

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

World

No Gatherings Allowed

Gdansk, Poland — In an effort to dissuade anti-government protests, Gdansk authorities have clamped tight controls on public gatherings. Among the controls is a prohibition against using places of worship for meetings which are not connected to religion. The controls were announced Aug. 16 by Gen. Mieczyslaw Cygan, provincial governor of Gdansk, who said the measures would last until Sept. 15. Government critics interpreted the controls as an attempt to head off rallies on Aug. 31 to mark the third anniversary of the founding of Solidarity, the independent labor union which became illegal under martial law.

Search for Girl in Vain

Vatican City — At the close of a busy mid-August weekend, Italian police stood no closer to a solution in the kidnapping case of a Vatican teen-ager, Emanuela Orlandi. On Aug. 14 police combed through woods and abandoned farm houses in a rugged section of central Italy in a fruitless 24-hour search for the girl. The search began after a letter delivered to an Italian news agency the previous day had claimed that the 14-year-old girl was being held in the area.

Nation

Three Lead Hunger Strike

Columbus, Ga. — Three Catholics protesting U.S. training of Salvadoran cadets at Fort Benning will not eat until the cadets leave the fort, their supporters say. The 487 Salvadoran officer candidates will finish training at Fort Benning Sept. 21, according to Maj. Donald Maple of Army public affairs. Linda Ventimiglia, 32, an Army Reserve warrant officer from Salem, Ala.; Oblate Father Larry Rosebaugh, 48, of Chicago; and Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, 44, of Luther, La., began the hunger strike Aug. 13 in the Muscogee County Jail, Columbus.

Church Leased For \$1

Denver — A Denver Catholic church will continue to serve as a parish, even though it has been sold to a development corporation planning a major construction project on the surrounding property, according to Archbishop James V. Casey of Denver. The sale-leaseback of Holy Ghost Church to Lawder Corp., which plans to build a 43-story office building on the property, was announced by the archbishop. The church building was leased back to the archdiocese for 500 years at \$1 a year.

Nativity Scenes Go to Court

Washington — The nation's largest association of Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches has urged the Supreme Court not to permit local governments to sponsor nativity scenes at Christmas. The National Council of Churches, along with the American Jewish Committee, said in a joint friend-of-the-court brief that government sponsorship of the scenes is a violation of separation of church and state. The brief was filed in mid-August in connection with a lawsuit challenging the erection of a nativity scene by the city of Pawtucket, R.I. The Supreme Court will review the case in its term which begins Oct. 3, and a ruling is expected sometime next year.

Fewer Masses Ordered

Hartford, Conn. — There will be fewer Masses in the Archdiocese of Hartford after Jan. 1, but those which remain should be of higher quality, according to a new directive from Archbishop John R. Whealon of Hartford. The directives call for no more than one Saturday-night-for-Sunday-obligation Mass in each parish, dropping most Masses at which the church is less than half full, scheduling Masses at least 90 minutes apart and eliminating Sunday afternoon Masses. He cited as reasons the exhaustion level of priests called upon to celebrate "too many Masses," with insufficient attention to the quality of liturgy.

People

Mary Dicks, who organized volunteer efforts to assist Haitians detained for more than a year in a federal correctional institution near Saranac Lake, N.Y., was commended for her efforts by the U.S. Catholic Conference. Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye, USCC general secretary, said that "officials of the Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Catholic Conference assure me that the program which you initiated contributed significantly to the well-being and eventual resettlement of these people." An American priest, **Father Aloysius Schwartz**, has been named winner of the 1983 Magsaysay Award for International Understanding. Father Schwartz, a Washington, D.C., native, received the award for his efforts to bring help from abroad to the people of South Korea. He operates orphanages, hospitals and a home for destitute men in Seoul and Pusan, South Korea.

Focus on Today's World



Irene Auberlin, 86, founder of the World Medical Relief, pauses from her duties as volunteers sort medicines for distribution to the needy throughout the world. She and her staff of 230 retired senior citizens draw no salary as they ship tons of medicines and equipment from the eight-story inner city Detroit warehouse. (NC Photo)



Ralph Kinnet, a St. Vincent de Paul member from Sun City, Ariz., helps children select clothes for school from the society's warehouse in south Phoenix. For the second year about 2,000 needy children from several Arizona towns have been outfitted with school clothes with the help of the society. (NC Photo)



Pope John Paul II mingles with the crowd of ill and handicapped people on stretchers and in wheelchairs at the Lourdes Grotto during his visit last week. (NC Photo)

On The Inside

At Your Parish	7
Bishop Clark	5
Books	10
Challenge of Peace	16
Child	10
Classified	15
Caddy	4
Editorial	13
Library	14
Movies	10
Opinion	13
Pope	14
Shannon	5
Stivers Reflect	8

the Saints *by Luke*



ST. POEMEN

IN THE EARLY FIFTH CENTURY, POEMEN AND SEVERAL BROTHERS RETIRED TO SKETE IN THE EGYPTIAN DESERT TO LIVE AS HERMITS AND DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION IN SOLITUDE. IN 408, RAIDERS FORCED THEM TO FLEE. THEY SET UP A COMMUNITY IN THE RUINS OF A PAGAN TEMPLE AT TERNUTHIS, WITH POEMEN AND HIS BROTHER ANUBIS ALTERNATING AS ABBOT. POEMEN LIVED A LIFE OF GREAT AUSTERITY AND BECAME SOLE ABBOT ON ANUBIS' DEATH. HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS INSISTANCE ON FREQUENT COMMUNION, AND HIS SHORT, PITHY STATEMENTS OF SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND ADVICE. THE FEAST OF ST. POEMEN, ABBOT, IS CELEBRATED ON AUGUST 27.

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark
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Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Vighucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

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