

World, Nation, People... in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

Sex Guidelines Issued

Vatican City -- The Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education Dec. 1 issued guidelines calling for positive sex education with parents as the primary educators and individual instruction as the primary method. "Silence is not a valid norm of conduct in this matter, above all when one thinks of the 'hidden persuaders'" that adversely influence young people, the congregation said in the new document, "Educational Guidance in Human Love -- Outlines for Sex Education." The 8,500-word text called on episcopal conferences to promote the united efforts of parents, Christian communities and educators.

'Full Union' Urged

Vatican City -- Pope John Paul II expressed his wish Nov. 30 for "a full union" with Orthodox churches. The support for unity was contained in a letter to Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I of Constantinople (Istanbul). The pope also commented on the letter during his weekly general audience Nov. 30. On the same day, the letter was delivered to the patriarch by a Vatican delegation led by Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. "I send my wish that the full union with our sister churches, for which Jesus prayed, may soon be realized," the pope said.

Women to Be Supported

Vatican City -- The U.S. bishops will encourage women to take more leadership roles permitted by the church, and the encouragement has the support of Pope John II, said the new president of the U.S. bishops. The bishops' decision at their November meeting to draft a pastoral letter on women should result in a document that "will encourage the effort to open to women leadership posts in the church," said Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference. The bishop's comments appeared Nov. 30 in an interview with L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican daily newspaper.

'Keep Message on Air'

Vatican City -- The Catholic Church challenges communicators to keep the Christian message "on the air" every hour of the day, said Archbishop Edward Martinez Somalo, the Vatican deputy secretary of state, in a letter to the International Catholic Association for Radio and Television (UNDA). The Nov. 18 letter was sent to the association's meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, and was released by the Vatican Nov. 25. Archbishop Martinez said all nations should be able to hear the Gospel message and have contact with the universal church. Religious broadcasters also should keep "the spiritual in the forefront of men's consciousness," he said.

Jesuit 'Defects' Admitted

Rome -- At his first press conference as superior general of the Society of Jesus, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach reaffirmed the Jesuits' loyalty to the pope and agreed with Pope John Paul II that the order has "defects" resulting in too much secular activity. "The Society of Jesus has no meaning and loses its very reason to exist if it lacks distinctive fidelity to the holy father and a special dedication to the Lord's church in its actual apostolic embodiments," he said Nov. 25 at Jesuit headquarters in Rome.

Nation

Holy See Aids Palestinians

United Nations -- The Holy See's Pontifical Mission for Palestine has contributed more than \$150 million in funds, goods and services to Palestinian refugees since 1948, Msgr. Antonio Franco told the U.N. General Assembly's Special Political Committee Nov. 21. Msgr. Franco, a member of the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, addressed the committee in support of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which operates Palestinian refugee camps in the Middle East. Msgr. Franco said the Holy See has a "special concern" for the Palestinian refugees and supports the agency's work as part of the church's commitment "to the cause of humanity and peace in the Middle East."

Priest's Detention Protested

Washington -- The U.S. Catholic Conference, public policy arm of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, joined the Catholic bishops of England and Wales Nov. 22 in protesting the detention of a South African Catholic Church official. Father Smangaliso Mkhathswa, general secretary of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, was detained by police Oct. 30 in Ciskei. Efforts by the South African bishops to find where Father Mkhathswa is being held have been unsuccessful.

If Luther Were Alive Today...

Worcester, Mass. (NC) -- If Martin Luther were alive today "he would redirect his artillery 180 degrees," said the Rev. William H. Lazareth at a celebration commemorating the 500th anniversary of reformer's birth.

"This time," Luther's attacks would be directed "not against the evangelical Catholicity of post-Vatican II Rome, but rather against the Pelagian peddlers of Protestant indulgences, pre-eminently among the television evangelists of the Electronic Church," said Dr. Lazareth, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New York.

(Pelagianism was a 5th century heresy which held that one could by one's own good will and works gain graces needed for salvation. St. Augustine, insisting on the radical freedom of God and man's total dependence on God's mercy and initiative, was the major opponent of Pelagius.)

The ecumenical celebration honoring Luther, an excommunicated Augustinian monk who was born Nov. 10, 1483, included a liturgical service in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on the campus of the Augustinian-run Assumption College in Worcester.

Dr. Lazareth said Luther would direct his "tirade" against "the hawking of indulgences for cheap grace" toward the TV evangelists who are "pandering to an alleged moral majority that uncritically renders to Caesar that which belongs to God, and to God alone."

Also during the service, a joint statement supporting a Lutheran-Catholic sharing program in local parishes was signed by recently-installed Bishop Timothy J. Harrington of Worcester and Lutheran Bishop Harold R. Wimmer of Worcester, head of the Lutheran Church in America's New England Synod.

The Mutual Parish Sharing Program was developed by the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Dialogue Committee of New England.

The bishops said they "recognize the impact that Martin Luther has had upon our two traditions" and added that "mutual study and dialogue on all levels have taught us to still the polemics of the past and to bridge the scandalous chasm that has separated our two communities."

"We grieve the injustices and vio-



MARTIN LUTHER

lences our past histories show us to have inflicted upon one another," the bishops said. "We recognize that we have come to a new moment in the relationship between our two traditions."

In their statement, Bishop Harrington and Bishop Wimmer called upon "members of the churches entrusted to our leadership to understand, collaborate with and support one another as fully as possible."

They said the parish sharing program would enable the members "to give witness to their common baptism in Christ and to the Spirit's call to unity by participating as far as possible in each other's communal life."

Commenting on Pope John Paul II's Oct. 31 letter commemorating the anniversary of Luther, Bishop Harrington asked all Christians to involve themselves "in an unprejudiced search for truth" in order to unearth "a true image of Martin Luther and the entire era of the Reformation."

The churches still have differences to work out, Bishop Wimmer said, "but I live for the day when we will share the Eucharist."

Sullivan Execution Eulogized by Bishop at Mass; Vatican Notes Disappointment



Gainesville, Fla. (NC) -- Bishop John J. Snyder of St. Augustine, Fla., celebrated a Mass of Resurrection Dec. 1 for Robert Sullivan, executed the day before at the Florida State Prison in Starke.

"Yesterday, many of us gathered as prayerful, tearful witnesses of the termination of Bob Sullivan's mortal life," said the bishop in his homily at St. Augustine Church in Gainesville. "We came that he would be strengthened by our friendship and our faith in a God who embodies justice, mercy and love in a mysterious but marvelous harmony."

The bishop was among Sullivan's supporters who gathered on the prison grounds for prayers the morning of the execution.

The execution came after a personal plea by Pope John Paul II and the bishops of Florida for clemency. The execution caused "profound disappointment" in those who had sought to save his life, the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said Nov. 30.

Sullivan was convicted of murder and executed Nov. 30.

L'Osservatore Romano said that the news that the execution would go ahead had "caused profound disappointment among those who had committed themselves to saving a human life and had hoped for a positive ending to this dramatic case."

On the same day Vatican Radio said that with Sullivan's death "there remain the tragic questions on the death penalty and those very painful questions on the possible innocence of a person con-

demned to capital punishment, questions which cannot be avoided by a civil society."

At the Mass, celebrated at Sullivan's request, participants gathered "as his friends to celebrate that in Christ Jesus, Bob Sullivan has conquered sin and death," Bishop Snyder said.

A Mass was also offered by Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy of Miami, who could not be present at the Gainesville liturgy.

Sullivan had asked that "we celebrate with dignity his passing from this life," Bishop Snyder said. "To me, that means not getting caught in pettiness, anger, bitterness, or even succumbing to the temptation of being judgmental."

"In a certain sense," he added, "it means following the inspiring example that Bob set for us yesterday in a special way in his final moments. Bob died with dignity -- a dignity that was rooted in a faith that had grown in richness and profundity during his final struggle."

The morning of his execution, Sullivan participated in a Mass celebrated in his cell by Father Robert Boyle, who had been Sullivan's parish priest when the condemned man was a child in Massachusetts, and received the last rites. Another friend, Father Vincent Daily, who had ministered to Sullivan, was a witness to the execution in the death chamber.

Bishop Snyder described the ordeal of Sullivan and his friends as "the drama of the paschal mystery -- the dying and rising of Jesus."

Father Reedy, Columnist, Dies

Notre Dame, Ind. (NC) -- Holy Cross Father John Reedy, 58, Catholic press columnist and publisher of Ave Maria Press for 30 years, died Dec. 2. He had been hospitalized for several weeks in South Bend, Ind., suffering from a bone marrow disease.

(His column appeared weekly in the Courier-Journal).

After ordination in 1952, Father Reedy pursued graduate studies in journalism at Notre Dame and Marquette University, Milwaukee.

In 1954, Father Reedy was named publisher of Ave Maria Press, located on the Notre Dame campus, a position he held at his death.

He was also executive editor of Ave Maria magazine from 1954 until 1970, when he closed the magazine. For a few years thereafter he published a newsletter called AD Correspondence. He was also president of Spiritual Book Associates, a book club operated by Ave Maria Press.

Father Reedy was widely known for his syndicated opinion column in Catholic newspapers. One of the most widely published columns, it was estimated to reach more than 2 million readers.

Father Reedy's last column appears on Page 9.

Courses Ready

The Rochester Museum Science Center's Gannett School of Science & Man offers courses and workshops for youth and adults. The winter 1983-84 brochure is now available and registration is being accepted. To receive a free copy call 271-4320, ext. 501.

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COURIER-JOURNAL

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Vol. 95, No. 11 December 7, 1983

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)
Published weekly except week after July 4 and 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.

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