

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Pope's Fatima Visit To Coincide with Attempt on Life

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II will celebrate Mass at the Marian shrine of Fatima, Portugal, May 13 — the first anniversary of the attempt on his life and the 65th anniversary of the first of the reported apparitions here.

The Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to three shepherd children in a field near Fatima, north of the capital city of Lisbon, six times between May 13 and Oct. 13, 1917.

U.S. behind Vatican On Annulments, Theologian Says

New York (RNS) — The American Catholic Church was 30 years behind the Vatican in recognizing psychological problems as grounds for an annulment, a Jesuit moral theologian says.

Father Joseph J. Farragher, columnist for *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, a conservative theological monthly for priests, defended the rapid rise in annulments being granted by the American dioceses.

Vatican officials, without naming a particular nation, have sharply criticized the increase in annulments since Vatican II: The overwhelming majority of these decisions are being granted in the United States.

Father Farragher says that the Catholic Church has always recognized certain psychological factors such as insanity as grounds for dissolution of a sacramental marriage.

He defended the increased use of such grounds by marriage courts, explaining that it was prompted by new understanding of the influence of psychological factors on decisions of the will and "an increase in the numbers of persons in our civilization who are incapable of lifelong commitment, whether because of increased mechanization and mobility or because of the... fear of atomic annihilation."

"That such psychological inability render a marriage invalid was recognized by Rome over 30 years ago," he continued. "But only in relatively recent times have U.S. tribunals come to recognize the incidence of this."

Names Make News

Canadian Cardinal George Bernard Flahiff, 76, has resigned as archbishop of Winnipeg, the Vatican has announced... A longtime leader in Catholic social justice and labor action, Msgr. George G. Higgins, will receive the AFL-CIO's highest award for humanitarian service in Chicago, May 5. He retired last year as research director for the U.S. Catholic Conference. He is credited with helping shape the policies of the American bishops on labor issues during his 36 years with the USCC.

Polish Primate Scores Repression, Still Hopeful

Warsaw (RNS) — Polish Catholic primate Jozef Glemp criticized martial law authorities in an Easter message, but expressed hope for reconciliation between them and the people.

Preaching before a packed congregation in Warsaw's St. John's Cathedral, Archbishop Glemp accused the country's Communist rulers of continuing a "belligerent" ideological campaign against the Church, despite some liberalization of religious policy, regarding the right to broadcast Sunday Mass over radio and an increased number of permits for building churches.

"The authorities," he said, "complain that the people show insubordination. But how can we have faith in the authorities when we feel so depressed; when our subjective rights seem to be wiped out, when the will of the people is not taken into consideration?"

"Despite so many contradictions and so much despair and bitterness, the Church believes that social accord is possible," the archbishop said.

Irish Divorce Ban Likely to Survive Challenge

Belfast, Northern Ireland (RNS) — The possibility of the Irish Republic dropping its ban on divorce has lessened dramatically in the face of renewed opposition from the Irish Catholic bishops and the new government in Dublin.

Garrett Fitzgerald, the former minister, defeated in the February general election, had planned a nationwide campaign to make the republic more attractive to Protestants in Northern Ireland, where divorce is permitted.

Dr. Fitzgerald favors the deletion from the Irish Constitution of Article 41, which prohibits the introduction of divorce legislation. As opposition leader, he holds the same view, but the new Irish prime minister, Charles Haughey, and senior members of his Fianna Fail Party, have repeatedly stressed their opposition to such a development.

Instead, Haughey has set up a party committee to examine the problems presented by marital breakdown. It will be advised by a team of experts, including marriage counselors, sociologists and lawyers, but divorce will not be within the terms of reference. It is most unlikely, therefore, that any significant moves on this controversial issue will be made voluntarily by the present Dublin government.

This attitude will be reinforced by a major document to be published soon by the Irish Catholic bishops in which they will restate their opposition to divorce.



Representative Barber B. Conable, center, receives Presidential Citation from M. Joe Helms, left, and Sister Marie Michelle Peartree, president-elect of the American Association of Homes for the Aging and administrator of St. Ann's Home and The Heritage here in Rochester.

Conable Optimistic On Federal Tax Act

Washington, D.C. — Barber B. Conable, U.S. representative (35th District) from Rochester, is optimistic the 1981 federal tax act he helped steer through Congress will "broaden the base of philanthropy in this country" through "a greater inducement to charity."

service as a member of Congress."

The association is a national organization representing 2,000 non-profit

homes, housing and health-related facilities for the elderly. AAHA homes are sponsored by religious, fraternal, labor, private, civic and county organizations.

Speaking April 2 to 450 members of the American Association of Homes for the Aging here, Conable explained the act permits taxpayers to take charitable deductions whether or not they itemize other federal income tax deductions. The provision will be phased in over the next three years.

Other provisions of the tax act give greater flexibility to charitable foundations, Conable said, allowing foundations to follow better investment practices and creating incentives for larger payout of foundation funds. The act also doubled the maximum charitable deduction permitted for corporations.

Following Conable's remarks, the AAHA awarded him the association's Presidential Citation "for his many contributions to the welfare of the elderly of our nation through his dedicated

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