

Did Reagan Receive Communion?

WASHINGTON (NC) -- President Reagan attended a funeral Mass and received Communion at the Navy Chapel in Washington June 2, a White House spokesman confirmed June 6.

The Mass was celebrated for Joseph R. Holmes, a long-time Reagan aide who died of cancer May 27. Leading members of the administration, including White House counselor

Edwin Meese III, were at the Mass. The president and Nancy Reagan attended the Mass and took Communion before leaving for a four-day weekend at Camp David.

The event was reported June 3 in the Washington Post. Efforts to reach Father (Commodore) John R. McNamara, the Navy chaplain who celebrated the Mass, were not successful. But at the White House, assistant

press secretary Mark Wineberg confirmed the information three days later.

In Father McNamara's office, Father (Capt.) Joseph O'Donnell, Navy chaplain and executive assistant to the chief of chaplains, said he was not present at the Mass but that non-Catholics such as Reagan are sometimes given Communion.

"When I'm up distributing Communion I'm not making judgments about who should receive and who should not. The fact that it happened to have been the president of the United States doesn't mean beans."

The only way a priest can deny a person Communion on the spur of the moment is if that person is a public sinner, according to Father O'Donnell. President Reagan "is hardly a public sinner in the eyes of the church."

Father John Hotchkin, director of the bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said if approached by non-Catholics priests "are trained not to refuse the sacrament so publicly. You might be misjudging them and cause other people to misjudge...Normally you give them the benefit of the doubt and proceed."

In the case of a public figure such as the president, "on the spur of the moment the priest might proceed as normally," Father Hotchkin said.

Guerrillas Hanged Despite Pleas Of Church, U.S.

Pretoria, South Africa (NC) -- Three black guerrillas were hanged June 9 after the white-minority government rejected numerous national and international reprieve pleas, including a last-minute appeal from the South African Catholic bishops.

"When there is a denial of human rights and one makes the rules and the other must conform or suffer the consequences, it is sad to see young men going to the gallows for actions that though in themselves reprehensible flow from circumstances induced by frustration, humiliation and desperation," said a statement issued June 8 by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

"On behalf of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference I earnestly plead with the state presidency to grant a reprieve to Simon Mogerane, Jerry Mosololi and Marcus Motaung," said the statement signed by Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban, conference president.

A last minute reprieve appeal was also issued by the Catholic clergy of Durban "on the grounds that execution is inseparable from political context and will exacerbate feelings, intensify conflict and further reduce hope for reconciliation."

The three men, members of the illegal African National Congress, were sentenced to death after being convicted in August 1982 of high treason and murder. The government said they participated in attacks on police stations in which four black policemen died.

Other reprieve pleas came

from the U.S. State Department, 53 U.S. senators and representatives, the United Nations and several Western European nations.

In Washington, the State Department said June 8 that further deaths would not solve the region's problems.

Previously, the South African government had commuted the death sentences of three other African National Congress members. But the government said the June 9 executions were necessary to protect "internal security."

The three men, aged 23, 25 and 27, were executed at dawn June 9 at the Pretoria Central Prison, said Coenie de Swart, spokesman for the Department of Prisons.



Scholarship

Brenda Hailstone, a Cardinal Mooney senior, will receive a two-year, full-tuition scholarship worth \$8,300 to the Fashion Institute of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The competition involved the creation of a master plan for a retail cosmetics store.

'The Fact That It Happened To Have Been the President Doesn't Mean Beans'

He added that while most Roman Catholic priests "wouldn't want to seem to judge too harshly," and refuse the sacrament, "Orthodox priests are more likely to give a blessing" instead of Communion to a non-Orthodox who approaches the altar.

Father Hotchkin said non-Catholics may receive permission from a bishop to receive the sacraments of reconciliation, the Eucharist and anointing of the sick under certain conditions.

The non-Catholic must have a faith in the sacrament that is in agreement with the Catholic faith, should have the proper disposition to re-

ceive the sacrament and should have a serious spiritual need for it, Father Hotchkin said.

Also, if the non-Catholic is in a situation where for a period of time his own minister would be unavailable he could receive permission from a bishop to receive Communion, Father Hotchkin said.

Usually the funeral of a Catholic friend would not be considered a case of serious spiritual need, he said, but if the non-Catholic had not requested permission in advance from the bishop it's not likely he would be turned away at Mass.

Meeting Slated On Adoption

An informational meeting on Korean adoption is scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, at the Brighton Town Hall (downstairs meeting room).

The meeting is sponsored by Love the Children -- an

adoption agency based in Pennsylvania with a local telephone number. Infants and older children are available for adoption from Korea. Anyone interested in attending the June 21 meeting should call 223-1868 to register.

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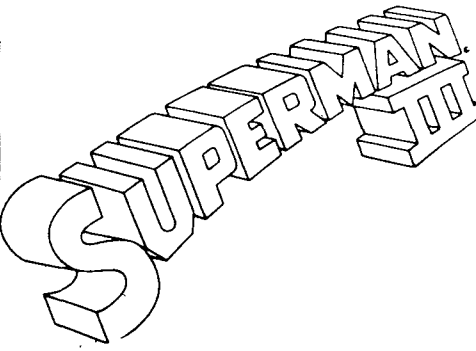
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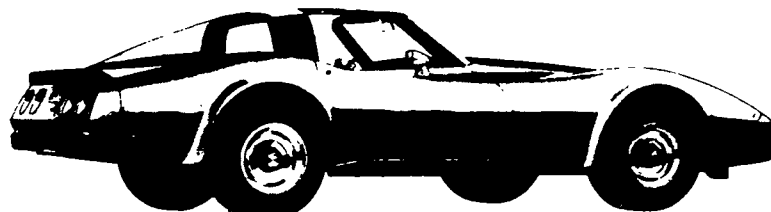
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