Feb. 24, at Old St. Mary's Church, downtown.

Father Tracy said the group will issue a call to fasting for social sins and protest the federal budget cuts in social services.

At noon on the First Friday of Lent, the group will stage a demonstration in sackcloth and ashes in front of the Federal Building over the same issue.

The course requires no designed for personal examinations or grades and is enrichment.

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