

World, Nation, People... in Brief

World

Provided by NC News Service

Call for Demonstrations

Warsaw, Poland — A call for anti-government demonstrations on May 1 by underground Solidarity leaders is an effort to seek confrontation with the government prior to the June visit of Pope John Paul II, said a joint communique issued April 19 by the government and the Communist Party's Politburo. By calling for demonstrations May 1 the underground sought to "cast a shadow over the preparations for, and put into question, the conditions necessary for a papal visit," the communique said. While a government official discounted the chances of such demonstrations leading to a postponement of Pope John Paul's trip, an April 19 front-page commentary in the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita (The Republic) implied that postponement could result if the anti-government rallies took place. The call for the demonstrations came April 14 from members of the Solidarity Provisional Coordinating Committee, after meetings with Lech Walesa, founder and head of Solidarity.

Document Prepared

Vatican City — An international group of religious education experts is helping the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy prepare a document on teaching church doctrine which is expected to be published as a revision of the 1971 General Catechetical Directory. "The document will incorporate criteria and guidelines for the preparation of catechetical material, but it will not be a catechism," said Msgr. Wilfrid Paradis, one of two Americans on the International Council for Catechesis, which met in Rome April 11-16. The Vatican founded the council as an autonomous advisory body to the clergy congregation in 1973. Its 24 members come from 22 countries and include bishops, priests, two nuns, two lay women and a lay man.

Nation

Nativity Review Set

Washington — The Supreme Court has agreed to review whether local governments can sponsor nativity scenes at Christmas without violating separation of church and state. The high court, in an announcement April 18, said it would review a case from Pawtucket, R.I., in which two lower federal courts have ruled that city sponsorship of a nativity was unconstitutional. Though limited to the issue in Pawtucket, the justices' decision in this case may settle several other disputes around the nation over officially sanctioned nativity scenes. Some of those disputes have involved local Knights of Columbus councils that have purchased nativity scenes for erection on public property. The high court's ruling may not come until late this year or in 1984.

Beware Interpretations

Providence, R.I. — Catholics should not rely on secular interpretations of the U.S. bishops' proposed pastoral letter on war and peace, Bishop Daniel Reilly of Norwich, Conn., said April 14. Bishop Reilly, a member of the five-bishop committee responsible for writing the document, said in a speech in Providence, "It's not a political document, it's a document coming from the soul and the spirit." At a press conference before his speech the bishop said that the third draft can in no way be considered an endorsement of Reagan administration policy. He offered a cautiously positive appraisal, however, of President Reagan's recent proposal of laser weapons in space as a defense against nuclear weapons.

'Time to Recognize Women'

New York — The time has come for the church to recognize women's role in ministry, Bishop William A. Hughes of Covington, Ky., said in an address April 17 at St. James Cathedral in Brooklyn, N.Y. Addressing the topic, "Being Catholic in the 21st Century: A New Educational Approach," Bishop Hughes said that as society was making an increasing effort to recognize the equality of women, so there was "a growing awareness" that the church needs to address the question. "While the question of admission of women to the priesthood demands further historical and theological research, their induction into all other ministries has the backing both of theology and tradition," he said. Bishop Hughes, 61, was the second of six speakers in the cathedral's annual "Shepherds Speak" series.

Boycott Continues

New York — Despite disagreement with a denominational task force, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries has voted to continue support for the Nestle boycott. Another Methodist agency, the Board of Church and Society, also is continuing support for the boycott against Nestle, a firm that critics allege violates guidelines of the World Health Organization in promoting infant formula in the Third World. However, a denomination-wide United Methodist Infant Formula Task Force concluded after a two-year study that the church should not support the boycott, citing evidence that many United Methodist hospitals have engaged in practices apparently in violation of the WHO guidelines. Members of the Board of Global Ministries task force on the boycott said the boycott should continue until the International Nestle Boycott Committee is satisfied its criteria are met. The full board approved this position.

Focus on Today's World



Sister Alice Marie Quinn shares a meal with senior citizens at Precious Blood parish in Los Angeles. The dinners for the elderly are part of the Meals-on-Wheels program sponsored by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and directed by Sister Quinn. In 1982, volunteers delivered 13,000 meals each month to senior citizens in their homes and another 4,000 meals were served monthly at Precious Blood. (NC photo)



Father Fabian Dick cuts out denim material for designer jeans at St. Mary's Monastery near Hecla, Pa. In a renovated barn, the Cistercian monks cut an average of 5,000 garments a week — anything from Calvin Klein jeans to jogging suits. (NC photo)



In a suburb of Chimbote about 300 miles northwest of Lima, Peru, four young men transport a coffin on a tricycle through a flooded village street. As many as 200 are feared dead as severe flooding hit the region. (NC photo)

the Saints *by Luke*

BORN AT CLUET, NEAR BELLEY, FRANCE, PETER WAS A SHEPHERD IN HIS YOUTH AND SPENT MUCH TIME IN DIVINE CONTEMPLATION AS HE WATCHED OVER HIS SHEEP. LATER HE STUDIED UNDER THE PARISH PRIEST AT GRAS AND WAS ORDAINED IN 1827.

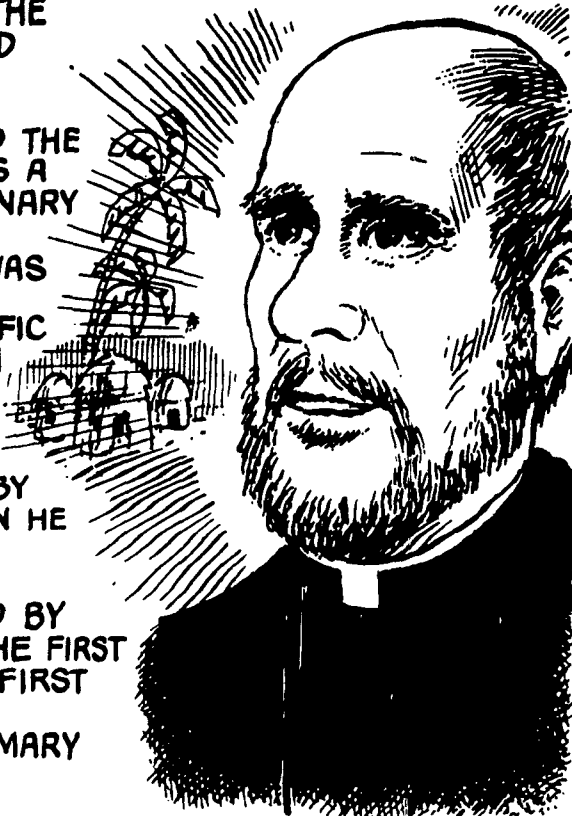
HE SERVED AS PARISH PRIEST AT CROZET, JOINED THE MARISTS IN 1831 AND WAS A PROFESSOR AT THEIR SEMINARY IN BELLEY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. IN 1836 HE WAS SENT AS A MISSIONARY TO NEW HEBRIDES IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND WORKED WITH SOME SUCCESS ON THE ISLAND OF FUTUNA.

PETER WAS MURDERED THERE ON APRIL 28, 1841, BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF WHEN HE FOUND THAT HIS SON WANTED TO BE BAPTIZED.

PETER WAS CANONIZED BY POPE PIUS XII IN 1954 — THE FIRST MARIST MARTYR AND THE FIRST MARTYR OF OCEANIA.

THE FEAST OF ST. PETER MARY CHANEL IS APRIL 28.

ST. PETER MARY CHANEL



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