

While We Were Away...

Annually, the Courier-Journal does not publish the week after the Fourth of July. Of course, that does not mean the world stops twirling.

In an effort to keep readers up with stories that may not have appeared elsewhere and/or as a matter of record, we are providing the following capsulized wrapup of such happenings — not necessarily in the order of importance.

Archbishop Lefebvre Retires

French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre formally resigned June 29 as head of the dissident Society of Priests of St. Pius X, a traditionalist group which rejects the Second Vatican Council.

Bishops Condemn Plastic Bullets, Death Penalty

Plastic bullets should be withdrawn as riot-control weapons, said the bishops of Northern Ireland July 4. The bishops also joined other church groups in warning against a move to restore the death penalty in Great Britain, including capital punishment for terrorist crimes in Northern Ireland. Such a move would be "disastrous," they said.

Courts May Speed Appeals From Death-Row Inmates

The Supreme Court ruled July 6 that federal appeals courts may adopt procedures to speed up the handling of last-minute appeals from death row inmates. By a 6-3 vote in the case (Barefoot v. Estelle), the justices upheld expedited procedures used by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for Texas death row inmate Thomas Barefoot, convicted in 1978 of killing a police officer.

Mini-skirt Barred at Vatican

The Vatican's long-time rule that visitors must be dressed "decently" kept singer Rod Stewart's mini-skirted wife out of St. Peter's Basilica July 5. Guards outside the basilica ruled that the skirt worn by Alana Collins, an ex-model and Stewart's wife, could not be considered "decent dress" under the basilica's rules. Stewart, a 38-year-old British rock singer who was on tour in Italy, decided to pass up the basilica visit after his wife was refused entry.

Poster Plea

A poster with the photograph of missing 15-year-old Vatican citizen Emanuela Orlandi pleads for information on the girl, believed kidnapped. A self-described captor of Emanuela said she would be released if convicted papal assailant Mehmet Ali Agca is released. (NC Photo)



Holy Rosary To Rebuild

Father Robert A. Meng, pastor of Holy Rosary Church, is applauded as he leads the groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, July 6, for the rebuilding of the school that was devastated by fire in December, 1981. At left is Tom Wurzer, architect of the new school. The ceremony followed a Mass at 5:30 p.m. and ended with the release of balloons by each of the more than 150 parishioners that attended.

Shrine to Become Cathedral

Responding to a request by Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York is turning over St. Ann's Church in New York's Greenwich Village for use as a cathedral by Armenian Catholics. Bishop Nerses Setian was appointed by Pope John Paul to be responsible for Armenian Catholics of the United States and Canada, a community estimated at 10,000-15,000 people. Bishop Setian will move into the church rectory in September.

Swaggart's Anti-Catholicism Still 'Serious Problem'

Bishop Stanley Ott of Baton Rouge termed recent two-hour-long talks with the Rev. Jimmy Swaggart, television evangelist, "open, vigorous, and without rancor." But there is "still a serious problem" with Mr. Swaggart's anti-Catholic views, he said. The two met in late June at Mr. Swaggart's World Ministry Center in Baton Rouge, at the bishop's request, in an effort to mend a rift between Mr. Swaggart and the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Swaggart had condemned Catholicism in nationwide telecasts and his monthly magazine as a religion of "ignorance, superstition and sin."

On the Mend

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was released from a hospital in Rome July 4 and met with Cardinal Jozep Glemp of Poland the next day at her residence. She spent most of June in a hospital suffering from exhaustion and has been advised to continue resting for a time.

Director Named

Gian Franco Svidercoschi, 46, an Italian journalist, has been named assistant director of the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, replacing Father Virgilio Levi, who left the paper after it published a controversial editorial about Polish labor leader Lech Walesa. (NC Photo)



Chaplains' Prayers OK

Opening sessions of state legislatures and Congress with prayers led by paid chaplains does not violate the constitutionally required separation of church and state, the Supreme Court ruled July 5. The court voted, 6-3, to overturn a decision by the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit which had said that the presentation of a single religious view over many years had in effect established an official religion.

Journalist Dies

Msgr. John B. Cavanaugh, 74, former editor of the Register papers, died July 5 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver. He joined the Register system after ordination in 1936 and started in the editorial department, later becoming circulation manager and then managing director. He retired from the Register in 1966 and became a pastor in Fort Collins, Colo.

Parental Notice 'Unlawful'

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled unlawful a federal regulation requiring parental notification when teenagers receive contraceptives from federally funded family planning clinics. The court said the regulation undermined Congress' intent regarding Title X of the Public Health Act, which makes "comprehensive family planning services readily available to all persons desiring such services."

Is Nothing Sacred?

Seems those usually austere though courteous Swiss Guards who patrol the Vatican may be very human after all. Three photographs published in a Rome daily newspaper has led to a ban on sunbathing by the guards and a flat denial that the subjects of the photo were papal secretaries. The photos showed two blurry male figures sunbathing in scanty bathing suits and Il Messaggero claimed they might be secretaries of the pope. "Let's get serious," said Father Romeo Panciroli, director of the Vatican Press Office, regarding the activities of papal officials. However, light seemed to be shed on the issue by Cmdr. Roland Buchs, head of the Swiss Guards, who slapped a ban on sunbathing by members of the corps at the Vatican.

Pontiff Starts Vacation

Pope John Paul II began his two-month summer vacation at the papal summer residence in Castelgandolfo, 15 miles from Rome, July 10.

New Baby Doe Rule

The Washington government revealed a new version of its Baby Doe rule which forbids medical discrimination against handicapped newborns. Issuance of the new rule, an update of an earlier version struck down by a court in April, was announced June 30. The new regulation was released only in draft form to give interested parties 60 days to react. It calls for hospitals to post notices stating that federal law forbids discriminatory medical treatment of the handicapped and provides a telephone number for people to report incidents of such bias. It also states that federal law "does not require the imposition of futile therapies which merely temporarily prolong the process of dying of an infant born terminally ill."

Implementing Pastoral

U.S. Catholic educators have started moving to get the war and peace pastoral into the curriculum for this coming school year. Reportedly, in some classrooms the pastoral will be taught as a separate topic and in others it will be presented in relation to existing curriculum units. Such plans were formulated at a national conference June 28-30 attended by 300 people called "The Challenge of Peace: A Call to Educators." It took place under the aegis of the Justice and Peace Educational Council. Keynote was Father J. Bryan Hehir, director for international justice and peace for the U.S. Catholic Conference and principal staff aid to the committee of bishops that drafted the pastoral.



Symbolic Graveyard

Father Ken Gallagher, co-pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Langdon, N.D., leads a prayer service in the parish's symbolic graveyard for aborted babies. The graveyard was started on the church's lawn and playground after a Supreme Court ruling striking down local restrictions on abortion. (NC Photo)

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