

World, Nation, People... in Brief

World

Lithuanian Priest Convicted

Moscow — Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, a Lithuanian priest, was convicted May 6 of "anti-constitutional and anti-state activity" and sentenced to seven years in jail, the Soviet news agency Tass reported. The priest's conviction came after a two-day trial in Vilna, the capital of the Soviet republic of Lithuania. Father Svarinskas, a 58-year-old pastor, had been jailed since Jan. 26 on suspicion of distributing anti-Soviet material to the foreign press and preaching against the government. Co-founder of the Catholic Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Believers, a clandestine group, the priest was convicted and jailed on similar charges in 1947 and 1958.

Newspaper Praises Reagan

San Salvador, El Salvador — The weekly newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Salvador, *Orientacion*, has praised President Reagan's policies toward El Salvador and supported U.S. military aid. "Without a doubt this country would be reaching the limit of its admirable resistance had it not been for the military and economic assistance of America," said an editorial in the paper's May 8 edition. The editorial, titled "A Speech Gives Hope," praised Reagan's April 27 speech to Congress outlining his Central American policy, saying it helped change what the paper regarded as favorable U.S. public opinion toward the guerrillas. The director of *Orientacion*, Father Roberto Amilcar Torruella, who wrote the editorial, said May 10 that he had not received any criticism from Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas of San Salvador nor from any other bishop about the editorial, implying that they agree with it.

Polish Priest Jailed

Warsaw, Poland — Polish authorities have jailed a 68-year-old Jesuit priest after he appealed for donations to help those imprisoned after anti-government demonstrations on May Day, church sources said May 11. Jesuit Father Stefan Dzierzek, superior of the Jesuit community in Kalisz, west of Warsaw, was sentenced to two months in jail, the police commander there said. Father Dzierzek received an 18-month suspended sentence earlier this year for violating a law forbidding abuse of religious freedom. It was not clear whether that sentence would be imposed now.

Nation

Catholics 'Free to Disagree'

New Orleans — Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans stressed May 9 that "Catholics are free in conscience to disagree" with conclusions of the U.S. bishops' new pastoral on war and peace. The archbishop, the most outspoken critic of the pastoral within the U.S. hierarchy over the past year, said in a seven-page statement on the pastoral that he objected to the tone and a number of specific conclusions in the final document, which the bishops approved at a special meeting May 2-3 in Chicago. He charged that the language of the letter involves a basic "inconsistency or contradiction" in objecting to virtually any possible use of nuclear weapons while accepting nuclear deterrence. And he expressed disappointment over the lack of a "more candid appraisal of the aggression against human rights perpetrated by the Soviets." Bishop Hannan also said in a press conference May 4 that he is "100 percent for peace" and considers his views "far more peace-serving" than those expressed in the pastoral.

People

Pope John Paul II has named **Auxiliary Bishop John J. O'Connor** of the U.S. Military Ordinariate to be bishop of Scranton, Pa. He succeeds Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, who resigned in February. Msgr. Eugenio Sharbaro, charge d'affaires at the apostolic delegation in Washington, announced the appointment. Bishop O'Connor, 63, is former chief chaplain of the U.S. Navy and was a member of the committee which prepared the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on war and peace. In an interview with *Catholic New York*, newspaper of the New York Archdiocese, Bishop O'Connor said he objected to the inclusion of specific strategic and political proposals in the pastoral, but that he had voted in favor of it. He also said he would do his best to see that it will be faithfully taught in his new diocese. . . . Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignations of two Wisconsin bishops, **Bishop Aloysius J. Wycislo** of Green Bay, 74, and **Bishop Frederick W. Freking** of La Crosse, 69. The bishops will serve as apostolic administrators of their dioceses until successors are appointed. Bishop Wycislo has headed the Green Bay Diocese since 1968. Bishop Freking has been head of the La Crosse Diocese since 1964. . . . **Ralph Kraft**, retired general manager of the Catholic Press Union, died May 12 of liver cancer at his Dallas home after a brief illness. He was 66. The Catholic Press Union, for which Kraft had worked for 26 years, is composed of three diocesan papers in Ohio: *The Catholic Universe Bulletin*, Cleveland; *The Catholic Chronicle* of Toledo; and *The Catholic Exponent* of Youngstown.

Focus on Today's World



Father Juan Ramon de Leon, pastor of Templo de Santa Cruz Tlapacoya church in Santa Cruz Tlapacoya, Mexico, sorts through rubble after a fireworks explosion demolished the church and killed at least 20 parishioners. The town of 12,000 was celebrating an annual festival when sparks from a fireworks display touched off additional fireworks stored behind the altar. (NC Photo)



As the Polish-American String Band plays during the Catholic Press Association convention in Philadelphia, Cardinal John Krol dances his way to the exit. Cardinal Krol, of Philadelphia, a Polish-American, was the guest of honor during the convention's opening dinner. (NC Photo)



The headless statue of St. Paul stands amid the clutter of roof tiles in the wreck of St. Paul's Church in Coalinga, Calif. The church was badly damaged in the earthquake that shook the central California town of 7,000 people. (NC Photo)

the Saints *by Luke*

ST. HUMILITY

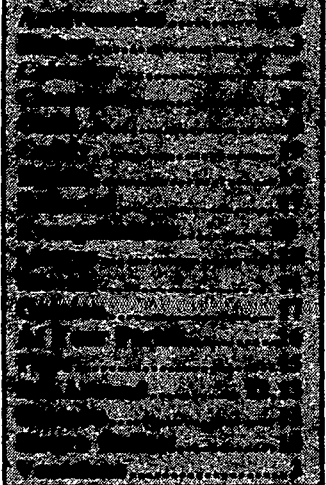


BORN AT FAENZA, ITALY, IN 1226, OF A WEALTHY FAMILY, ROSANA WAS MARRIED AT 15 TO A NOBLEMAN NAMED UGOLETTO. THEY HAD TWO CHILDREN WHO DIED IN INFANCY. AFTER UGOLETTO RECOVERED FROM A NEARLY FATAL ILLNESS, THEY BOTH ENTERED ST. PERPETUA DOUBLE MONASTERY NEAR FAENZA, HE AS A LAY BROTHER AND SHE AS A NUN WITH THE NAME HUMILITY.

AS A RECLUSE IN A CELL ADJOINING ST. APOLLINARIS CHURCH FOR 12 YEARS, SHE LIVED A LIFE OF GREAT AUSTERITY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE VALLOMBROSAN ABBEY OF ST. CRISPIN.

AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE ABBOT GENERAL OF THE VALLOMBROSANS, SHE BECAME FOUNDING ABBESS OF SANTA MARIA NOVELLA CONVENT AT MALTA, NEAR FAENZA (THE FIRST VALLOMBROSAN CONVENT FOR NUINS). SHE ESTABLISHED A SECOND HOUSE IN FLORENCE, ITALY, WHERE SHE DIED ON MAY 22, 1310. HER FEAST IS MAY 22.

On The Inside



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Vol 94, No. 33 May 18, 1983

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)

Published weekly, except for one week after July 4 and one week after Christmas, by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 35¢. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada and Foreign \$20. Offices: 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607 (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

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