

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

Vatican City (NC) — Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, controversial head of the Vatican bank, has moved from his residence in Rome to an apartment in the Vatican. News stories speculated that the move might be an effort to avoid an investigation by Italian authorities into the bank's links to the collapsed Banco Ambrosiano, Italy's largest private bank. The archbishop, a native of Cicero, Ill., said that the move was due to the fact that the controversy over the investigation was demanding his full attention.

New Calendar Gets Papal Nod

Castelgandolfo — Speaking to a group of astronomers and scientists participating in a conference commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Gregorian calendar, Pope John Paul II said that investigation into possible reform of the calendar can be a "great help" in the quest for Christian unity. The pope said that the Church "has had and continues to have a profound personal interest concerning calendar revisions, since such work influences the occurrence of religious feasts." An example of this influence is the fact that most Orthodox Churches did not accept the calendar which Pope Gregory initiated in 1582, so now they celebrate Easter on a different day than most other Christian Churches.

Opus Dei Not 'Floating' Unit

Vatican City — The draft of the Vatican document granting the status of personal prelature to Opus Dei counters press speculation that the international organization of priests and laymen would become a "floating community" beyond the jurisdiction of local bishops. The draft says that the new status answers "particular pastoral and evangelization needs," but also states the members will be "subject to the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop in everything that the law lays down for the simple faithful in general."

Chile Catholics Deny Charges

Santiago — Catholic officials in Chile have denied allegations by the chief of the country's intelligence operation that the Vicariate of Solidarity is aiding Marxist terrorists. The vicariate is a Church agency involved in human rights work. Gen. Fernando Paredes made the charges in an address in late August. Bishop Jose Manuel Santos of Valdivia, head of the Chilean Bishops Conference, protested the speech. A statement from the Archdiocese of Santiago also denied Paredes' allegations. "The vicariate simply does not take up the defense of terrorists, because it is against any kind of violence," the statement declared.

Basilica to Air Black Music

Rome — Black religious leaders and musical groups from throughout the United States will preach and perform at Rome's Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere Oct. 1-2.

The production, "Black American Voices in the World Today," marks the 25th anniversary of the Rome Teatro Club which last year organized a three-week run of Langston Hughes' Gospel work, "Black Nativity."

Rev. Andrew Young, mayor of Atlanta and former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, will preach as part of the program.

Coretta Scott King, the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., will attend.

The Vicariate of Rome has granted permission to the basilica for the program.

"The production has a two-fold purpose," said L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican daily newspaper. "The first is to demonstrate how black music, so popular among the new generations, arose as an expression of faith, as a liturgical act. The second is to witness to how, through culture and prayer, the meeting of separated brothers may be possible."

Nun Killer Gets Death Sentence

Armarillo, Texas — An eight-man, four-woman jury Sept. 1 found Johnny Frank Garrett, 18, guilty of the rape and murder of 76-year-old Franciscan Sister Tades Benz. The next day, Garrett, who insisted throughout the proceedings that he was innocent, was sentenced to death by lethal injection. Bishop Leroy T. Mathieson of Amarillo said he does not favor the death penalty for Garrett. The bishop said life imprisonment with no hope for parole unless radical conversion takes place is a far better deterrent to murder.

Necrology

Bishop Joseph V. Sullivan of Baton Rouge died Sept. 4 of cardiac arrest. He was 63. Last November, Bishop Sullivan was the only bishop seen standing up to vote "no" as the U.S. bishops voted in Washington to support the proposed Hatch amendment restricting abortion. He wanted a more stringent restriction and stated, "I don't believe we had to settle for anything less." . . . **Bishop M. Joseph Green**, former bishop of Reno, Nev., died Aug. 30 in Pontiac, Mich., after an extended illness. He was 64.

Focus on Today's World



▲ Silhouetted against the evening sun, a receiving dish points skyward, ready to collect images from a communications satellite. The Church enters the electronic age Sept. 20 when the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America begins regular transmission of programs and information to a satellite and back down to dioceses throughout the country. (NC photo)



▲ As Solidarity songs are sung, a Warsaw woman wipes her tears during a candlelight service at St. Ann's Church. The service was held the day after at least two people were killed during street rioting in several Polish cities on the second anniversary of the Solidarity labor union. (NC photo)



▲ Former Apollo 15 astronaut Col. Jim Irwin is shown at a Colorado Springs news conference showing Turkish newspapers with pictures and stories of himself in a hospital after he was injured in a fall on Mt. Ararat last month. Wearing a hat to cover his injured scalp, he told of his search on the Turkish mountain for Noah's Ark. The former moon explorer, who recently became a Christian, runs the High Flight Foundation in Colorado Springs. (NC photo)



▲ Connie Bayles and Sister Margaret Allen meet twice weekly to take a walk with eight other women and enjoy it so much they sometimes forget they are guinea pigs. They are part of a University of Pittsburgh experiment which hopes to prove that walking seven miles a week can strengthen bones and help prevent osteoporosis. (NC photo)

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Vol. 99 No. 20 September 15, 1982

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)

Published weekly, except for one week after July 4 and one week after Christmas, by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 35¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada and Foreign \$20. Offices: 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607 (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.



► Sporting Kansas City Royals voters over their religious habits. Sisters of St. Joseph Flavia Blaes, left, and Cletus Mayer of Wichita, follow a foul ball during a recent game against the Chicago White Sox in Kansas City. The two fans follow the Royals "religiously" and rarely miss a game on radio or television, but this was their first live game. (NC photo)