

# World, Nation, People... in Brief

## World

### Priest Resigns from Paper

Vatican City — Father Virgilio Levi was forced to resign June 25 as vice director of L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican's semi-official newspaper, after he created an international controversy with a front-page editorial declaring that Polish labor leader Lech Walesa is no longer a key force in his country's future. In announcing the resignation, the Vatican did not repudiate the editorial itself. The priest's forced departure was a Vatican signal that it rejected misinterpretations of the editorial by the media, Vatican sources said.

### Doctor, Seven Charged

Winnipeg, Manitoba — Dr. Henry Morgentaler of Montreal and seven others have been charged under the Canadian federal criminal code with conspiracy to procure an abortion. The criminal code states that a legal abortion may be performed only in an accredited or approved hospital after an abortion committee has ruled the pregnancy may endanger the life or health of the mother.

### Truckers End Strike

Santiago, Chile — Independent truck owners ended a nationwide strike June 26, two days after Chile's Catholic bishops had called for a dialogue between the military government and its critics. An indefinite strike had been called June 23 by the truckers and the National Labor Command, a coalition of trade unions, to protest economic policies and a government crackdown on labor dissidents and to pressure for a greater labor voice in government.

### Vatican Yearbook Published

Vatican City — Neither latent homosexuality nor bisexuality is in itself a valid reason to annul a marriage, the church's central marriage court ruled last year. The decisions were made public with the recent publication of the 1982 Vatican Yearbook, "L'Attività Della Santa Sede" (Activity of the Holy See), which summarizes the actions of Pope John Paul II and various Vatican agencies during the year.

## Nation

### 'Totalitarian' Warning

Chicago — Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago has warned that the recent Bob Jones University decision by the U.S. Supreme Court could lead to "totalitarianism at its worst" by "coercing consciences in the name of enforcing public policy." He lauded the immediate effect of the court's decision — denying tax exemption to racially discriminatory institutions — but said he and other religious leaders have "mixed feelings" about the ruling because of the possible implications of the reasoning behind it.

### Treat Abuses Openly

Indianapolis — The church in the United States should deal more openly with alcohol and drug abuse problems, said members of the national Clergy Conference on Alcoholism and Related Drug Problems at their annual convention. The organization was founded in 1949 for alcoholic priests but has since opened its membership to all religious and laymen. Augustinian Father Michael P. Hogan of Miami, speaking at the June 19-24 convention, challenged church leadership "to acknowledge and respond to the epidemic of alcohol and other drug abuse in our nation, especially among youth."

### Morality Being Corrupted

Charleston, S.C. — Calling surrogate motherhood a money-making business, Paul C. Beach, director of the Family Life Office of the Charleston Diocese, said that it is corrupting America's morality. Writing in the Charleston News and Courier and Evening Post, Beach, a political scientist specializing in ethics and public policy, quoted from various sources to show that the business of bearing a child for an infertile couple is booming.

### Program May Dispel Prejudice

Philadelphia — A joint school project by Catholic Relief Services and Moslem businessmen in Lebanon could help dispel religious prejudice in that war-torn country, a top CRS official said. Interviewed by telephone from New York after his recent trip to Rome and Middle East trouble spots, Msgr. Robert F. Coll, CRS assistant director, said that during his trip he met with leading Arab businessmen to explore the idea of a joint Christian-Moslem school project. They reached an agreement in principle on the plan, he said.

# Agca Says He's Sorry, Fears Curial Vengeance

By Nancy Frazier

Rome (NC) — Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman sentenced to life in prison for his attempt to kill Pope John Paul II in May 1981, described himself as a "repentant terrorist" in a 1982 letter to a top Vatican official, according to Italian press reports.

The Italian news agency Asca recently published the text of a two-page letter sent by Agca from the Marino del Tronto prison in Ascoli Piceno, Italy, to Cardinal Silvio Oddi, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy, on Sept. 24, 1982.

"I am not an enemy of the Catholic Church or of the Italian people," said the letter, written in poor Italian. "I am only a repentant terrorist."

The letter, published in full by Asca, said Agca was afraid that "you at the Vatican... one day might kill me, directly or indirectly."

"I still hope that the Vatican can change its bad thoughts about Ali Agca," the letter said. "I think that there must be some good and just person in the Vatican."

Agca did not make any direct reference to his May 13, 1981, shooting of Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square. Nor did he give any reason for his attack on the pope.

Agca said the letter from Agca to Cardinal Oddi resulted from contacts last year between the Turkish prisoner and Father Mariano Santini, then chaplain of the Ascoli Piceno prison.

Father Santini helped Agca to learn Italian, and went to his bishop for advice when Agca informed him of his intention to write to the Vatican, according to Asca.

Bishop Marcello Morgante of Ascoli Piceno recommended that the letter go to Cardinal Oddi, the news report said.

Earlier in June, Father Santini was arrested as part of an anti-Mafia crackdown aimed at alleged followers of the Camorra, a Mafia-type organization in the Naples area of southern Italy.

In an interview with Asca after the letter was published, Cardinal Oddi confirmed receiving the letter and said he had not answered it.

But he refused comment on Agca's claims, publicized through Italian judicial leaks but not contained in the letter, that he tried to kill Pope John Paul with Bulgarian accomplices.

"We priests are not policemen or magistrates," the cardinal said. "Before making definitive judgments, it is necessary to wait, to see the conclusions of the investigations."

Also in 1982, Agca wrote in English to a newspaper in Ankara, Turkey, complaining about security conditions in prison.

He said, "I have never killed anyone. I am really repentant for the pope... He has forgiven me immediately. But there are some people in the Vatican that want to kill me."

# Immigration Bill Makes 'Permanent Underclass,' Priest Authority States

By Stephanie Overman

Washington (NC) — Congress is writing in a permanent underclass of workers with no rights, Father Frank O'Loughlin of Holy Cross Church, Indiantown, Fla., said of the pending immigration reform bill sponsored by Sen. Alan K. Simpson (R-Wyo.) and Rep. Romano L. Mazzoli (D-Ky.).

Father O'Loughlin, who has worked with farm workers in Florida for 17 years, and several farm-worker representatives spoke at a press conference sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee in Washington June 23.

Father O'Loughlin said he spent a week in Washington speaking against the bill and urging Immigration and Naturalization Service officials to investigate alleged mistreatment of farm workers by the Border Patrol.

The opponents of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, which has passed the Senate and is being considered in the House, said the measure has gradually moved from an immigration bill to a labor bill which would benefit agribusiness at the expense of American and foreign workers.

The bill would permit an expansion of the H-2 temporary worker program, which allows employers to bring in foreign workers if there are not enough skilled Americans for the job.

For example, in Florida, workers from Jamaica are brought in to cut sugar cane. About 20,000 to 30,000 workers come to the United States each year.

The H-2 program is a form of "quasi-slavery" for the foreign workers, Father O'Loughlin said, because they are easily exploited and can be deported if they complain about wages or working conditions.

"Over the years we have repudiated this kind of temporary work program as immoral; we have recognized how damaging it is to the workers," he said. The H-2 program was meant to be part of the closing out of the bracero program of the 1940s and 1950s, Father O'Loughlin continued, "an emergency provision to do jobs for which Americans couldn't be found. It was never intended to open the door" for a flood of temporary foreign workers.

Instead, he said, the H-2 program "is now the hook on which the immigration bill hangs."

Maria Barajas, of Centro Campesino in Winterhaven, Fla., said farm workers already in the United States, especially women, will lose their jobs to the H-2 workers. "It means more hardships on (farm worker) families. We think conditions should be improving."

Fernando Rangel, a member of the Farm Workers Rights Organization, Immokalee, Fla., said an expanded H-2 program "stabs the farm worker movement in the back... It will kill the farm worker movement."

Father O'Loughlin said that to opponents of the bill "public enemy No. 1 is the Catholic Church. The Church has just not done enough." The U.S. Catholic Conference initially gave guarded support to the bill, then withdrew its support.

Father O'Loughlin said Hispanics unfamiliar with the bill might think it is good because illegal aliens who have been in the United States for years would receive amnesty and because sanctions imposed against employers who hire illegal workers could protect domestic jobs.

"But any who know anything about it are angry at the Church," for not strongly opposing it, he said.

He and other speakers said the employer sanctions have not worked in the past and will not protect workers.

"The only thing that might have appealed to us (about the bill) was legalization" for some of the illegal workers, Father O'Loughlin said. "But that's a sham." He said he believes almost no illegal aliens would receive amnesty because they could not prove they had been in the United States long enough to qualify.

The amnesty provision in the Senate version of the bill would allow illegal aliens who could show they entered the United States before 1977 to become permanent residents who could apply for citizenship after five years. Workers who arrived between that date and Dec. 31, 1979, could receive legal status as temporary residents and after three years could become permanent residents.

The House version, approved by the Judiciary Committee in May and expected to be considered by the full House in July, would grant permanent residency to illegal aliens who could show they have been in the country since Jan. 1, 1982.

### Haitian Choir Issues Record

Miami (NC) — A 30-member choir of Catholic Haitians plans to tour south Florida and present concerts in an effort to sell its first record and raise funds for three Haitians centers operated by the Archdiocese of Miami.

"A Haitian Mass" (Lames Ayisyen) is the title of the Notre Dame de Haiti's Choir's first recording, which already has sold 300 records.

Three thousand records were pressed at a cost of \$10,000, according to Father Thomas Wenski, associate director of the Miami center.

Although the records sell for \$8.98 each and the breakeven point is about 700 records away, Father Wenski sees a positive benefit from the tour.

"It's a good way of spreading good news about Haitians. Through this music, an American congregation comes to relate to Haitians as fellow worshippers rather than people who speak a strange language and have different colored skin."

Records of the Haitian choir may be ordered from Father Thomas Wenski, 110 NE 62 St., Miami, FL 33138.

## COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Matthew H. Clark  
President

Anthony J. Costello  
Publisher &  
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci  
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman  
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 94, No. 40 July 6, 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.