



### Lest We Forget

Fred Strother of Maine, who lost a leg in 1966 during the Vietnam War, pauses near the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. The V-shaped monument lists the names of 58,000 Americans who lost their lives in the war. (NC Photo).

## Quit Messin' Up Nicaragua, 34 Missioners Tell U.S.

Washington (NC) — U.S. foreign policy toward Nicaragua involves "blatant efforts" to destabilize the government, 34 U.S. Catholic missionaries living in that country claimed in an open letter.

The letter says destabilization efforts include covert CIA actions, military aid to neighboring Honduras, support for guerrillas opposed to the Sandinista government and blockage of international loans.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front — a coalition of Marxists, Christians and socialists — came to power in July 1979 after winning the civil war against the regime of Anastasio Somoza.

The letter, addressed to the bishops and Church in the United States, arrived recently at the Washington headquarters of the U.S. Catholic Conference, administrative agency of the U.S. bishops.

"Most of all," the letter said, "we are concerned by the blatant efforts of the U.S. to destabilize the government of Nicaragua including the \$19 million in CIA funds for covert action against Nicaragua."

Destabilization includes "anti-Sandinista propaganda campaigns of misinformation in the media. A particularly malicious example was the recent distortion about 'persecution of religion' in Nicaragua. As religious ministering in Nicaragua we can testify that these are misrepresentations of the truth.

"We ask you to do everything in your power to halt U.S. intervention in Central America. We call on your help to eliminate U.S. training and support of counter-revolutionaries in Florida, California and Honduras preparing to overthrow the Nicaraguan government," the letter said.

Reagan officials say that relations with Nicaragua are strained because the Sandinistas have not kept their pledge to foster a politically pluralistic society and are moving toward a totalitarian society. U.S. officials also say that Nicaragua has joined with Cuba to supply guerrillas fighting the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

Nicaraguan officials say that the U.S. is preparing an invasion and the government on Nov. 4 declared that the border area with Honduras was a "military emergency zone."

The open letter was signed by 18 women religious, 13 male religious and three lay missionaries. The signers are from 12 of the 14 missionary groups in Nicaragua. A total of 88 U.S. missionaries are in Nicaragua.

### Women's Guild

The Cardinal Mooney Women's Guild will meet 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 23, in the school. Following dinner will be a holiday craft demonstration. Reservations are made by calling Donna Lucchese at 254-1781 by Thursday, Nov. 18.

## Fetus Ruling Hit By Catholic League

Los Angeles (NC) — The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights has objected that a California judge's extension of a court order for storage of 16,390 dead fetuses thwarted plans for burial of the fetuses Nov. 6.

The league said that Superior Court Judge Leon Thompson on Nov. 3 extended his Oct. 18 order calling for storage — not burial — of the fetuses and by doing so "disrupted the orderly arrangement of interdenominational religious services" scheduled for Nov. 6.

Judge Thompson deferred

to a full court trial the issue of whether the fetuses should have a religious burial.

The fetuses were found last February stored in containers at the home of a laboratory operator. The district attorney held that 193 of the larger fetuses as evidence in possible prosecution of abortion service providers.

The Feminist Women's Health Center brought a civil suit to prohibit religious burial of the fetuses. The Catholic League was given power to intervene on behalf of religiously minded citizens seeking a burial for the remains.

## Bishops Reiterate Excommunication

Bagheria, Italy (NC) — The Sicilian bishops reaffirmed Oct. 21 a long-standing order of excommunication against any Catholic "guilty of kidnapping or unjust and voluntary homicide" on the island of Sicily.

At the close of their fall meeting here, the 24 members of the Sicilian Bishops Conference criticized "the particular gravity of recurrent episodes of violence which often have as their matrix the Mafia and the ominous mentality that moves and facilitates it."

They reaffirmed a region-wide excommunication first approved in December 1944 and repeated in 1952.

If a Catholic confesses a crime of murder or kidnapping to a priest in Sicily, the priest must not give absolution immediately because such absolution can only be granted by the head of the diocese, the bishops said.

Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo of Palermo, an outspoken critic of the Mafia, presided at the conference.

Pope John Paul II is scheduled to visit Palermo Nov. 21. In September, the Italian press reported that the pope was considering excommunicating members of the Mafia during his Palermo visit, but the Vatican refused to comment on the reports.

## Bernadette Devlin Defends Terrorism



Burlington, Vt. (NC) — Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, one of the early leaders of the Catholic civil rights movement in Northern Ireland, said she will not condemn "those who fight oppression by whatever means."

She said that her people seek equality, justice, human rights and an end to

prejudice and hatred, yet "they call our people terrorists."

Speaking to more than 500 persons at Trinity College here on Oct. 27, Mrs. McAliskey asked sarcastically whether her people took money from the poor to prepare for nuclear war or "threaten the entire world with nuclear weapons."

She said that religious

sectarianism in Northern Ireland is "planned and fostered" by the British for their own interests.

She said that the U.S. media cover only "dramatic" events in Northern Ireland, such as the deaths in 1981 of Bobby Sands and other members of the Irish Republican Army who were on a hunger strike. The continuing struggle is ignored, she claimed.


## Shop Early

The eighth annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale, sponsored by the Parents' Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20-21, in the school gym, 1437 Blossom Road.

More than 50 area craftsmen and artisans will be featured with a special emphasis on the holiday season. Among the items for sale will be barn board oil paintings, china and rag dolls, homemade candy, candles, handmade purses, jewelry, porcelain, pottery, silk flowers, and an array of Christmas decorations. Refreshments will be available, including hundreds of homemade baked goods. There is no admission charge.

## Missionaries Missing

Rome — Six Consolata missionaries who disappeared in Mozambique during July and September are still missing, said Father Armando Giovanni, superior of the Consolata community in Rome, on Oct. 27. Missing are two priests and four nuns. The first to disappear was Italian Father Giuseppe Alessandria, who was kidnapped July 19 from his mission in Maimelane, and his house ransacked, said Father Giovanni. The Consolata missionaries in Mozambique have since received word from the National Resistance Movement, a guerrilla group, that Father Alessandria is being "very well treated" and was taken only because Catholic members of the guerrillas wanted to have a priest among them, said Father Giovanni. The others disappeared Sept. 16 from their mission in Muvamba. They are Portuguese Father Francisco Adilino da Conceicao, Italian Sisters Bona Pischedda, Rosella Casiraghi and Teofima Carliolato and Brazilian Sister Agnes Mainhardt.



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