

# World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

## World

### Latin American Injustice Hit

**Vatican City** -- The Central American bishops have called institutionalized injustice the "scourge of Central America" and the main cause of trouble in the region, the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, reported Jan. 22. In a document made public Jan. 19 the bishops cited injustice, violence and foreign intervention as elements leading to the current situation of conflict in many of the region's countries, the newspaper reported.

### Vatican Fosters Agreement

**Vatican City** -- The foreign ministers of Chile and Argentina signed a "declaration of peace and friendship" at a Vatican ceremony Jan. 23 and pledged to bring their territorial dispute to a peaceful conclusion. Pope John Paul II, who in January 1979 agreed to mediate the dispute over three islands in the Beagle Channel off the southern tip of South America, later met both ministers and expressed his "great joy" at the agreement. "In this certainly historic moment, I give thanks to God," the pope said.

### Mass for Jailed African Priest

**Johannesburg, South Africa** -- The bishops of the South African Catholic Bishops Conference have been invited to concelebrate a Mass at Christ the King Cathedral in Johannesburg Jan. 30 for Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, the first black secretary general of the conference, who has been under arrest since Oct. 30. The initiative for the Mass came from concern about Father Mkhathshwa's continued detention without charges or trial.

### Concordat May Be Revised

**Rome** -- Catholicism would not be the state religion in Italy under proposed revisions of the Concordat, the treaty that governs relations between the church and Italy. The revisions also would make religious instructions in state schools optional and would require parallel civil action to make church marriages and annulments legal. Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi outlined the proposals to the Italian Parliament Jan. 25.

## Nation

### Baby Doe Wait-See Advised

**Washington** -- While the federal government's new "Baby Doe" rules do not sacrifice equal protection for handicapped infants, final judgment about the new rules might best wait until their effectiveness is demonstrated, the director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Pro-Life Activities said. The director, Father Edward M. Bryce, in a Jan. 20 statement said the new rules, released Jan. 9 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, also do not sacrifice the federal government's ability to investigate and remedy cases where handicapped infants are subjected to medical neglect.

### 'Abortion Led to Infanticide'

**Washington** -- Society would not have "entered the field of infanticide" so soon "had it not been for the devaluation of life caused by the multitude of abortions," said the U.S. surgeon general, Dr. C. Everett Koop, at the Jan. 23 March for Life Rose Dinner. Koop told the almost 400 people attending the Washington dinner that the pro-abortion mentality creates a "domino effect," and that infanticide once was the "silent domino, because when practiced in hospitals it was a very well-kept secret."

## People

### Names Make News

**Mother M. Angeline Teresa McCrory**, founder of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, died on her 91st birthday, Jan. 21, at St. Teresa's Motherhouse and Novitiate in Germantown. Mother McCrory received numerous awards and honors for her work with the elderly, including the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award from **Pope John XXIII** and the Benemerenti Award from **Pope Paul VI**. **Pope John Paul II** Jan. 24 accepted the resignation of 74-year-old **Bishop Joseph B. Brunini** of Jackson, Miss., **Archbishop Pio Laghi**, apostolic delegate in the United States, announced. **Father George Clements**, a Chicago archdiocesan priest who adopted a teen-age son in 1981, plans to adopt another homeless boy, he said at a Jan. 17 press conference. Father Clements said he wants to give his home and his name to **Friday Ndumele**, a 14-year-old born and raised in Nigeria.

# Focus on Today's World



Father George Clements, a Chicago priest who gained worldwide attention in 1981 when he adopted a son, has added another boy to his family. At a news conference he introduced Friday Ndumele, 15, left, of Lagos, Nigeria, while his first son, Joey, 16, looks on.



From what was the altar area of St. Thomas Church in Braddock, Pa., the stone wall and facade are all that remain after a fire destroyed the 81-year-old church.



Pope John Paul II talks with Rocco Lupini, 9, and his mother Fausta Lupini during a Vatican audience. The boy and his mother were kidnapped May 18 last year and the woman later was released to organize a ransom payment.

## the Saints *by Luke*

### ST. BLAISE



ST. BLAISE DEVOTED HIS EARLY YEARS TO THE STUDY OF PHILOSOPHY AND LATER BECAME A PHYSICIAN. HE SAW SO MUCH OF THE MISERIES OF LIFE AND THE HOLLOWNESS OF WORLDLY PLEASURES THAT HE RESOLVED TO SPEND HIS DAYS IN THE SERVICE OF GOD. LATER HE SUCCEEDED THE BISHOP OF SEBASTE IN ARMENIA. ST. BLAISE INSTRUCTED HIS PEOPLE AS MUCH BY EXAMPLE AS BY WORDS, AND PEOPLE CAME IN GREAT NUMBERS FOR CURES OF SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL ILLS. BLAISE WAS IMPRISONED BY ORDER OF GOVERNOR AGRICOLAUS OF CAPPADOCIA AND LOWER ARMENIA DURING THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS UNDER EMPEROR LICINIUS. ON THE WAY, A DISTRESSED MOTHER WHOSE ONLY CHILD WAS DYING OF A THROAT DISEASE, THREW HERSELF AT THE FEET OF ST. BLAISE AND IMplored HIS INTERCESSION. TOUCHED AT HER GRIEF, BLAISE OFFERED UP PRAYERS, AND THE CHILD WAS CURED. EVER SINCE, HIS AID HAS BEEN INVOKED IN SIMILAR CASES. REFUSING TO WORSHIP THE FALSE GODS, HE WAS SCOURGED, TORN WITH HOOKS AND FINALLY BEHEADED IN THE YEAR 316. HIS NAME IS ALSO SPELLED BLASE. THE FEAST OF ST. BLAISE, BISHOP AND MARTYR, IS FEB. 3.

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Vol. 95, No. 18 February 1, 1984

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.