World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

4,000 Priests Renew Vows

Vatican City -- Answering the questions of Pope John Paul II, 4,000 men from dozens of countries renewed their promises to be dedicated and hard-working priests. The renewal took place at a Feb. 24 Mass in St. Peter's Basilica which was the capstone of a three-day celebration for priests, deacons and seminarians held in conjunction with the current Holy Year commemorating the 1,950th anniversary of the redemption by Christ. At a time when the world is experiencing great tensions, the church's most important service is to "reconcile and unite people in the midst of the adversities that increase around them and within themselves," the pope said in his homily. "We are more necessary than ever, because Christ is more necessary than ever."

Cardinal Warns Marcos

Manila, Philippines -- Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila has warned of "blood running through our streets" unless Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos concedes some of his power before the May elections. Cardinal Sin said Feb. 23 that Marcos should agree to concessions demanded by opposition leaders "not out of charity but out of justice." Some opposition leaders have called for a boycott of the May 14 National Assembly elections unless Marcos relinquishes his power to legislate by presidential decree and repeals measures which allow him to detain political opponents. The demands also call for safeguards for voters, primarily that no troops be present at polling stations and that the count be monitored by an independent inspector.

Nation

Reagan Urges School Prayer

Washington -- At a press conference Feb. 22 President Reagan urged the Senate to pass a constitutional amendment "to permit voluntary prayer again in our nation's schools." In a brief preliminary statement at the press conference, Reagan listed the school prayer amendment among "three matters at the top of the domestic agenda for the next 10 days." The other two were crime and the federal budget deficit.

Tax Revolt Urged

Milwaukee -- Priests in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee are being asked as a group to withhold part of their federal income taxes to protest the nuclear arms race, and to donate the money withheld to "life-giving and life-sustaining" organizations of their choice. The tax resistance effort was organized by four archdiocesan priests who plan to run an advertisement in a secular daily newspaper toward the end of March listing the names of the priests who endorse a statement opposing the arms race and pledging to withhold. The proposed statement said, "Our commitment to the Gospel and our commitment to human well-being lead us to oppose nuclear arms in our country or in any country."

Non-Unionists Protest

Louisville, Ky. -- The Louisville archdiocesan Peace and Justice Commission will review its new policy on limiting major church construction to union contractors after non-union companies protested that the policy was an insult to their workers. Acting on a request by Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville, the commission formulated a policy which says that major new construction in the archdiocese should be "limited to union contractors," with some exceptions. A storm of protest from non-union workers followed.

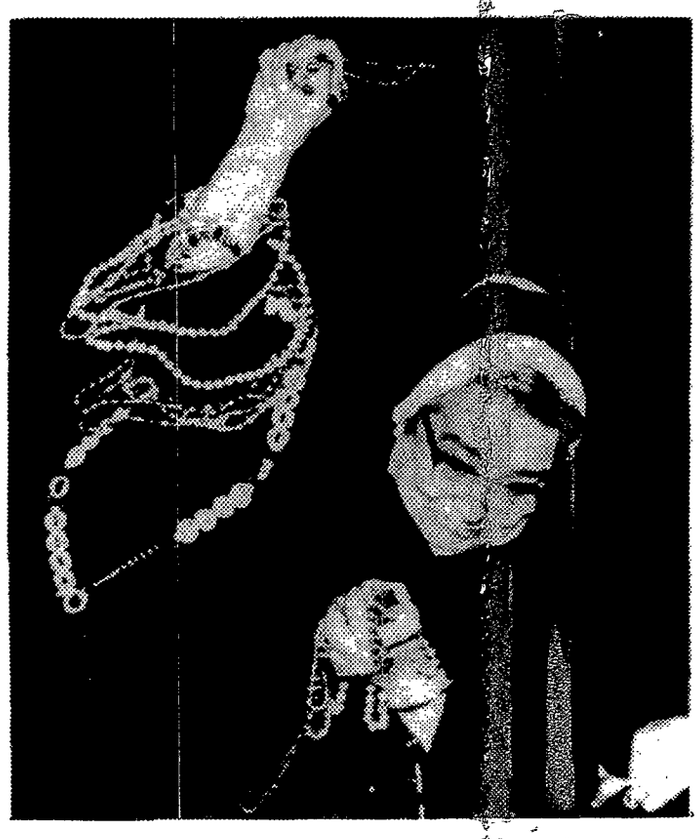
People

Names Make News

Bishop Leroy Matthiesen of Amarillo underwent heart surgery Feb. 22 to replace a weak mitral valve. He was "doing great" Feb. 23, said **Father Joseph Tash,** chaplain of St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo, where the three-hour operation was performed. Father Tash said Bishop Matthiesen had suffered a heart problem for several years, and during a physical checkup Feb. 21 his doctor decided the time for surgery had come. . . American Jesuit **Father James M. Finnegan** was killed by shell fire in Beirut, Lebanon, Feb. 26. The Jesuit provincial headquarters in his native New York confirmed the death of the 71-year-old priest, who spent most of his life in Lebanon. Father Finnegan had taught philosophy at Jesuit-run St. Joseph University in Beirut since 1951. He died as the last U.S. Marines were withdrawing from the city to warships off the coast. . . Retired **Bishop Louis J. Reicher,** 93, the first bishop of the Austin diocese, died Feb. 23 at his home near Austin. Bishop Reicher, who retired in November 1971 after 23 years as head of the diocese, had been in poor health since suffering a stroke in 1972.

Focus on Today's World

Susan Barylo, right, leads her Catholic Women's League dancercise class through the paces in the basement of St. Joseph's Cathedral in Edmonton, Alberta. The class dances to contemporary religious music. (NC Photo)



Sister Beatrice Garfield catches a string of beads thrown from a float during a 1983 Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans. The traditional celebration in the streets of the city's French Quarter highlight the days before the start of Lent. (NC Photo)

New York Mayor Edward Koch is greeted by Pope John Paul II during a 20-minute private audience at the Vatican. Mayor Koch told the pope that the people of the United States love the pope for the strength and decency he conveys. (NC Photo)

the Saints

by Luke

ST. DOMINIC SAVIO

DOMINIC SAVIO WAS BORN IN RIVA, ITALY, ON APRIL 2, 1842. HE WAS SO FRAIL AT HIS BIRTH, HIS FATHER RUSHED HIM TO THE PASTOR FOR BAPTISM THAT SAME EVENING. AS A BOY, DOMINIC LOVED SERVING MASS, WHICH HE BEGAN AT AGE FIVE. ON THE DAY OF HIS FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, HE RESOLVED TO CHOOSE DEATH RATHER THAN SIN. FROM HIS EARLIEST YEARS HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO BECOME A SAINT.

HIS PASTOR RECOGNIZED HIM AS A SPECIAL CHILD AND ARRANGED TO HAVE HIM TRANSFERED TO DON BOSCO'S ORATORY AT TURIN. DON BOSCO POINTED OUT THAT HOLINESS IS NOT NECESSARILY TORTURES AND HAIR SHIRTS, BUT IN THE CHEERFUL BEARING AND OFFERING UP OF EACH DAY'S SMALL CROSSES AND THE FULFILLMENT OF THE DUTIES OF ONE'S STATE OF LIFE.

DOMINIC SAVIO FOUNDED AND DIRECTED THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SODALITY, A GROUP OF BOYS WHO CARRIED ON AN APOSTOLATE AMONG THEIR SCHOOL MATES. HIS CHEERFULNESS MADE HIM VERY POPULAR.

AT THE AGE OF 15 HE BECAME VERY SICK. HIS DEATH AT HIS HOME ON MARCH 9, 1857, WAS PEACEFUL. JUST BEFORE HE DIED HE SAID, "WHAT BEAUTIFUL THINGS I SEE." POPE PIUS XII CANONIZED HIM ON JUNE 12, 1954.

HIS FEAST IS MARCH 9.

"CAN YOU LOOK AT HIM AND STILL HATE EACH OTHER?"

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