

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

USCC Urges Investigation

Washington -- The fourth anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador should be an occasion for the U.S. government to press Salvadoran authorities to pursue investigations into the archbishop's death, said an official of the U.S. Catholic Conference. Holy Cross Father William M. Lewers, associate secretary for international justice and peace at the USCC, also urged U.S. government action in the case of four U.S. churchwomen murdered in El Salvador. Archbishop Romero was murdered March 24, 1980, as he celebrated Mass. The four women -- Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay missionary Jean Donovan -- were killed Dec. 2, 1980.

Solidarity 'Created Trust'

(Undated) -- The ideal of the independent labor union Solidarity "did not find a fit soil" in Poland, although nostalgia for it survives, said Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Gniezno and Warsaw in a press interview. The interview was published March 16 in Corriere della Sera, a daily published in Milan, Italy. Cardinal Glemp said Solidarity made "much progress" toward changing the social structure in Poland. "It created links of benevolence and trust among people," he said. He added, however, that "today we must speak of Solidarity in an objective manner."

Nation

USCC Opposes Lunch Cut

Washington -- A proposal to get the federal government out of school lunch programs for private schools in 11 states has been opposed by the U.S. Catholic Conference education department. Father Thomas G. Gallagher, USCC secretary for education, said in a letter to John Block, agriculture secretary, that the proposal was evidence of erosion of assistance to private school children. Such erosion "is entirely inconsistent with the administration's general concern for the legitimate needs of private school children," Father Gallagher said.

Bishop Refuses Approval

Washington -- Responding to criticism from two nuns' organizations concerning his treatment of New Ways Ministry, Archbishop James Hickey of Washington said he has refused to approve the ministry because it is "ambiguous and unclear with regard to the morality of homosexual activity." The National Coalition of American Nuns and the National Assembly of Religious Women had protested what they called an attempt by the archbishop to destroy New Ways Ministry, a Catholic-oriented group ministering to homosexuals.

Prayer Loses, 81-15

Washington -- The Senate, on a 81-15 vote March 15, defeated a proposed constitutional amendment to allow officially organized silent prayer or reflection periods in public schools. The unsuccessful measure, sponsored by Sen. Alan Dixon, D-Ill., also contained a provision allowing student groups access to school facilities for voluntary religious activities. Defeat of the proposal cleared the way for a final vote scheduled for March 20 on the proposed school prayer amendment backed by President Reagan.

Pontiff 'Indispensable'

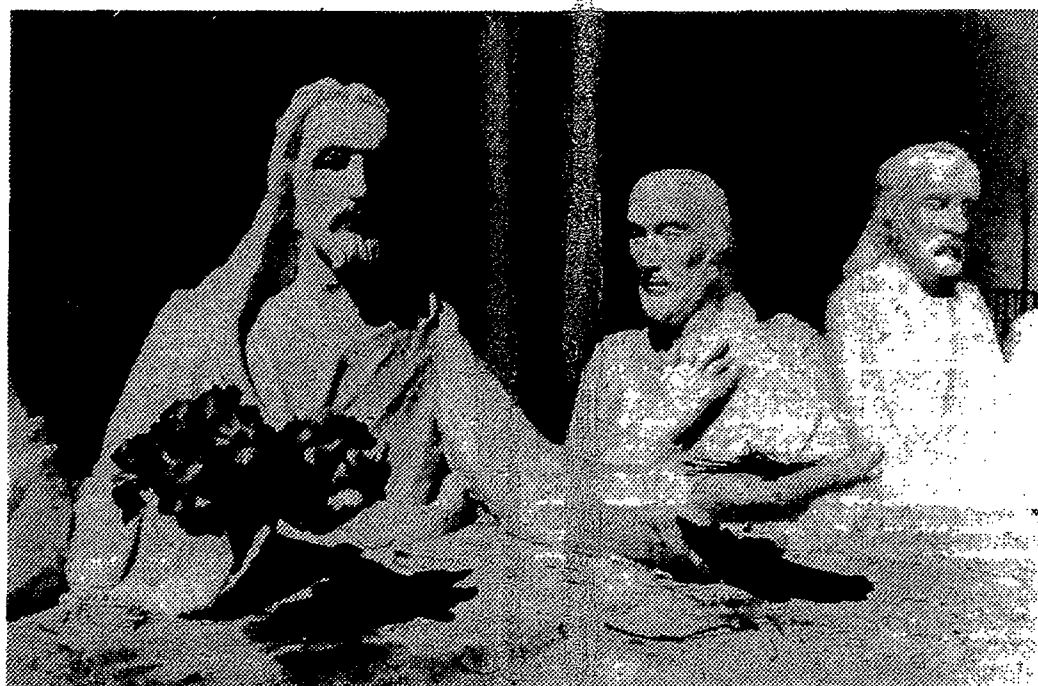
New York -- The authority of the pope is "absolutely indispensable" to the Catholic faith, said Archbishop John J. O'Connor at his March 19 installation as head of the New York Archdiocese. The archbishop, who formerly headed the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., and was an auxiliary bishop in the Military Vicariate in New York, spoke of papal authority during his homily, which was structured around responses to letters from school children. He also commented on needs of the city including those of the hungry and homeless, the spiritually undernourished and the young.

People

Names Make News

James O'Gara, editor of the Catholic magazine Commonweal, announced his retirement in the March 23 issue of the lay-run journal. O'Gara, 66, joined Commonweal in 1952 as managing editor and has been its editor since 1967. . . . Sixty-eight years after joining the Boy Scouts, Msgr. Louis Barcelo, founder of the organization's Ad Altari Dei award, will receive Scouting's highest honor, the Silver Buffalo. The 80-year-old priest will be presented the award during the national biennial council meeting May 21-25 in Salt Lake City, said Joe Kessler, director for Catholic relations at Scout headquarters in Irving, Texas,

Focus on Today's World



The Garden of Gethsemane in Tucson, Ariz., which had fallen prey to vandals over the years, has been restored to full beauty due to hundreds of hours donated by the Tucson Knights of Columbus. The figures in the garden were created by Felix Lucero who made a vow on a World War I battlefield in France that he would dedicate 20 years of his life sculpting religious figures if he survived.



Sergeant Hans Roggen, a Vatican Swiss Guard for 18 years, shakes hands with Pope John Paul II. He was among the first to know of the death of Pope John Paul I and was only 30 feet away when Pope John Paul II was shot. At various Vatican ceremonies, he has been photographed so often with the pope, he says, "that my wife won't let me buy them all."

Tony Alamo, pictured with his wife Susan in this 1978 photo, said he believes the Catholic Church is anti-Christ and that "the pope is the Antichrist." In an NC interview he said he agrees with the anti-Catholic posters that have been showing up in more than a dozen U.S. cities but declined to say if he was responsible for them. Alamo heads the fundamentalist Tony and Susan Alamo Christian Foundation based in Alma, Ark. Mrs. Alamo died in 1982.

Photos provided by NC News Service

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the Saints *by Luke*

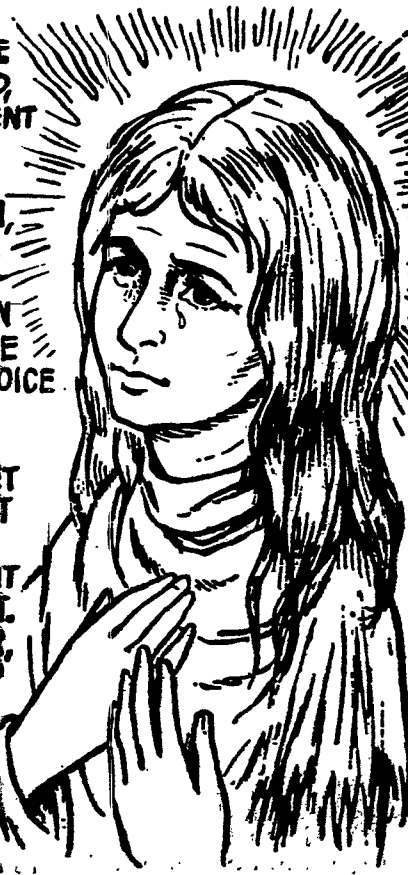
AS A TEENAGER, MARY LEFT HOME AND LIVED A LIFE OF SIN IN ALEXANDRIA FOR 17 YEARS.

WITH A GROUP IN JERUSALEM ON THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, SHE WENT TO THE CHURCH WHICH HELD THE PRECIOUS WOOD OF THE CROSS. EVERYONE ENTERED AND ADORED BUT MARY STAYED BACK. IN THAT MOMENT ALL OF HER MISERY BURST UPON HER. TURNING TO THE IMMACULATE MOTHER, WHOSE PICTURE FACED HER ON THE PORCH SHE VOWED FROM THEN ON TO DO PENANCE IF SHE MIGHT ENTER AND STAND LIKE MAGDALENE BESIDE THE CROSS. SHE THEN ENTERED. KNEELING BEFORE THE PICTURE AGAIN BEFORE LEAVING THE CHURCH, A VOICE CAME TO HER WHICH SAID, "PASS OVER JORDAN AND YOU WILL FIND REST." AND THERE, IN 420, 47 YEARS LATER, SHE MET THE ABBOT ZOSIMUS AND TOLD HIM THAT SHE HAD HAD PERFECT PEACE.

ON HOLY THURSDAY THE ABBOT BROUGHT HER HOLY COMMUNION AT HER REQUEST. SHE ASKED HIM TO RETURN AFTER A YEAR, AND WHEN HE DID, HE FOUND HER DEAD ON THE DESERT SAND WITH AN INSCRIPTION SAYING, "BURY HERE THE BODY OF MARY THE SINNER."

THE FEAST OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT IS APRIL 2.

ST. MARY OF EGYPT



COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Matthew H. Clark
President

Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Vignucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

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