

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Polish Priest Held By Government, 'Slander' Charged

Warsaw (RNS) — A Polish Roman Catholic priest has been arrested and put on trial for a sermon "slandering" Poland's martial law regime, a government spokesman announced.

Spokesman Jerzy Urban said the arrest of the priest — believed to be the first in Poland in more than a decade — was not to be viewed as a warning to other clerics because the government was not seeking a confrontation with the Catholic Church.

Urban's announcement came after Poland's martial law authorities criticized Polish priests.

A Warsaw radio broadcast said some priests were rekindling "old sources of conflict," such as placing crucifixes in public places, state institutions and schools.

Urban did not identify the arrested priest or give details of his sermon. He said only that the priest was from Kosalin Province in north-central Poland.

Vatican Denies Pope to Visit Central America

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican has moved to squelch rumors that Pope John Paul II would visit Panama and El Salvador in April.

The Feb. 23 issue of the Milan newspaper Corriere Della Sera quoted Bishop Arturo Rivera Damas, acting archbishop of San Salvador, as saying he hoped that the pope would visit his country in April.

He was also quoted as saying that the pope had also been invited to Panama and "if he goes to Panama, I'm certain he will also visit El Salvador."

But the Vatican press office said that similar reports had surfaced a month before and were "lacking all foundation."

Catholic Students Urged to Support Hatch Amendment

St. Paul, Minn. (RNS) — Minnesota's Roman Catholic bishops have asked the state's Roman Catholic colleges and high schools to encourage their students to become active politically in the attempt to pass the Hatch Amendment.

In a letter to college presidents and school superintendents, the Minnesota Catholic Conference urged that students 18 and older attend political party meetings and support candidates backing the amendment.

The amendment says that abortion is not a right guaranteed by the Constitution and would permit Congress and the states to regulate abortion.

"Each student should be asked to work to see that endorsed candidates for public office are supportive of the Hatch Amendment," the letter said.

The letter said "this request is made with a sense of urgency."

NCCJ Staffers Object to Award For President

New York (RNS) — Protest within the National Conference of Christians and Jews has been mounted against the selection of President Reagan for the organization's annual Charles Evans Hughes Award.

The gold medal award, named after the Supreme Court justice who was a founder of the NCCJ, is given "for courageous leadership in government, civic and humanitarian affairs." It will be given to Reagan at a March 23 dinner.

Dissenters within the staff have circulated a confidential memo and petition complaining that the award "communicates to the nation a tacit approval of the economic and domestic policies of the Reagan administration."

The memo charged that these policies "have already adversely affected the ability of many Americans to receive the essential services to which they are entitled in the areas of employment, education and equality of justice under the law."

Pope Condemns Terrorism in All Its Forms

Rome (RNS) — Pope John Paul II, in a message to an international political conference here, strongly condemned all forms of terrorism and warned governments against encouraging terrorists in any way.

"Whatever the roots of terrorist action may be, whatever the efforts to justify it, we cannot but repeat again and always: political terrorism is never justified," the pope declared.

It was read for the pope, who was in Africa at the time, at a conference of the Christian Democratic World Union, an organization of Christian Democratic parties around the world.

Describing terrorism as "savage," the pontiff said that any country that encourages terrorism "becomes an accomplice of its instigators and disqualifies itself from being able to speak before the world of justice."

Archbishop Kelly Installed at Well-Attended Rite

Louisville, Ky. (RNS) — Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, who was a chief spokesman for American Catholics as general secretary of their bishops conference, became chief shepherd of nation's oldest inland diocese when he was installed as Archbishop of Louisville on Feb. 18.

The Rochester native was escorted to the throne by Apostolic Delegate Pio Laghi, as about 5,000 worshipers watched at the downtown civic arena.

About 70 members of the hierarchy were on hand as was the prelate's 75-year-old mother, Katherine Conley of Ithaca.

Archbishop Laghi said, "Some may say this transfer may be thought of as a bureaucrat becoming an ordinary but it's actually the transition of a pastoral man from an executive post to a pastoral post requiring executive ability."

Know Your Heart and How It Works

A seminar on the prevention of heart disease will be at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 10, at the American Red Cross, 50 Prince St. The two-hour seminar will cover risk factors and lifestyle changes which may help prevent or deter the advancement of heart disease.

According to Mike Logan, assistant director of Red Cross Nursing and Health Services, the seminar is designed to help

people understand heart disease and make lifestyle choices to reduce the risks. Participants will explore the definition of heart disease as well as the relationship between risk factors and the prevention or control of the disease. Risk factors include smoking, hypertension, cholesterol intake, stress, lack of exercise and overweight.

"So What is Heart Disease?" is the second in a

series of seven high level wellness seminars scheduled this Spring. Others include: Blood Pressure — A Personal Matter, March 17; Eat, Drink and Be Healthy, March 24; Introduction to Stress Management, March 31; Toward a Healthy Self Image, April 7; Women's Health, April 14. There is no charge for these seminars. To register, call the Red Cross Registration Office at 275-9800, ext. 222.

ST. JOSEPH TABLE

Holy Cross Parish will display its second annual St. Joseph's Table 1-3 p.m., Sunday, March 21, in the school cafeteria. The noon Mass that day will be in St. Joseph's honor and following the Mass an Open House will be staged.

BLUE ARMY VIGIL

Fathers William Leone, Ronald Antinarelli, and William Endres will lead the rites of the monthly vigil of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, 9 p.m. to midnight, Friday, March 5, at Holy Rosary Church.

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