

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

Youths Inspire John Paul

Rome -- Everyone from Pope John Paul II, who invited young people to celebrate the Holy Year with him, to the young people who responded felt the impact of the April 11-15 Holy Year events for young people. "The pope has gotten more than he's given," said Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, Vatican secretary of state, when he met Mother Teresa of Calcutta April 15. Cardinal Casaroli also told English-speaking young people gathered for a catechesis session on love that the pope was enjoying the events more and more as they unfolded. "He looks younger and younger every day you're here," said Cardinal Casaroli. "If you stay here much longer, we'll have a pope who looks like a young Christian."

Zimbabwe Atrocities Charged

Harare, Zimbabwe -- Zimbabwe's Catholic bishops have accused government forces of killing, raping and torturing villagers in the southern province of Matabeleland, where government troops are fighting rebels. In a report made public April 15 in Matabeleland's provincial capital, Bulawayo, the bishops expressed "grave concern" about "the suffering of people in southwest Matabeleland arising from the continuing conditions of starvation, beatings of people, torture and killings." The report was prepared by four priests and Swiss-born Bishop Henry Karlen of Bulawayo. It was submitted to the government early in April.

Lib Theology OK, But

Vatican City -- Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, told a press conference April 13 that while some theologies of liberation are legitimate, those which embrace Marxist analysis as a universal guide should be rejected. The press conference, which the Vatican said was the first by the doctrinal congregation, was held to review a meeting between congregation officials and representatives of the Latin American bishops' conferences in Bogota, Colombia, March 26-30. The meeting, Cardinal Ratzinger said, treated liberation theology as one of its six main themes. While some expressions of liberation theology are "fully legitimate, even necessary," said the German cardinal, "others are open to criticism," while still others are "in the final analysis, unacceptable."

Nation

U.N. Has Papal Support

Los Angeles -- Popes from Pius XII to John Paul II have been unequivocally committed to supporting the United Nations, because being active in world affairs is part of Christ's plan, said Archbishop Giovanni Cheli, the Vatican's permanent observer at the United Nations. The church has the right to be active in international political life in general and the United Nations in particular, the archbishop told about 200 people who attended his talk hosted by the Los Angeles archdiocesan peace and justice commission April 6.

Consultation Helps Bishops

Whitefish Bay, Wis. -- Consultation by bishops with the laity strengthens, not weakens, the teaching authority of the hierarchy, Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee told about 225 people at a symposium on the U.S. bishops' forthcoming pastoral letter on economic issues. Archbishop Weakland chairs the bishops' committee which will draft the pastoral after consultations with representatives from business, economics, government, labor, theology, the poor and other specialized groups. Although the first draft of the economics pastoral is not expected until November, after the national elections, critics are already taking aim at it and at the idea of bishops getting advice from outsiders, Archbishop Weakland said.

Bishop Wary of 'Apparitions'

LaFayette, La. -- Bishop Gerard L. Frey of Lafayette, La., has told Catholics in his diocese to "withhold belief in the apparitions and messages" of the so-called "Knotted Cord of Love Rosary Mission." After an investigation into the mission, Bishop Frey asked Catholics to withdraw their support of the claims made by Genevieve Comeaux of Cankton, La., who said the Blessed Virgin Mary has appeared to her and given her messages of an impending national disaster. For more than a year Mrs. Comeaux has claimed that Mary appears to her "often, even daily," said Msgr. H.A. Larroque, diocesan vicar general. The alleged messages from Mary "predict a national disaster and the only people spared will be those who pray her 'Knotted Cord of Love Rosary,'" he said.

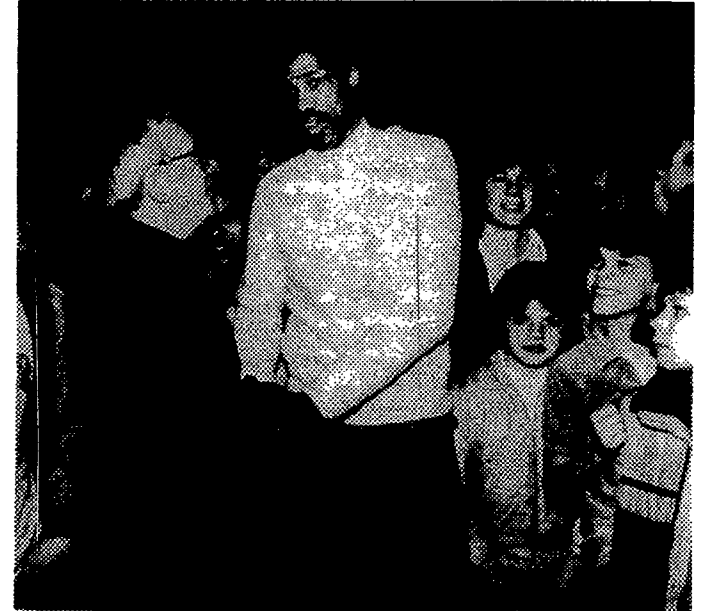
Focus on Today's World



Pope John Paul II poses with foreign members of Italian soccer teams during the International Athletes Jubilee at Rome's Olympic Stadium. The group included players from France, Poland, the Netherlands, Argentina, Peru, England, Austria, Denmark and West Germany.



Mother Teresa of Calcutta introduces one of the patients at her home for dying destitutes in New Delhi to Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz and his wife. The chancellor later donated medicine for use in the home.



Boys Town Executive Director Father Robert Hupp and dozens of boys welcome Philadelphia 76er forward Julius "Dr. J" Erving to Boys Town, Neb., where the basketball star received the 1984 Father Flanagan Service to Youth Award.

Photos provided by NC News Service

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the Saints by Luke

PAUL WAS BORN IN OVADA, ITALY, JAN. 3, 1694. IT IS SAID THAT ONE DAY IN A VISION HE WAS INSPIRED TO FOUND A CONGREGATION IN HONOR OF THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST. HE WAS VESTED BY A BISHOP WITH THE SAME HABIT THAT HAD BEEN SHOWN TO HIM IN THE VISION; THE SAME HABIT THAT THE PASSIONISTS WEAR NOW.

IN MEMORY OF THE PASSION OF JESUS, HE CHOSE A HEART WITH THREE NAILS AS THE BADGE OF HIS ORDER.

PAUL BEGAN AS A LAYMAN TO PREACH THE PASSION OF CHRIST. ALL HIS EARLY COMPANIONS EXCEPT HIS BROTHER DESERTED HIM. FINALLY, IN 1741, THE RULE HE WROTE WAS APPROVED BY POPE BENEDICT XIV. THE FIRST HOUSE OF THE PASSIONISTS WAS OPENED IN ORBITELLO. LATER, PAUL ESTABLISHED A LARGER COMMUNITY AT THE CHURCH OF STS. JOHN AND PAUL IN ROME.

PAUL REMAINED THE UNTIRING MISSIONARY OF ITALY FOR 50 YEARS. HE DIED AT ROME IN 1775 WHILE THE PASSION WAS READ TO HIM. HE WAS 81.

THE FEAST OF ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS IS APRIL 29.

ST. PAUL of the CROSS

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