

While We Were Away...

Annually, the Courier-Journal does not publish the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Of course, that does not mean that the world stops twirling.

In an effort to keep readers up with stories that may not have appeared elsewhere and/or as a matter of record, we are providing the following capsulized wrapup of such happenings — not necessarily in the order of importance.

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Greeley Calls It '30'

Father Andrew Greeley has decided to stop writing his weekly syndicated column for the Catholic press, his publisher Universal Press Syndicate has informed the 30 Catholic newspapers that subscribe. UPS said that Father Greeley wants to return to a more active role in the priesthood.

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Takes Exception

Bishop Edward W. O'Rourke of Peoria, Ill., is not that happy with the second draft of the U.S. bishops' War and Peace pastoral. He told the drafting committee that the letter falls victim to an "overriding assumption" that U.S. nuclear deterrence strategy is directed against cities. This, he feels, leads the pastoral to place too much emphasis on the principle of wrong intention rather than on proportionality in its critique of nuclear deterrence.

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Disappointing

In the eyes of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Congress had quite a few failures during the term just completed. The latest was its failure to pass a major immigration law reform bill. What started out as a clear issue was eventually crippled by some 300 amendments. Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye, general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, while disappointed, is also optimistic that the bill will surface early in the 98th session.

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Persecution Persists

The Baha'i Office of Public Affairs in Wilmette, Ill., sent a release stating that "authorities in the city of Shiraz, Iran, arrested and imprisoned 85 more Baha'is... Shiraz has been the scene of some of Iran's most brutal treatment of members of the minority Baha'i religion." The release said that mere membership in the Baha'i Faith has been considered sufficient reason for arrest and execution in Iran. There are 300,000 Baha'is in Iran and 100,000 in the U.S.. The religion advocates world peace, the elimination of all forms of prejudice and the equality of men and women.

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Pope Says It Again

Nuclear weapons are "terrible instruments of death," Pope John Paul II told an audience of 200 nuclear physicists in Rome on Dec. 18. For the umpteenth time, he called for a halt to the arms race, saying that modern weapons "represent one of the most serious threats to humanity."

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Home for Christmas

Congress, battling the clock to get home for Christmas, approved a stopgap government funding bill on Dec. 20 which deleted \$988 million for production of the MX missile, did not restrict federal employees' use of health insurance to pay for abortions, raised postal rates and dropped a controversial jobs program that President Reagan had threatened to veto.

THE PLOT THICKENS



MEHMET AGCA



In our last edition, Dec. 22, the Courier-Journal speculated on the possibility of Mehmet Agca's accomplices. Since then, some of the faces have been filled in. From left, top, Agca, Turks Omer Bagei and Bekir Celenk; bottom, Bulgarians, Teodorov Ayvazov, Vassiliev Kolev and Sergei Ivanov (NC Photo).



Fr. Lioi and King

Father Frank Lioi, a Rochester priest on the staff of the American College in Leuven, Belgium, stands with Belgian King Baudouin I during a reception at the college in note of the 125th anniversary of its foundation on Dec. 8. In addition to the king and Queen Fabiola, others present included Charles Price II, American ambassador to Belgium; Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark, N.J., and Cardinal Leo Suenens of Belgium.

Cuomo Praises CRS

Closer to home, Gov.-elect Mario Cuomo praised the work of Catholic Relief Services during the recent earthquakes in Italy. "It's a rare pleasure for a public official to be able to congratulate and thank a group of people who do so much to keep faith with humanity's noblest instincts."

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Structural Work

And back in Rome, Pope John Paul II was busy on the structural front. He established an apostolic exarchate for Romanian Byzantine Rite Catholics in the United States and named Father Louis Puscas of Aurora, Ill., its apostolic exarch. The seat of the exarchate will be in Canton, Ohio, and Father Puscas will be named a bishop.

The pontiff also named two Czechoslovakian priests, both residents of Rome, as bishops for the Czechs and Slovaks living outside their native land. Bishop-designate Jaroslav Skarvada was named for the Czechs and Bishop-designate Domenico Krukowski for the Slovaks. They will work with Czechoslovakians in Western Europe, the Americas and Australia.

And he made Maronite Bishop Francis Zayek an archbishop.

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The Spiritual And The Earthy



And even closer to home, the Courier-Journal has received the annual Christmas message from the Monastery of Mary the Queen in Elmira, as penned by its resident journalist Sister Mary Margaret, OP. Sister Margaret writes of the spiritual, lively and fruitful happenings at the monastery throughout 1982 and also adds an earthy event: "The garden has produced some crops under the care of Sister Stephen. Weather conditions and a woodchuck caused a lot of produce to be destroyed. However, Sister was able to bring in fresh vegetables for our meals and also freeze a lot of them for the winter months."

She also notes that their foundress, Mother Theresa, is 90 now and not in very good health. Ditto, Msgr. Leo Schwab, 88, a longtime friend of the sisters, who has been confined to St. Joseph's Hospital. Sister Margaret reports.