

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

World

Poland's Bishops Protest

Warsaw, Poland — The bishops of Poland's 28 Catholic dioceses condemned recent attacks on Pope John Paul II in the Soviet press. At the close of a Feb. 23-24 meeting in Warsaw the bishops said that articles, which accused the pope of "subversive activity" in his Polish homeland, were "obviously devoid of any foundation." The statement did not specify which articles were meant, but Polish sources said the bishops were referring to accusations which appeared in January in government journals both in Czechoslovakia and in the Soviet Union. The bishops said that such articles retard the progress of world peace, "of which the Holy Father is the constant herald and the one who searches tirelessly to realize it."

Apartheid Is a Burning Fuse

London — South Africa faces a "final explosion" over apartheid unless the dim possibility of "peaceful revolution" is realized, said Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban, president of the South Africa Catholic Bishops' Conference, in a speech in London March 1. Asked if anything but ruthless violence can end the system of strict racial segregation, the archbishop said at present a peaceful solution does not seem possible. But he also said conditions do not exist for a guerrilla war of liberation by blacks. Archbishop Hurley has long been an outspoken opponent of apartheid and has been a leader in bringing the Catholic Church in South Africa to confront the issue.

The Plot Thickens

Rome — Italian authorities are investigating whether Mehmet Ali Agca, convicted assailant of Pope John Paul II, was also involved in a plot to kill Polish labor leader Lech Walesa. The Italian Ministry of Justice confirmed March 1 that Rome's public prosecutor, Ferdinand Imposimato, had issued judicial communiques to Agca, to Bulgarian Sergei Antonov and to Italian union leader Luigi Scricciolo, advising them that they were under investigation for complicity in a plot to kill Walesa when he was in Rome in 1981. Several weeks ago Italian news media reported that Scricciolo had confessed to a plot to kill Walesa, and Rai, Italy's state-run TV network, reported in late February that Agca had told investigators that Antonov was planning to blow up Walesa's car.

Nation

Changes in Hatch Bill?

Washington — A key Senate subcommittee has begun exploring the possibility of "streamlining" the Hatch Amendment on abortion and simply returning the abortion issue to the states. Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.), in testimony Feb. 28 before the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, urged the streamlining in part because, he said, an amendment more modest than the Hatch proposal would have the greatest chance of passing Congress. Eagleton said he was convinced "that a Constitutional Amendment focusing on a simple reversal of the (1973 abortion decisions) will may be the most politically feasible yet meaningful step the Congress can take." The Missouri Senator's proposed amendment would remove the section of the Hatch Amendment which gives Congress and the states the power to enact new abortion restrictions. The new amendment would then simply read: "A right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution," wiping the Supreme Court's abortion decisions off the books and returning the nation's abortion laws to pre-1973, when a majority of states prohibited most abortions.

Cardinal Says No Delay

Chicago — The U.S. Catholic bishops will not delay consideration of their third draft of a pastoral letter on nuclear war, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago told a group urging postponement of action on the controversial document. The group, Catholics for Responsible Action, has been critical of the proposed pastoral, subject of a special meeting of the bishops May 2-3 in Chicago. In a Feb. 3 letter to the cardinal the group called for postponement of action to permit further dialogue. Cardinal Bernardin, chairman of The National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee drafting the pastoral, wrote to members of CRA that he could not grant a delay because "we have been mandated to present a third draft for review, debate and approval at the May meeting." CRA, based in the Chicago Archdiocese, has 300-400 members in the Chicago area and has conducted a petition drive calling for delay.

People

Washington (NC) — Pope John Paul II has appointed the 49-year-old Auxiliary Bishop Stanley G. Schlarbaum of Belleville, Ill., Bishop of Dodge City, Kan.

Focus on Today's World



◀ Quillie Edwards sorts out more than 60 packages that arrived in Detroit from West Germany containing food, vitamins and clothing. Upon hearing newspaper and television reports on widespread unemployment in the city, the Germans wanted to respond with gifts similar to CARE packages Americans sent them following World War II. (NC photo)



▲ Father Richard Hermann, pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Lima, Wis., throws another log in the furnace which heats the parish school. Instead of burning 35,000 gallons of heating oil in a winter, about 100 cords of wood are consumed — all donated by people of the community. (NC photo)



▲ Bishop Daniel A. Cronin of Fall River, Mass., confirms iron lung patient John Hersee, 21, at the young man's home in Norton, Mass. At left is Msgr. John J. Oliveira, diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of Faith. Hersee, a member of St. Mary's parish in Norton, suffers from muscular dystrophy and has been confined to the iron lung for two years. (NC photo)

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the Saints *by Luke*

TERESA MARGARET WAS BORN IN 1747, IN AREZZO, ITALY, AND CHRISTENED ANNE MARY. WHEN ANNE MARY WAS 10, SHE WAS SENT TO ST. APOLLONIA CONVENT IN FLORENCE TO BE EDUCATED. SHE RETURNED HOME SEVEN YEARS LATER.

KNOWN FOR HER PIETY EVEN AS A CHILD, ANNE MARY JOINED THE DISCALCED CARMELITES IN 1765 AT ST. TERESA CONVENT IN FLORENCE, AND TOOK THE NAME TERESA MARGARET OF THE SACRED HEART.

TERESA LIVED A LIFE OF PRAYER AND RIGOROUS PENANCE, AND HAD AN EXTRAORDINARY DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART. SHE DIED AT THE CONVENT AT THE AGE OF 23 AND WAS CANONIZED IN 1934 BY POPE PIUS XI.

THE FEAST OF ST. TERESA MARGARET, VIRGIN, IS CELEBRATED ON MARCH 11.



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