

World, Nation, People... in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

Pope Meets Jesuits

Rome -- Pope John Paul II, the first pope to celebrate Mass in the Rome headquarters of the Society of Jesus, opened the 33rd general congregation of the Jesuits by asking them to be "contemplatives in action" and to promote ecumenism and social justice. He added that the Jesuits' special vow of obedience to the pope was not meant to restrain their actions, but to provide them with "a sphere of action that is more profound and more vast." The pope's words came during a Mass Sept. 2 opening the meeting which will elect a new superior general to succeed the ailing 75-year-old Basque Jesuit, Father Pedro Arrupe, who is resigning as head of the 26,000-member order.

Bishops Back Front

Cape Town, South Africa -- South Africa's Catholic bishops have indicated their support for the initial efforts of the United Democratic Front, a new multiracial political party formed in August. The front, called the UDF, opposes constitutional proposals and bills which would continue to exclude the majority black population from being represented in Parliament. The UDF maintained constitutional proposals and bills should "agree with the positions taken by the bishops' conference on these issues," said a statement issued by the Administrative Board of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Girl Feared Murdered

Rome -- The presumed kidnapers of Emanuela Orlandi, a 15-year-old Vatican resident, provided further evidence Sept. 4 that they had abducted her, but hinted that the girl had been killed, saying "the episode is now closed." Their statement and the use of the past tense increased fears among investigators and relatives that she might not be found alive. Police later searched near a Rome church mentioned in one of the messages, but found no trace of the girl.

'Must Provide Alternatives'

Toronto -- The bishops of Ontario have called on Catholics to provide pregnant women with realistic alternatives to abortion in an effort to stop the growing abortion rate in Canada. In their statement, "Therefore Choose Life," the bishops also called for a revision of the federal abortion law and for protection of the rights of health care institutions and workers to resist providing abortions without censure.

Penance Synod Topic

Rome -- A decline in the practice of confession and the issue of general absolution without individual confession are expected to be the main topics at the world Synod of Bishops opening Sept. 29. There is concern about penance "because the reception of the sacrament has dwindled in a great number of countries," said Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio, Texas, one of the four U.S. synod delegates. The 220 synod delegates also will include Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, Archbishop John Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis and Auxiliary Bishop Austin Vaughan of New York.

Nation

'Baby Doe' Change Asked

St. Louis -- The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) has asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to allow modification of a proposed notice on care of handicapped infants. Proposed HHS "Baby Doe" regulations require posting of notices in hospital nursing stations pointing out that denial of medical treatment to handicapped newborns is a violation of federal anti-discrimination laws and should be reported to the federal government. The proposed notice has a "negative character," John E. Curley, Jr., CHA president, said in a Sept. 1 letter to the HHS Office of Civil Rights.

People

Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans has received the New Orleans Time-Picayune Loving Cup award for charitable and humanitarian endeavors which is given "to people in the community who have given of themselves unselfishly to civic, charitable or humanitarian causes without expecting public recognition or material reward" ... Pope John Paul II has named Bishop Timothy J. Harrington successor to Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan who resigned earlier this year at 75 ... Dominicans from around the world have elected Father Damian Byrne, an Irishman, as the 84th head of the order founded by St. Dominic in 1216. The election took place in Rome ... Bishop Joseph T. Daley of Harrisburg, Pa., died of cancer

Sept. 2 ... An Irishman, Father Martin Nolan, has been elected to head the Augustinians, a 700-year-old order of men also meeting in Rome ... In Boston, laboratory tests show that Cardinal Humberto Medeiros has sustained "a very mild heart attack," the Boston Archdiocese announced. "There is no evidence that this has resulted in any significant heart damage," according to an official statement.

Focus on Today's World



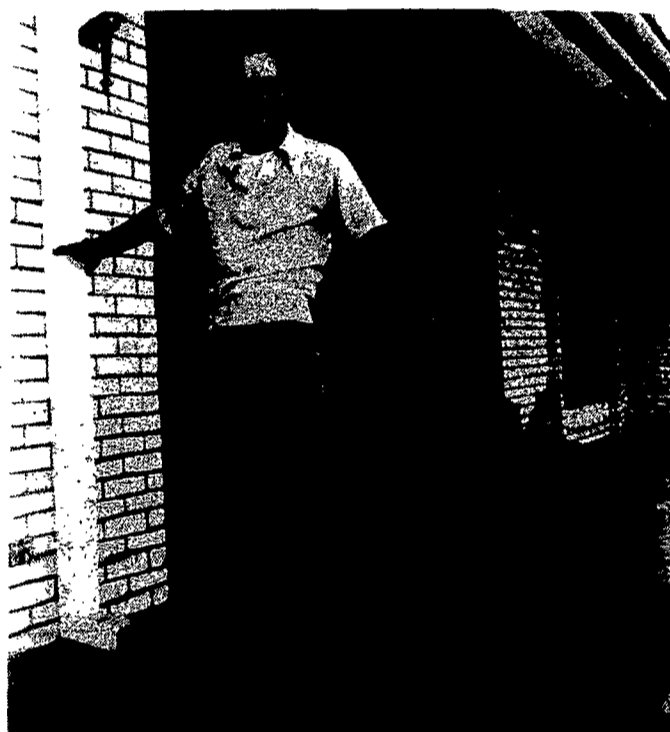
Franciscan Father Linus Hohendorf walks through what is left of St. Joseph's Church in downtown Los Angeles. A pre-dawn fire gutted the church, causing an estimated \$5 million in damage and destroyed an historic altar and other artifacts imported from Germany at the turn of the century. (NC Photo)

Christmas USA 20c



Raphael, 1483-1983, National Gallery

The U.S. Postal Service will issue two new Christmas stamps on Oct. 28. The traditional stamp is based on the Niccolini-Cowper Madonna by Raphael, which now hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington. The stamp also pays tribute to the 500th anniversary of Raphael's birth. The second stamp features Santa Claus. (NC Photo)



Father Matthew Lyng, pastor of St. Peter Prince of the Apostles Parish near Corpus Christi, Texas, stands on the patio where lightning went through his body as he attempted to place plants outside during a storm. He credits a pair of rubber-soled shoes he was wearing with saving his life. (NC Photo)

the Saints by Luke

ST. NINIAN



NINIAN'S FATHER WAS A BRITON CHIEFTAIN WHO HAD CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY. NINIAN STUDIED FOR THE PRIESTHOOD IN ROME. AFTER HE WAS ORDAINED A BISHOP, HE RETURNED TO EVANGELIZE HIS NATIVE BRITAIN. HE HAD A STONE CHURCH BUILT AT WHITHERN, ENGLAND, BY MASONS FROM ST. MARTIN'S MONASTERY IN TOURS. THE CHURCH, WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS THE "WHITE HOUSE" WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STONE CHURCHES IN ENGLAND. NINIAN'S MONASTERY BECAME THE CENTER OF EXTENSIVE MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES. HE AND HIS MONKS EVANGELIZED NEIGHBORING BRITONS AND THE PICTS OF VALENTIA.

NINIAN IS CREDITED WITH SEVERAL MIRACLES, INCLUDING CURING A CHIEFTAIN OF BLINDNESS. NINIAN DIED ABOUT 432. HIS FEAST IS SEPT. 16.

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark
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Anthony J. Costello
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Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
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