

World, Nation, People... in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

Pope Proclaims Holy Year

Vatican City — The special 1983 Holy Year of Redemption will begin March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, and end April 22, 1984, Easter Sunday, Pope John Paul has announced. More details, Page 1.

On the Road Again

Milan — Pope John Paul II will visit Milan next May, according to Archbishop Carlo Maria Martini. Exact dates were not divulged but the visit is expected to coincide with the Italian Eucharistic Congress in Milan at the end of May. Milan, with five million Catholics, is the largest archdiocese in Europe. Related story, Page 6.

Poland to Mint Pope

Warsaw — The Polish mint plans to circulate two million silver coins bearing the image of Pope John Paul II. The silver coins (zlotys, worth about \$12 each) will be used mainly for paying salaries by state firms during the first half of 1983.

Nation

Massachusetts Opts for Death

Boston — Massachusetts became the 38th state to restore the death penalty Dec. 22 when Gov. Edward J. King signed a bill sent to him a week earlier by the State Legislature. The new law makes Massachusetts the sixth state to authorize execution by lethal injection. The condemned person will have the choice of electrocution or injection. The law authorizes capital punishment for adults found guilty of murder "deliberately premeditated with malice of forethought or with extreme atrocity or cruelty" and defines at length the aggravating circumstances or kinds of acts under which the penalty would be imposed.

Catholic Press Criticized

New York — The Catholic press was "highly negative and often harshly critical" regarding Israel's action in Lebanon, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. According to Alan M. Schwartz of the ADL, a study of 28 Catholic publications "reflects the fact that many Catholic press editorials and columns... generally blamed Israel for the crisis in Lebanon."

Nuns Can Sue Bishop

Concord, N.H. — The New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled Dec. 23 that four nuns have a right to sue their bishop in a contractual dispute. The nuns appealed a State Superior Court ruling last April that the courts did not have jurisdiction to overrule a decision by Bishop Odore Gendron not to renew their teaching contracts at Sacred Heart Parochial School in Hampton.

Church Media Effort 'Poor'

Washington — Five Church and industry broadcast and education professionals reviewed the radio and TV programs which Catholic dioceses produced in the past year and found that "generally, the materials are of poor quality." More details, Page 6.

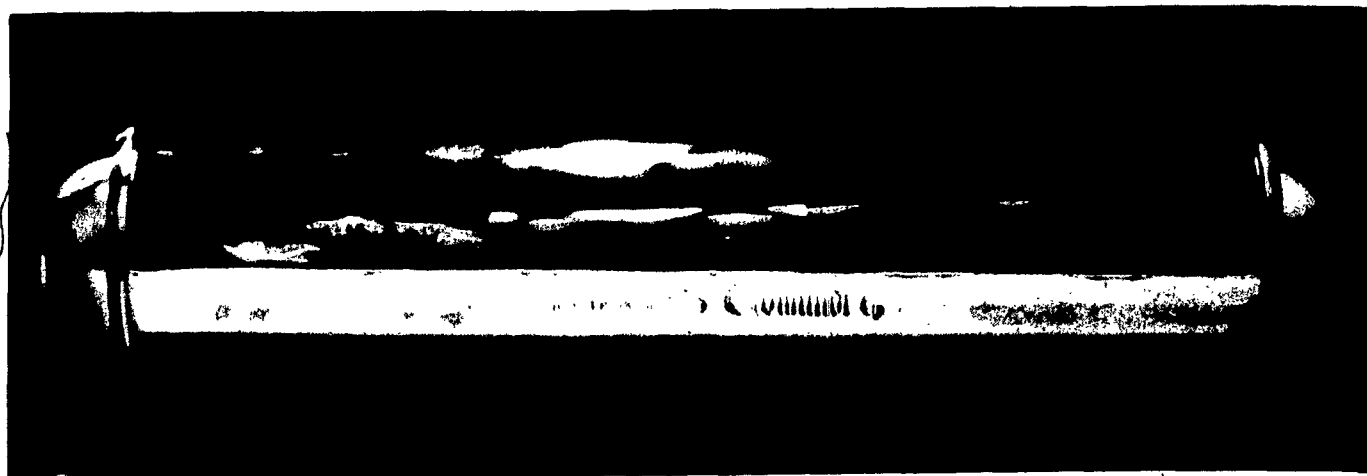
Bishops' Letter Opposed

Washington — Two dozen Catholic congressmen — 22 Republicans and 2 Democrats — have opposed the second draft of the U.S. Bishops' proposed letter on war and peace. In a joint letter, they said that the "real threat" in the world is not U.S. nuclear strategy but the Soviet ideology that it holds in check. The letter, released in draft form last October and debated by the bishops in November, is undergoing revision by a five-bishop committee headed by Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago. A special meeting of the bishops to consider the next draft will take place in May in Chicago.

Burial of Fetuses OK'd

Los Angeles — A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has authorized the burial of more than 16,000 aborted fetuses discovered early this year and has ruled that religious-minded citizens are legally entitled to conduct a memorial service in conjunction with the burial. Patrick Monagan, general counsel of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, praised the decision by Judge Eli Chernow as a victory for religious freedom. Bringing a civil suit to prevent religious burial of the fetuses, the feminist Women's Health Center, an abortion clinic, contended that it would suffer "irreparable harm" if religious-minded citizens were allowed to pray publicly at a ceremony for the aborted fetuses. The American Civil Liberties Union supported the clinic's suit. Chernow ruled that the burial could not take place until after Jan. 11 to allow the abortion clinic time to file an appeal.

Focus on Today's World



▲ The hand and arm of St. Edmund of Canterbury are enshrined at the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Swanton, Vt. The church was the first

in North America to be placed under the direction of the Society of St. Edmund. (NC photo)



▲ Two days before Christmas, about 2,500 people line the sidewalk outside Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church on Chicago's South Side for a Christmas food giveaway. As many as 10,000 of Chicago's poor were expected to stop at the church throughout the day for the free food. (NC photo)



▲ Loretto Sister Elizabeth Rush examines a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver. Sister Elizabeth, who is in her final year of residency at the hospital, is the first medical doctor in her congregation. (NC photo)

the Saints *by Luke*

ST. RAPHAELA PORRAS

RAPHAELA WAS BORN ON MARCH 1, 1850, IN PEDRO ABAD NEAR CORDOVA, SPAIN. SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAYOR, WHO DIED WHEN RAPHAELA WAS 4. SHE AND HER SISTER DOLORES JOINED THE SISTERS OF MARIE REPARATRICE IN 1873. WHEN THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE, CEFERINO GONZALEZ, ASKED THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY TO LEAVE HIS DIOCESE, RAPHAELA AND 15 OTHER NOVICES REMAINED BEHIND TO FORM A NEW COMMUNITY. WHEN THEY WERE READY TO TAKE THEIR VOWS IN 1877, BISHOP GONZALEZ PRESENTED THEM WITH AN ENTIRELY NEW RULE, WHEREUPON THEY LEFT CORDOVA AND SETTLED IN MADRID. AFTER MUCH INITIAL CONFUSION, RAPHAELA AND DOLORES MADE THEIR VOWS LATER IN 1877, AND FOUNDED THE HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART, DEVOTED TO TEACHING CHILDREN AND HELPING AT RETREATS. THE VATICAN GRANTED ITS APPROVAL IN THE SAME YEAR, WITH RAPHAELA AS MOTHER GENERAL. THE ORDER SPREAD THROUGHOUT SPAIN AND ABROAD. MOTHER RAPHAELA RESIGNED IN 1893 AND LIVED THE REMAINING 32 YEARS OF HER LIFE IN OBSCURITY IN THE ROMAN HOUSE OF THE CONGREGATION WHERE SHE DIED IN 1925. SHE WAS CANONIZED IN 1977 BY POPE PAUL VI. HER FEAST IS JAN. 6.

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