

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

'Indiscriminate Bombings'

San Salvador, El Salvador — Bishop Arturo Rivera Damas said Feb. 6 that "indiscriminate bombings" by the Salvadoran army were the cause of many civilian deaths during the battle for the town of Berlin. He also called for a truce in the country's three-year-old civil war in honor of Pope John Paul II, who will be visiting El Salvador in early March. Bishop Rivera, apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of San Salvador, made his remarks in a homily in the San Salvador Cathedral. In the homily he also had sharp words for guerrilla forces, wondering aloud whether the political and military aims of the rebels justified "the suffering of thousands of persons" in Berlin. Guerrilla forces held Berlin, a farming town of 30,000, for two days before the Salvadoran army retook the community, 72 hours before the bishop's homily.

Papal Death Threat

Guatemala City — Cardinal Mario Casariego of Guatemala City said he has received death threats against himself and Pope John Paul II in connection with the pope's Central American tour in March. The cardinal said Feb. 15 that he was sure no one would attempt to kill the pope when he is in Guatemala. Rather, the threats are "a kind of venting of feeling" by people "not satisfied" by the trip, he said. Guatemala is one of the seven Central American nations Pope John Paul II is scheduled to visit during his March 2-9 tour which will also include the Caribbean nation of Haiti.

Shroud to Be Displayed?

Vatican City — The Vatican refused comment Feb. 14 on widespread Italian press reports that the Holy Shroud of Turin may be brought to Rome for public display next year. The shroud, a 14-footlong linen cloth believed to be the burial shroud of Jesus, has been displayed to the public only three times this century. According to reports in a variety of Italian newspapers, including the national Catholic daily, *Avvenire*, 200 Rome and Vatican church leaders have asked Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero of Turin to arrange for the transfer of the shroud to Rome for the last two months of the Holy Year of Redemption, which is scheduled to end April 22, 1984. Church and civil leaders have expressed opposition to the proposal, especially because the pope has said that the holy year is to be celebrated not only in Rome but in each diocese throughout the world.

Nation

CRS Aids Aliens

New York — Catholic Relief Services is providing emergency food and medicine to help illegal aliens expelled from Nigeria, according to CRS headquarters in New York. About 1.2 million West Africans have left Nigeria since the government ordered the expulsion of illegal aliens in January. Beth Griffin, CRS spokeswoman, said the agency is working with local church groups to cook and serve 5,000 meals a day. Bishop Edwin Broderick, CRS executive director, said the food they are providing comes from existing stocks and "the medical supplies have been provided through the generosity of the Catholic Medical Mission Board." Ms. Griffin said that Nigeria initiated the expulsions because it is suffering from the recent drop in its oil exports and needs to ease the strain on its economy.

Workshop Scheduled

Washington — The seventh National Workshop on Christian-Jewish Relations will have as its theme, "The Next Generation of Christian-Jewish Relations." The workshop is sponsored by the Secretariat for Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Office of Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches and the Committee on Interreligious Affairs of the Synagogue Council of America, along with a number of Jewish and Christian agencies. Eugene Fisher, director of the NCCB Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, is national chairman of the workshop which is scheduled for April 25-28 in Boston.

Bishops Misquoted

Washington — Taking issue with a report by the National Catholic Reporter, Msgr. Daniel Hoyer, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that bishops at the recent Vatican-sponsored meeting on the U.S. war and peace pastoral were "at no time . . . encouraged, directly or indirectly, to disagree with papal statements on peace." A Feb. 11 story in the national Catholic weekly said that Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli gave the "green light" during the meeting for bishops' conferences "to go beyond papal statements when making their national declarations on war and peace." The story then said bishops were free to disagree with as well as to go beyond "recent papal statements," and the writer speculated on disagreements in other areas such as "abortion, women's ordination and liberation theology."

Focus on Today's World



◀ Oblate Father Robert C. Allanach, chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institution in El Reno, Okla., talks with a young Indian prisoner at the facility. Father Bob, as he is known to the inmates, persuaded prison officials to allow a sweat lodge, a large tepee where 20 or more Indians sit around a pit with hot pumice stones, and every month the priest brings a medicine man to help conduct the ceremony. (NC photo)



▲ Msgr. David L. Fisher, pastor of Mother of Sorrows parish in Murrysville, Pa., rolls along with students Kathy Johns and Kerry Kilar. The faculty and students at Mother of Sorrows School treated the priest to the roller skating party for his birthday. (NC photo)



▲ Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Dortch of Nashville's Holy Name parish create a symbol in stained glass in a project parishioners say is creating a sense of community. Members are creating 19 stained glass windows for the 125-year-old church. (NC photo)

the Saints *by Luke*

ST. WALBURGA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF WEST SAXON CHIEFTAIN RICHARD, AND SISTER OF SS. WILLIBALD AND WINNEBALD. SHE WAS BORN IN DEVONSHIRE, ENGLAND, AND EDUCATED AT WIMBORNE MONASTERY IN DORSET AND LATER BECAME A NUN THERE.

WALBURGA WAS ONE OF THE NUNS UNDER ST. LIOBA SENT BY ST. TATTA IN 748 TO HELP ST. BONIFACE IN HIS MISSIONARY WORK IN GERMANY. SHE SPENT TWO YEARS AT BISCHOFSEHEIM AND WAS APPOINTED ABBESS OF THE CONVENT OF THE DOUBLE MONASTERY AT HEIDENHEIM FOUNDED BY HER TWO BROTHERS AND BECAME ABBESS OF BOTH ON THE DEATH OF WINNEBALD, WHO WAS ABBOT, A POSITION SHE HELD UNTIL HER DEATH.

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, WALBURGA STUDIED MEDICINE, AND A FLUID FROM THE ROCKS ON WHICH HER RELICS REST (REPUTEDLY HAS PRODUCED MANY CURES.

SHE IS KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, AMONG THEM WALPURGIS, FALBOURG, VAUBOURG AND WARBURG.

ST. WALBURGA DIED AROUND 779 AND HER FEAST IS FEB. 25.



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