

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

U.S., Vatican Link Made

Vatican City -- The United States and the Vatican can work together for world peace, human rights and the development of nations, said Pope John Paul II April 9 as he accepted the credentials of William A. Wilson, first ambassador of the United States to the Holy See. This cooperation, "means entering into an extended dialogue on the important issues which are at the basis of civilization itself," the pope told the 69-year-old Wilson, a Californian and close friend of President Reagan. "It means exerting common efforts to defend human dignity and the rights of the human person -- every human person, every man, woman and child on this earth," he added. Complete text, Page 7.

Chile Releases 4 Guerrillas

Santiago, Chile -- Chile's military government has allowed four guerrillas who took refuge in January in the Vatican diplomatic mission in Santiago to leave the country. The four arrived in Quito, Ecuador, on April 7. Ecuadoran authorities said two of the guerrillas would be given political asylum for 60 days, and the two others would receive permanent asylum in Belgium. The Vatican and Chile's bishops had requested safe-conduct passes for the two men and two women after they scaled a 10-foot wall and entered the papal nunciature Jan. 16, surrendered their weapons and asked for political asylum. The guerrillas said they feared their lives were in danger.

Vatican 'Moral Superpower'

Vatican City -- The Vatican is a "moral and spiritual superpower," said U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See William A. Wilson during an interview with Vatican Radio April 9. "If the United States is an economic and political superpower in the free world, certainly the Holy See is a moral and spiritual superpower," Wilson said. The interview was aired on the same day he presented his credentials to Pope John Paul II.

Church Council Invites Pope

Toronto -- The Canadian Council of Churches has invited Pope John Paul II to meet with its members and talk about "our common calling in Christ" during the Sept. 9-20 papal visit to Canada. A letter to the pope said that the discussion would focus on an ecumenical pastoral letter which the church leaders are preparing for release this spring. The document will be addressed to the people of Canada to celebrate "the gift of unity given to us in Christ" and will review past ecumenical accomplishments, outline hopes for the future and call all Christians to faithfulness to Christ's mission.

Nation

School Lunch Fund Backed

Washington -- The U.S. Catholic Conference has urged support for school lunch legislation that would increase funding for the program and allow private schools charging \$1,500 or more in tuition to participate. In an April 3 letter to Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Father Thomas Gallagher, USCC secretary for education, said that the legislation, S.1913, "recognizes the needs of many poor and undernourished children" and "also addresses a concern of particular importance to the Catholic school community."

Encuentro Priorities

Rosemont, Ill. -- Evangelization topped the list of five "burning issues" accepted as priorities for the third Encuentro Nacional Hispano de Pastoral (national Hispanic pastoral encounter) to be held in Washington in August 1985. More than 375 delegates met in Rosemont, a Chicago suburb, April 4-7, to list the top needs of the more than 16 million U.S. Hispanic Catholics. Along with evangelization, the other top concerns were education, social justice, youth and the formation of leaders.

CRS at Odds with U.S.

New York -- Catholic Relief Services has refused to accept some U.S. government aid for Central America because of the government's limitations on the use of the funds, CRS director Lawrence Pezzullo said in an interview. "In some cases the U. S. government insists on country-specific programs," said Pezzullo April 10 at CRS headquarters in New York. "We don't accept that, and we turn down the funds. We think the restrictions are unnecessarily tight." The largest amount of aid distributed by CRS comes from the U.S. government. Pezzullo said that a \$10 million U.S. appropriation for refugees and displaced persons was seen by CRS as a program for all of Central America. The Reagan administration, however, has restricted the aid to work in El Salvador.

Focus on Today's World



Father Alfred Kelly of St. John the Baptist parish in Milpitas, Calif., blesses motorcycles outside the Gold Rush Bar in San Jose. It was the third annual blessing of motorcycles sponsored by the Ancient Iron Motorcycle Club.



Father John Hammond, prior of the Weston Priory in Weston, Vt., holds one of five young children of a Guatemalan refugee family as they arrive at the priory to be received into sanctuary.



Katherine Cooke, sister of the late Cardinal Terence Cooke, displays the Medal of Freedom given posthumously to the cardinal by President Ronald Reagan at a meeting of the State Federation of Catholic School Parents last week in New York.

Photos provided by NC News Service

the Saints

by Luke

DISMAS WAS A NOTORIOUS THIEF IN THE DAYS OF OUR LORD ON EARTH. A LEGEND ATTRIBUTED TO THE ARABIC "GOSPEL OF THE INFANCY," TELLS OF DISMAS WITH A BAND OF THIEVES, SIGHTING THE HOLY FAMILY ON THEIR FLIGHT INTO EGYPT. DISMAS, SENSING THAT THIS FAMILY WAS DIFFERENT, PROTECTED JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH FROM HARM. ABOUT 33 YEARS LATER DISMAS MET JESUS AND HIS SORROWFUL MOTHER AGAIN... ONLY THIS TIME ON CALVARY, WHERE HE WAS HANGING ON A CROSS NEXT TO JESUS AND ANOTHER CRIMINAL. DISMAS, RECOGNIZING GOD, REPENTED.

ST. DISMAS

CHAPTER 23 OF ST. LUKE READS: "NOW ONE OF THOSE ROBBERS WHO WERE HANGED WAS ABUSING HIM, SAYING, "IF YOU ARE THE CHRIST, SAVE YOURSELF AND US!" BUT THE OTHER IN ANSWER REBUKED HIM AND SAID, "HAVE YOU NO FEAR OF GOD, SEEING THAT YOU ARE UNDER THE SAME SENTENCE? WE DESERVE IT, AFTER ALL WE ARE ONLY PAYING THE PRICE FOR WHAT WE'VE DONE, BUT THIS MAN HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG." THEN HE SAID TO JESUS, "LORD, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU ENTER UPON YOUR REIGN..." AND JESUS REPLIED, "I ASSURE YOU, THIS DAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."



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COURIER-JOURNAL

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Vol. 95, No. 29 April 18, 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.