

# World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

## World

Provided by NC News Service

### Religious Abuses Voiced

United Nations — The communist regime in the Soviet Union is "engaged in a struggle against God," said Sen. Robert Kasten (R-Wis.) in a speech at the United Nations. The speech focused on violations of religious freedom. Kasten's accusation was partly based on a letter which Natalia Solzhenitsyn, wife of Nobel Prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn, sent to the U.S. Mission at the United Nations. The Solzhenitsyns, both members of the Russian Orthodox Church, live in exile from Russia in the United States. The senator, quoting Mrs. Solzhenitsyn, said that it is impossible to buy a Bible in the Soviet Union. Priests and ministers rarely give sermons, and religious meetings outside church walls are forbidden, he added. Kasten also criticized Iran, Vietnam, Albania and Nicaragua as countries which violate religious freedom and discriminate against members of religious organizations and churches.

### Pope Names Council

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II named 37 members, including two U.S. couples, and 26 consultants to the 18-month-old Pontifical Council for the Family Nov. 22. The members, all lay persons, include Supreme Knight Virgil Dechant of the Knights of Columbus and his wife Ann, and Dr. Richard and Barbara McBride of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter. The council, headed by Australian Cardinal James R. Knox, was set up in May 1981 by the pope for "the promotion of pastoral care of the family and the family apostolate, applying the teachings and mind of the church magisterium (teaching authority), so that Christian families may fulfill their educational, evangelizing and apostolic mission."

### Pastoral Criticized

Bonn, West Germany — Alois Mertes, state secretary in the West German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has criticized the U.S. bishops' draft pastoral on nuclear war as having a "selective ethical view" that weakens the credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent in Europe. Because of such aspects as the bishops' stand against the first use of nuclear weapons, Mertes said he hoped the draft "was not the last word." The Christian Democratic government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl supports NATO plans to deploy medium range nuclear missiles in West Germany. West German opponents of such a plan have received support from many Protestant church groups, but the Catholic bishops in the country have avoided taking a position.

### Pope Declares Holy Year

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II surprised Church and civil authorities Nov. 26 when he ended a meeting of the College of Cardinals by proclaiming 1983 a special Holy Year to note the 1,950th anniversary of Christ's crucifixion. More details, Page 5.

### Marcos Warns Priests

Manila, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos, asserting that "the days of the friars are long gone," warned Nov. 29 that allegedly subversive Catholic priests in his nation will be vigorously prosecuted. Meanwhile, his defense minister refused to give Catholic bishops custody of a priest accused of subversion.

## Nation

### New Bishops Appointed

Washington — Pope John Paul II has named bishops to head the Dioceses of Memphis, Tenn., Alexandria-Shreveport, La., and Wichita, Kan. The new appointments, announced by Archbishop Pio Laghi, apostolic delegate in the United States, are: Auxiliary Bishop J. Francis Stafford of Baltimore to succeed Bishop Carroll T. Dozier of Memphis. Bishop Stafford, 50, has been auxiliary bishop of Baltimore since 1976. Auxiliary Bishop William B. Friend of Alexandria-Shreveport was named to succeed Bishop Lawrence P. Graves as ordinary of that diocese. Bishop Friend, 51, has been auxiliary there since 1979. Bishop Eugene Gerber of Dodge City, Kan., was transferred to the Diocese of Wichita. Bishop Gerber, 51, a former chancellor of the Wichita diocese, succeeds Bishop David M. Maloney. Bishops Dozier, Graves and Maloney resigned last July.

## People

### Editor Named Knight

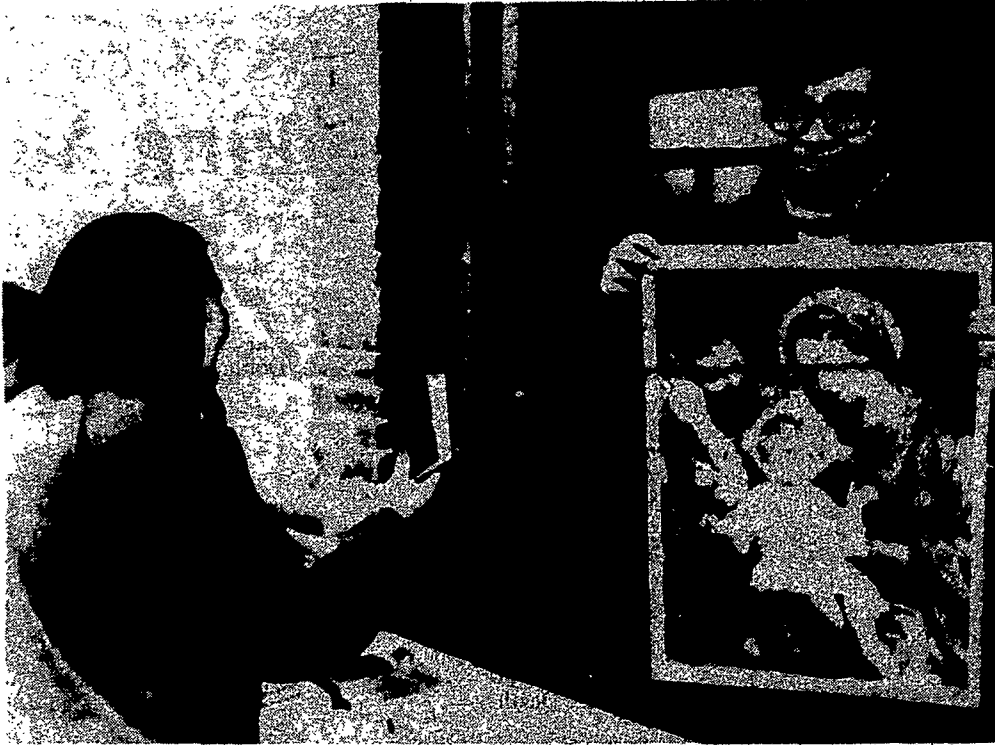
Middletown, Pa. — Joseph C. Krajsa, editor of Jednota, the weekly newspaper of the First Catholic Slovak Union, has been named a Knight of St. Gregory the Great by Pope John Paul II. Bishop Joseph T. Daley of Harrisburg, Pa., announced the honor in the editorial offices of the Jednota Press in Middletown. Established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831, the Order of St. Gregory the Great is a pontifical order of knighthood which is conferred on persons distinguished for personal character and reputation and for notable accomplishment. Krajsa, 65, has been editor of Jednota, published in Slovak and English, since 1964. The 92-year-old paper has a circulation of 37,000 in the United States and 27 foreign countries.

# Focus on Today's World

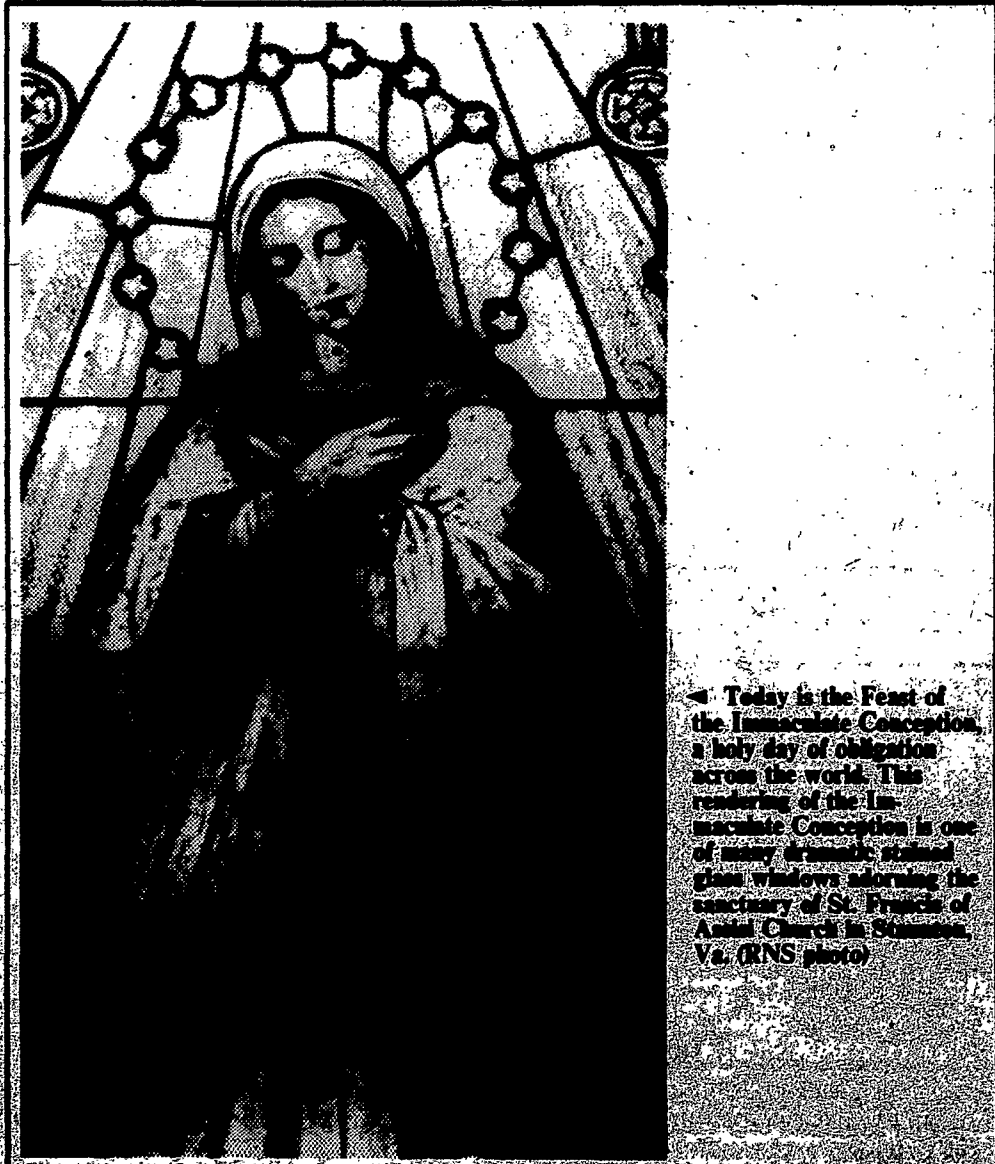


▲ Episcopal Father Kim Driesbach, pastor of the Church of the Incarnation in Atlanta, shows a visitor a photograph of the Shroud of Turin now on display at Atlanta's Peachtree Center. The exhibit, containing more than 150 pictures taken by photographers from

California's Brooks Institute of Photography, was arranged by The Atlanta Center for the Continuing Study of the Shroud of Turin, an ecumenical group located at the Episcopal church. (NC photo)



◀ A young man sells Bibles and religious posters on a Peking street recently. According to reports, the official China press published a complaint on Nov. 29 against the practice of selling religious images to the public, asserting that such products undermine the development of "China's socialist spiritual civilization." (RNS photo)



◀ Today is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation across the world. This rendering of the Immaculate Conception is one of many dramatic stained glass windows adorning the sanctuary of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Staunton, Va. (RNS photo)

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