World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Prepared by NC News Service

World

Pope Recalls Shooting

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II recalled the attempt on his life three years ago, blessed Catholic school runners and prayed for mothers and for an increase in vocations May 13. Speaking from the window of the papal apartment during his noontime Regina Coeli address, the pope recalled the day, exactly three years before, when a would-be assassin fired near-fatal shots at him in St. Peter's Square. "On this anniversary so significant to me, my thoughts go to Fatima to renew to Mary the expression of my affection and my gratitude for her maternal protection," the pope said to about 50,000 pilgrims in the square.

End of Pilgrimages Sought

Vatican City — A commission established to investigate reported Marian apparitions in Yugoslavia has recommended that local priests stop organizing pilgrimages to the site and stop making a public display of the six young people who say they have seen the apparitions. "The commission cannot approve of the fact that priests and lay people are organizing pilgrimages to Medjugorje and that the public display of the seers is being promoted in the churches, before an authoritative judgment has been made on the authenticity of the visions," a commission spokesman said. The commission statement was published by the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, May 12. The statement followed a meeting of the panel of Yugoslavian theological and medical experts in March.

Nation

Bishop Drops Support

New York — Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Fort Worth, Mo., told a Brooklyn audience May 13 that he had changed his position on the Equal Rights Amendment and would not support it unless it was modified to eliminate any connection with abortion. Bishop McAuliffe, chairman of the [illegible] from 1974 to 1982, had argued that the ERA did not imply a right to abortion. He had unsuccessfully urged the NCCB to support the constitutional amendment. But he said circumstances today were "completely different," and he called for adoption of the ERA anti-abortion rider proposed by Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.

Execution Protested

(Undated) — James Adams, executed in Florida May 10 for the murder of a rancher a decade ago, became what the Florida bishops called the latest victim of a criminal justice system of "inherent unfairness." The state's seven bishops in a joint statement had sent an appeal to Florida Gov. Robert Graham May 9, asking for a stay of execution. Adams died in the electric chair in Starke, Fla., shortly after 7 a.m. EDT May 10. Adams, 47, was the 38th person to be executed in the United States since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976 and the first black executed in Florida in 20 years. In their statement the bishops said, "If our system of justice was infallible, the administration of the death penalty might be considered differently, but it is subject to error."

S. Africa Racism Hit

Vatican City — A Vatican official has criticized the "racist ideology" of the South African government and has praised local church efforts to promote the Gospel "without artificial and [illegible]." Bishop Jan Schotte, the president of the Vatican Justice and Peace Commission, [illegible] South African government [illegible] anniversary of the Vatican [illegible] convention on racial discrimination. The [illegible] published in the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, on May 5.

People

Names Make News

[illegible]

Focus on Today's World

Press representatives and guests get an advance look at the "Treasures of the Vatican" exhibit in the Vatican Pavilion at the Louisiana World Exposition in New Orleans.

Pope John Paul II kneels in prayer at St. Peter's tomb in the Vatican grottos following his return to Rome from his 11-day Asian trip.

In Brownsville, Tex., Stacey Merkt and her attorney, Daniel Sheehan, answer questions from reporters after she was found guilty of smuggling three Salvadoran aliens into the United States. She could face up to 15 years in prison.

Photos provided by NC News Service

the Saints by Luke

ST. JOAN OF ARC

ST. JEANNE LA PUCELLE, BETTER KNOWN AS JOAN OF ARC, WAS BORN ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, 1412, AT DOMREMY, FRANCE. ESSENTIALLY UNEDUCATED EXCEPT IN HOUSEHOLD SKILLS AND PRAYER, HER PEASANT CHILDHOOD WAS MUCH THE SAME AS OTHER CHILDREN OF THE REGION. AT 13, "VOICES" WHICH SHE KEPT SECRET FOR NEARLY FIVE YEARS, REVEALED HER MISSION — THE DELIVERANCE OF THE FRENCH KINGDOM FROM ENGLISH CONTROL.

BARELY 17, JOAN WENT TO CHARLES VII AND CONVINCED HIM OF HER DIVINE MISSION. WITH HER BANNER, "JESUS, MARY," RAISED ABOVE HER, JOAN AND HER ARMY MARCHED IN VICTORY ON ORLEANS ENDING AN EIGHT-MONTH SEIGE. THIS OPENED THE ROAD TO RHEIMS WHERE CHARLES WAS CROWNED KING IN THE CATHEDRAL.

LATER, ABANDONED BY HER KING, SHE FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENGLISH WHO GAVE HER A MOCK TRIAL AND BURNED HER AS A HERETIC. WITH HER EYES ON A CRUCIFIX SHE CRIED OUT, "JESUS, JESUS," THROUGH THE FLAMES.

CANONIZED BY POPE BENEDICT XV ON MAY 13, 1920, SHE IS PATRONESS OF FRANCE AND SOLDIERS.

THE FEAST OF ST. JOAN OF ARC, VIRGIN, IS MAY 30.

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