

# People and Events Of the World and Nation

## Abortions Reach Record 1.55 Million a Year

New York (RNS) — American women obtained a record 1.55 million legal abortions in 1980, an increase of 2 percent over 1979, according to a national survey by the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

"About three percent of the 53 million women of reproductive age obtained an abortion, and one fourth of all pregnancies — a little less than half of all that were unintended — were terminated by abortion."

U.S. abortion rates have steadily risen since 1978, but the annual rates of increase have slowed down in the last few years and may be "stabilizing," said the report on the seventh annual survey by the Guttmacher Institute, an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. The survey includes all U.S. hospitals, clinics and private physicians providing abortion services.

## Polish Bishops Renew Call for Martial Law End

Warsaw (RNS) — Poland's Roman Catholic Bishops have renewed their call for an end to martial law and for resumption of talks between Communist authorities and the now suspended trade union Solidarity.

A statement issued after a two-day meeting here of the 60-member conference also demanded release of all interned Solidarity activists, an end to job discrimination against union members and amnesty for Poles jailed for offenses against martial law, including organizing strikes and distributing leaflets.

The meeting came two weeks after Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the primate, and two other top leaders of the Polish Catholic Church returned from talks with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican.

The prelates' statement, which presumably reflected the pope's concerns, said the situation in Poland, since the imposition of martial law on Dec. 13 "bears the markings of a true moral, social and economic catastrophe."

Stressing that their mission was to appeal for "social agreement" in the Polish nation, the bishops insisted that "by sheer physical force, one cannot honestly and in a lasting way resolve the problems of the life of the state."

## Priest Surprised By First-Hand El Salvador Look

Providence, R.I. (RNS) — Father Normand J. Demers has praised Daniel Berrigan from the pulpit as a prophet.

A former chaplain at a correctional institution, Father Demers was barred from the prison as a "security risk" in 1973 after accusing guards of brutality against inmates.

From his pulpit, he said people ought to consider withholding half of their federal taxes in opposition to nuclear spending.

Thus his parishioners may have been surprised recently when the priest reported on his 12-day trip to El Salvador.

He said he has changed his view of the revolution there and is now convinced that the rebel guerrillas do not have the support of the majority of Salvadorans. He said they have lost support by adopting the same violent tactics as the government security forces.

Before his visit, Father Demers said, "I thought the rebels were kind of like the good guys."

Nevertheless, he said he still believes the United States ought to halt all military aid to El Salvador "not because I believe there will be a great democratic government but because as a priest told me when I was there, 'Nothing can be worse than what we have now.'"

## Pope Names Black To Be His Private Secretary

Vatican City (RNS) — Fresh from an African tour, Pope John Paul II has named an African priest to be one of his two personal secretaries.

He is the first black appointed to the post of papal private secretary.

Msgr. Emery Kabongo, 38, a native of Zaire who has been in Vatican service for two years, succeeds Father John Magee of Northern Ireland, who has been named master of pontifical ceremonies.

The pope's other personal secretary is Msgr. Stanislaw Dzieisz of Krakow, Poland, the archdiocese John Paul headed before his election as pope.

The pontiff first met Father Kabongo during his July 1980 visit to Brazil, the capital of Brazil, where the Zairean worked as secretary to the apostolic nuncio.

About five months ago, Father Kabongo was transferred to Rome to work at the headquarters of the Vatican Foreign Office.

## Polish Franciscan Auschwitz Victim To Be Canonized

Vatican City (RNS) — Blessed Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest who offered his life in exchange for that of a fellow inmate in the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, will be canonized by Pope John Paul II in October.

The ceremony will be Oct. 13 at St. Peter's Basilica. Father Vitale Bommarco, minister general of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, explained that the pope, as is his privilege, had speeded up normal canonization proceedings by granting a dispensation from a Church law requiring two miracles ascribed to the intercession of a candidate for sainthood.

Father Kolbe, the first victim of a Nazi death camp to be so honored, was beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1971.

Born in 1894 near Lodz, Poland, Father Kolbe became director of one of Poland's largest Catholic publishing enterprises shortly before World War II. He was arrested in 1941 on charges of aiding Jewish refugees and members of the Polish underground and sent to Auschwitz.

In 1941, he volunteered to take the place of another camp inmate, a married man who had been chosen arbitrarily as one of 10 prisoners to be starved to death in reprisal for the escape of another prisoner.

With the other nine victims, Father Kolbe was stripped of his clothing and left without food or water in a cess to die of starvation. Some two or three weeks later, only four of the prisoners, including Father Kolbe, were still alive. Guards, needing the cell for another 10 starvation victims, injected carbolic acid into the four. Father Kolbe, lying naked under a blanket, was the last to die.

The prisoner, whose life Father Kolbe saved, Sgt. Franciszek Gajowniczek, is expected to be at the canonization rites.

## Cancer Unit Schedules Solicitation

The American Cancer Society is planning its annual residential campaign in the Rochester area from March 17 to 28.

The American Cancer Society is asking you to do three things which will help us to eliminate cancer," said Jerry Flynn, Monroe County Unit Crusade chairman. "The first is to take advantage of what we already know and learn to recognize cancer's seven warning signals."

Second, the society is asking people talk with their doctors for detection tests. The third request is for donations to the door-to-door solicitations. Money collected will be used in research, education and service to cancer patients and their families in Monroe County.

## Charity Game Scheduled For March 14

A benefit basketball game between the Rochester Press-Radio Club and George Cullen's Meeting, Eating and Drinking Place is scheduled at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, at the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester, 500 Genesee Street.

Tickets are \$2 per person and all proceeds will be donated to the youth club's programs. A reception will follow at Cullen's, 1506 Dewey Avenue near Ridgeway.


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