

World, Nation, People... in Brief

World

Apparitions Studied

Rome — A commission of church experts and medical doctors has begun an inquiry into the reported Marian apparitions at Medjugorje in Yugoslavia. The commission study may take the form of a series of visits to the apparition sites from the town and area. The commission was formed by Bishop Pavao Zanic of Mostar, whose diocese includes Medjugorje and Franciscan Father Vladimir Vukobratovic. The visions were first reported in 1981 to six young people in Medjugorje.

Hostages Released

Rome — Five nuns, two priests and a brother, kidnapped by guerrillas in Angola Dec. 18, have been released unharmed, according to religious sources. They were released April 26, with about 20 others held in a jungle encampment. The five women, all members of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, returned to their community headquarters in Rome April 30. The men released are all members of the Divine Word missionaries. All eight were kidnapped from their mission in Caxito, Angola, by members of UNITA, a guerrilla group opposed to the Marxist government. UNITA, after the Portuguese initials for National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, has been fighting the government since 1975.

Nation

Nun on Probation

(Updated) — A Catholic nun arrested near McAllen, Texas, in February and charged with transporting illegal Salvadoran aliens has been granted a "pre-trial diversion" which placed her on probation in preparation for charges being dropped. Sister Dianne M. Muhlenkamp, a member of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, arrested by U.S. Border Patrol officers, "may or may not" be required to be a government witness in exchange for the pre-trial diversion, said Sister Mary Baird, the order's communications director. The diversion was granted April 26 because of Sister Muhlenkamp's "lack of involvement" in working with the aliens. Sister Baird said in a telephone interview from the order's motherhouse in Donaldson, Ind. Sister Muhlenkamp was arrested along with Stacy Merkt, a lay volunteer at Casa Oscar Romero, a refugee center in San Benito, Texas. Dallas Times-Herald reporter Jack Fischer and two Salvadoran refugees, one with an 18-month-old baby.

Rights Must Be Considered

Los Angeles — Proposed immigration legislation must take into consideration the human rights issues involved, Cardinal Timothy Manning of Los Angeles said in a letter to two congressmen. Cardinal Manning wrote to House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., and to Rep. Claude Pepper, D-Fla., chairman of the House Rules Committee, saying that "our thoughts on the subject of immigration legislation are rooted in two fundamental principles revolving around our right to provide for ourselves and our families." Cardinal Manning said the first principle to consider is the right of nations to regulate migration across their borders. The second principle, he said, was enunciated by Pope John Paul II in his 1981 encyclical "Laborem Exercens" ("On Human Work"), in which the pope said people have a right to emigrate from one country to another to seek employment.

Bishops Named

Washington — Bishop Joseph R. Callahan of the Diocese of San Diego has been named as the candidate for the position of auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Diego. The Diocese of San Diego is one of the poorest in the United States.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

200 Attend 'Day of Joy' At Ithaca's Stewart Park

More than 200 Ithacans gathered on Sunday, May 6 at Stewart Park for a picnic with an ecumenical theme, "Celebration of Life -- A Day of Joy and

Gladness." The day was organized by Father Anthony Mugavero (top center), priest intern at Immaculate Conception parish in Ithaca. Participants of all ages and faiths sang, danced (upper right) and played games, and joined later in the day for an interfaith service and supper. Right, Mike Stanley applies clown makeup to become his alter ego, Pelion. Below right and above, a pair of the younger picnickers in their fathers' hold.

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On the Inside

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| At Your Parish..... | 8 |
| Bishop Clark..... | 3 |
| Calendar..... | 6 |
| Child..... | 22 |
| Classified..... | 23 |
| Cuddy..... | 9 |
| Editorial..... | 21 |
| Faith Today..... | 17-20 |
| Hohman..... | 5 |
| Liturgy..... | 15 |
| Missions..... | Center |
| Opinion..... | 21 |
| Pope..... | 24 |
| Rap Around..... | 16 |

