

# World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

## World

### Saint's Remains Stolen

Paola, Italy -- Thieves have stolen the bones and other valuable articles of a 15th-century saint from a chapel in the tiny southern Italian town of Paola, and police said they fear a ransom may be demanded for the return of the relics. The bones of St. Francis of Paola, the patron saint and founder of the community of Minim Friars, were removed Oct. 2 from a sanctuary in the church, which is part of the friars' monastery.

### Investigation Called For

Vatican City -- The Maronite bishops of Lebanon have called for an international investigation into what they say are massacres of Christians in the Chouf Mountain region of Lebanon. They also have urged immediate relief supplies for civilian survivors of the fighting in the mountain area. The fighting has pitted Druze militia forces against the Lebanese army and Christian militia forces.

## Nation

### Senate Approves Bill

Washington -- The Senate on Oct. 4 approved an appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services which contains a one-year extension of the Hyde amendment. The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R.-Ill.), bans federal funding of abortion. The Senate version of the bill allows for Medicaid funding of abortion when the life of the mother is in danger, but the House version, passed Sept. 22, does not. Hyde expects the clause to be added by a House-Senate conference committee.

### Guerrillas Brutalize Civilians

York -- Guerrilla opponents of Nicaragua's Somoza government are perpetrating acts of brutality against civilians and causing economic damage to the entire country, said Maryknoll lay missionary Pat Hynds at a conference opposing Reagan administration policy in Central America. Speaking Oct. 3, one day after her return from Nicaragua, she cited reports from Nicaragua indicating that the U.S.-backed guerrillas were killing, mutilating, raping and kidnapping civilians.

### Scene Sparks Controversy

Washington -- A city-owned nativity scene in Pawtucket, R.I., is the city's way of celebrating a national holiday, not of promoting a religious dogma, the attorney for Pawtucket officials argued before the U.S. Supreme Court Oct. 4. The city's officials are trying to overturn lower-court decisions banning them from sponsoring a manger scene depicting Christ's birth. Challengers say city sponsorship of the scene violates the separation of church and state.

### Immigration Bill Shelved

Washington -- The comprehensive immigration bill will not be considered this year because of opposition by Hispanics, House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.) said Oct. 4. The bill, which passed the Senate in May, would give legal status to some illegal aliens in the United States and penalize employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. Hispanics have argued that employer sanctions would cause them to be discriminated against because they look "alien" to the employers.

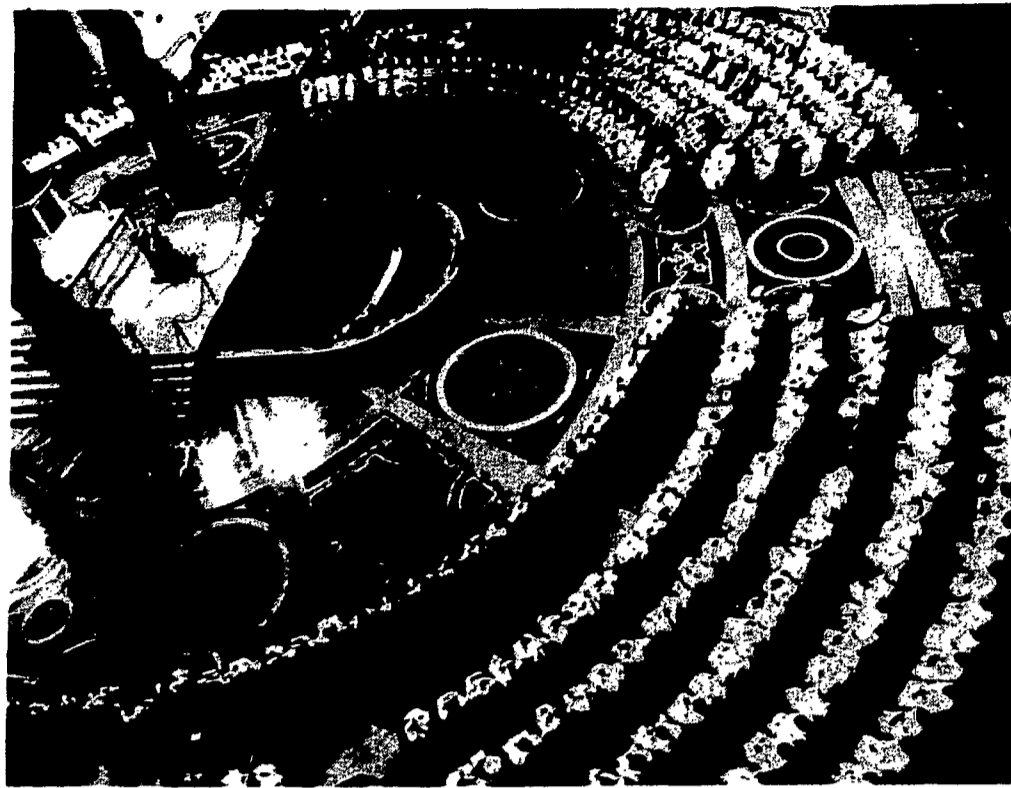
### Jobs Bill Passes

Washington -- A \$3.5 billion jobs bill backed by the U.S. Catholic Conference, public policy arm of the U.S. bishops, was approved by the House of Representatives Sept. 20. But the measure, which supporters say would create 500,000 jobs in such areas as bridge repair and the provision of food and shelter to the homeless, faces an uncertain future because of opposition from the Reagan administration. The vote in the House, 246-178, was almost entirely along party lines. The bill is not expected to be approved by the Republican-controlled Senate.

## People

Pope John Paul II named Auxiliary Bishop J. Keith Symons of St. Petersburg, Fla., to be the bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee and Benedictine Father Angelo Acerra to be an auxiliary bishop in the Military Ordinariate. Archbishop Pio Laghi, apostolic delegate in the United States, made the announcements Oct. 4. . . . Lech Walesa, who was named 1983 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has combined Polish nationalism and Christian faith in organizing Polish labor. Walesa, 40-year-old founder of Poland's now-outlawed Solidarity labor union, is the first Pole to win a Nobel Peace Prize, and only the second citizen of a Soviet-bloc country to win it. The Nobel Committee in Oslo, Norway, announced the award Oct. 5.

# Focus on Today's World



Pope John Paul II addresses bishops from throughout the world in St. Peter's Basilica as he opens the sixth world Synod of Bishops. Attending the month-long session are 45 cardinals, 150 archbishops and bishops and 10 religious order superiors.



In Rieti, Italy, Alessandro Polvesari, 88, marches at the head of cortege in a funeral he organized for himself. Polvesari said he wanted to make certain he had a proper funeral complete with band.



Dressed in white robes, altar girls lead the procession after Sunday Mass at St. Juliana Church in Chicago. St. Juliana is one of several Chicago parishes where pastors have said they will continue to use girls to assist at Mass despite a letter from Cardinal Joseph Bernardin saying that Church rules forbid "girls acting as altar servers." The parish has 33 altar girls, all students at the church school.

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