

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

Pontiff Defended

New York — Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher, professor emeritus of Judeo-Christian studies at Seton Hall University, defended Pope John Paul II against Jewish critics of the pope's meeting with Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Msgr. Oesterreicher, a leader in Catholic-Jewish relations for more than 30 years, said Oct. 16 that the pope "did not receive Arafat the terrorist but Arafat, a man who asked to see him and who — like it or not — speaks for the Palestinian Arabs . . . To suggest that the pope, a man who still feels the terror of tyrannical regimes in the marrow of his bones . . . would in any way encourage murderous activities against Jews is preposterous."

Nestle Revises Policies

Washington — The Nestle Co., the world's leading infant formula maker and the subject of controversy surrounding the use of that infant formula in the Third World, has "demonstrated a positive response" in revising its marketing policies to bring them more into line with World Health Organization guidelines, former Sen. Edmund Muskie said at a press conference in mid-October. Muskie chairs a marketing audit commission which Nestle established. But leaders of an international boycott of Nestle products said at a separate press conference that although the changes provide "a great amount of hope," they are still not sufficient to conform to the World Health Organization code and are "inadequate to protect the health and lives of children in developing nations."

Vatican Owes No Money

Vatican City — Vatican bank officials and lawyers have concluded that the bank owes no money to Banco Ambrosiano creditors, according to the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano. The newspaper said that other conclusions which the bank officials reached were: 1) All loans made by the Ambrosiano group to foreign finance companies were issued before the Vatican bank's letters of patronage recommending the companies were issued; 2) because they were issued after the loans were made, the letter of patronage did not influence any of the loans.

Abp. Criticizes Government

Warsaw — Archbishop Jozef Glemp, Poland's primate, lashed out strongly against the nation's communist government for dissolving Solidarity, the independent labor union. Archbishop Glemp, who heads the archdioceses of Warsaw and Gniezo, criticized the government Oct. 16 before a congregation of about 2,000 people at a Mass commemorating the fourth anniversary of the election to the papacy of Polish-born Pope John Paul II. The government has "ignored the voice of society" in dissolving the union, said the archbishop, who forecast that the ideals of Solidarity would continue to animate the people of Poland.

New Law Presents Challenges

Hartford, Conn. — The protection of the rights of Catholics established in the approaching new Code of Canon Law will present some real challenges to the U.S. Church, said Father James Provost, executive coordinator of the Canon Law Society of America, at the organization's annual convention Oct. 18-21 here. Father Provost noted that one of the innovations of the new code is its section on the rights of the laity. He also said that with the new code's emphasis on "the right of the community for pastoral care . . . traditional norms on pastors are being changed" and personnel policies of dioceses and religious communities may need "major revision." The Courier-Journal series on "New Church Law" continues on Page 24.

Judge Rules for Storage

Los Angeles — Superior Court Judge Leon Thompson has ruled that 16,390 human fetuses can be stored in concrete vaults in a cemetery in a Los Angeles suburb. The Oct. 18 ruling, which was in connection with the discovery last February of the fetuses in containers at the home of a laboratory operator, stressed that they were to be stored rather than buried. The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights gained status to intervene in the case on behalf of those who wanted to provide religious burials for the fetuses. The American Civil Liberties Union, representing the feminist Women's Health Center, had initiated a civil suit alleging that religious burial would violate the separation of church and state and would be tantamount to recognition of the fetuses as persons.

Names Make News

William J. Cox has been named vice president in the division of government services of the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Cox, congressional and executive agency liaison in the division since 1980, will head the association's advocacy and education efforts in Washington . . . Mercy Sister Agnes Mary Mansour will resign her post as president of Mercy College of Detroit on July 1, 1983. Sister Mansour did not announce any future plans following her resignation, which she submitted at a September board meeting.

Focus on Today's World



▲ Father Joseph Fleishaker, rector of Divine Word Seminary in Girard, Pa., examines a statue of Mary that was destroyed by vandals. Three youths were

arrested in the act by state police after more than \$50,000 in damage was inflicted throughout the seminary. (NC photo)



▲ Sisters Maureen Elaine Magill and Coleen Marie Magill, identical twins from Camp Springs, Md., cut a cake at a celebration following profession of their final vows as Bernardine Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. The ceremony took place at the Sacred Heart Provincial House in Reading, Pa., with Bishop Joseph McShea of Allentown presiding. (NC photo)



▲ Cheerleader Gina Bartolacci, a junior at Notre Dame High School in Easton, Pa., carries her shoes after completing the fourth annual Marathon for Non-Public Education in Allentown, Pa. After obtaining pledges from sponsors, more than 8,000 participants ran, jogged or walked to raise more than \$100,000 for the 35 participating schools. (NC photo)

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▲ In the vestibule of Blessed-Sacrament Church in Boston, Father Angus Joseph Walker puts on his cassock prior to celebrating his first Mass (right). At 77, he recently was ordained a priest and became the oldest priest in the Missionary Society of the Holy Apostles. (NC photo)