

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

World

Pope Names Commission

Vatican City -- Pope John Paul II has formed a commission to oversee the application of the church's new Code of Canon Law and has named U.S. Cardinal William Baum as one of its members, the Vatican announced Feb. 1. It released a document in which the pope established the 14-member Pontifical Commission for the Authentic Interpretation of the Code of Canon Law.

Scientists Ask Support

Vatican City -- An international group of scientists has asked Pope John Paul II to add his voice to the chorus of concern over the dangers of a "nuclear winter," the phenomenon marked by darkness and cold, which scientists say would destroy much of the earth as a result of even a limited nuclear war. The meeting of 17 scientists in January was sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Bishops Criticize War

Pretoria, S. Africa -- South Africa's war against guerrillas seeking independence for Namibia has been criticized by the president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference. The president, Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban, South Africa, called the fighting a "tragedy" and said South Africa wanted to prevent Namibian independence on any terms except its own.

Nation

Killing Game Panned

Seattle -- Organizers and participants in a game which had university students "assassinating" one another were surprised by public reaction to the game and have postponed play as a response to the complaints. More than 100 students at Jesuit-run Seattle University paid \$5 to enter "KAOS" -- Killing As an Organized Sport. They were given a T-shirt and squirt gun, and assigned victims.

NCCB, USCC Move Offices

Washington -- The National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference plan to move their offices from downtown Washington to a five-acre site near the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Catholic University of America, the NCCB-USCC announced Jan. 30.

Catholic Press Doing Job

Washington -- When criticism of the Catholic press is voiced, "it is most often an indication that the Catholic press is doing its essential job," according to the chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Communications Committee. In a statement for Catholic Press Month 1984, which is observed in February, Bishop R. Pierre DuMaine of San Jose, Calif., described the "essential job" of the Catholic press as "reflecting the reality of the church -- from our holy father's affirmation of fundamental church teaching to the debates and conflicts that inevitably arise from secular or religious sources."

Reagan Speaks on Abortion

Washington -- Addressing the National Religious Broadcasters meeting Jan. 30, President Reagan reaffirmed his support of a constitutional amendment banning abortion, tougher laws against child pornography and optional prayer in public schools. The president's address to the convention in Washington was his first public appearance since announcing his plans Jan. 29 to seek re-election. He stressed his own religious convictions and told the broadcasters, "God is the center of our lives."

People

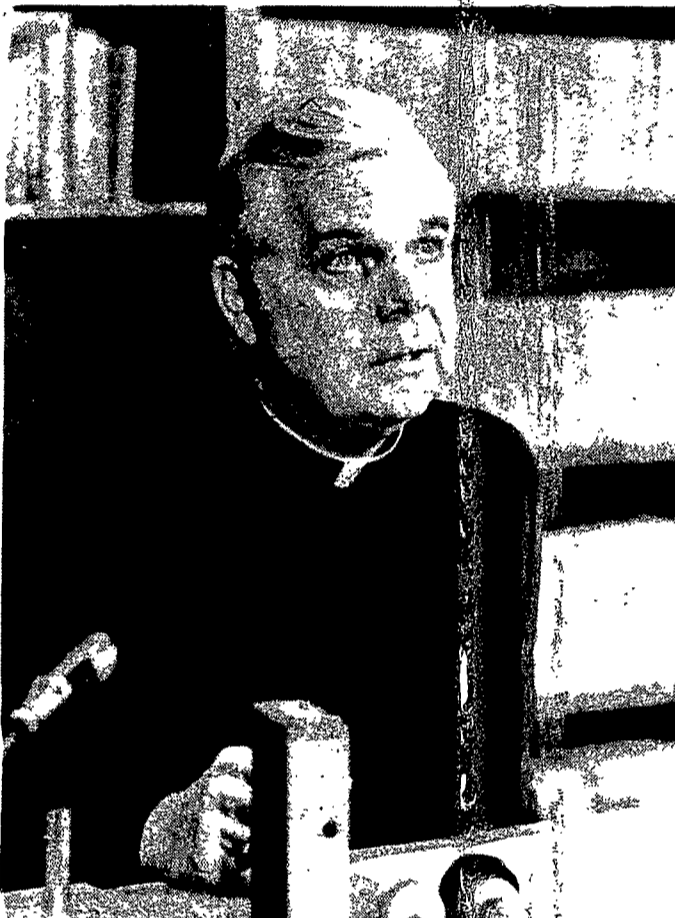
Names Make News

Pope John Paul II Jan. 31 named Bishop John J. O'Connor of Scranton, Pa., a retired 27-year Navy chaplain with the rank of rear admiral, as archbishop of New York. The new archbishop, successor to Cardinal Terence Cooke who died last October, became widely known in the United States in the past two years as a key member of the committee of U.S. bishops that wrote the 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace. Father Richard T. Reece, 48, has been elected provincial of the Wilmington-Philadelphia province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. He succeeds Father J. Stuart Dooling in leading the largest province of Oblates in the world with about 350 men.

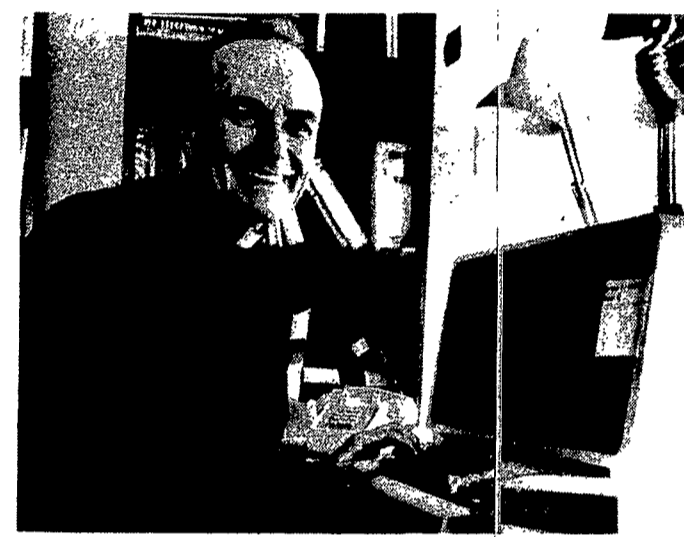
Focus on Today's World



The burned car containing the body of Bishop George A. Fulcher, right, is pulled from a ditch alongside U.S. 41 north of Rockville, Ind. Bishop Fulcher, 61, who was installed as bishop of Lafayette, Ind., last April, was returning to Lafayette from Terre Haute after meeting with priests of the diocese on the U.S. bishops' pastoral on war and peace.



Bishop Bernard Law of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., speaks at a press conference after being named by Pope John Paul II as new archbishop of Boston. The archbishop-designate succeeds Cardinal Humberto S. Medeiros who died Sept. 17.



Father Andrew M. Greeley, sociologist-author whose sometimes steamy novels have been best-sellers, sits at his word processor in his home and office on Chicago's Near North Side. The University of Chicago announced that Father Greeley is donating \$1.25 million in royalties from his books to the university to fund a professorship in Catholic studies.

Provided by NC News Service

the Saints by Luke

ST. SCHOLASTICA WAS THE SISTER OF THE GREAT PATRIARCH, ST. BENEDICT, AND UNDER HIS DIRECTION, SHE FOUNDED AND GOVERNED A CONVENT NEAR MONTE CASSINO.

ST. BENEDICT VISITED HER EVERY YEAR FOR "SHE WAS NEVER WEARIED WITH THE WORDS OF GRACE WHICH FLOWED FROM HIS LIPS" WROTE ST. GREGORY. ON BENEDICT'S LAST VISIT IN 543, SHE KNEW SHE WAS NEAR DEATH AND BEGGED HIM TO STAY UNTIL DAWN AND TO TALK ON THE BLISS OF THOSE WHO SEE GOD IN HEAVEN. ST. BENEDICT WOULD NOT BREAK HIS RULE BUT, AS ST. GREGORY WROTE, ST. SCHOLASTICA THEN BOWED HER HEAD AND PRAYED; AND THERE AROSE A STORM SO VIOLENT THAT ST. BENEDICT COULD NOT RETURN TO HIS MONASTERY. THEY THEN PASSED THE NIGHT IN CONVERSATION.

THREE DAYS LATER, ST. SCHOLASTICA DIED. HER BODY WAS BROUGHT BY BENEDICT TO MONTE CASSINO AND LAID IN THE TOMB HE HAD MADE FOR HIMSELF.

THE FEAST OF ST. SCHOLASTICA IS FEB. 10.

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