

# World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

## World

### Priest's Candidacy Assailed

Vatican City -- The Vatican newspaper has sharply criticized an Italian priest who announced his candidacy for the European Parliament. "The candidacy is in opposition to canon laws that forbid priests to take an active part in party politics," the newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said May 17 in a lengthy, unsigned editorial. The priest, Father Gianni Baget Bozzo of Genoa, Italy, is a candidate on the Socialist ticket. Elections to the European Parliament are scheduled for June. The Archdiocese of Genoa has issued a statement calling the candidacy "an act that is clearly damaging to church laws and the cause of discontent among the faithful."

### Pope Extolls Sports

Vatican City -- Competition should lead athletes to a higher spiritual plane, and help them avoid "frivolous behavior" and "pleasures that discourage and degrade," Pope John Paul II said May 18. Loyalty, honesty, perseverance, generosity, teamwork and other qualities found among athletes should act as a "springboard" toward a spiritual level, helping athletes "overcome all frivolous behavior, which leads to a gray existence deprived of ideals," the pope told 400 participants in an Italian sports congress.

### Laity to Be Synod Theme

Vatican City -- The theme for the 1986 world Synod of Bishops will be "the mission of the laity in the church and in the world," announced Pope John Paul II May 19. The pope made his announcement during an audience for members of the synod council of bishops which met May 14-19 to finish work on the final document of the 1983 synod on penance and reconciliation and to plan for the 1986 synod.

## Nation

### Strip Search Defended

Orlando, Fla. -- The head of the Orange County jail defended the prison's strip-search policies when it was reported that two inmates -- a lay woman and a nun, both facing charges for an anti-nuclear protest -- were strip-searched after attending Mass in the jail. Sacred Heart Sister Ann Montgomery, 57, and Christin Marie Schmidt, 24, said they underwent strip-searches May 6 after attending a Mass celebrated in a jail consultation room by LaSalette Father Charles E. Hickey of Orlando. The two women are part of the Pershing Plowshares, an eight-member group facing state and federal charges for their Easter morning break-in at a Martin Marietta manufacturing facility in Orlando. After a report on the strip-searches appeared in the Orlando Sentinel, county jail director Terry James declined to confirm or deny the incident. He did, however, defend the jail policy, saying that state law allows an inmate charged with a felony to be strip-searched at any time by a guard. If such a search took place, he added, it was done by a female guard.

### Counterpoint to Bishops?

New York -- A commission of some of the nation's leading lay Catholics -- including former Treasury Secretary William Simon and former Secretary of State Alexander Haig -- has been formed to write a letter on the U.S. economy to parallel the pastoral letter on the economy being prepared by the U.S. bishops. The American Catholic Committee, a New York-based group formed in 1982 to analyze contemporary issues "from the fullness of Catholic tradition," announced formation of the commission May 16 and said it would write a "Letter of the Laity on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy." A committee of U.S. bishops, headed by Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, is currently in the consultation and drafting stages of a pastoral letter on "Catholic Social Teaching and the American Economy." The first draft of the bishops' letter is scheduled to be released after November's national elections.

### Pope TV Commentator

Washington -- The U.S. Catholic Conference is distributing a television public service announcement featuring Pope John Paul II's 1979 plea at the United Nations for arms control. The visual portion of the public service announcement shows a montage of U.S. and Soviet weapons, while the audio contains an excerpt from the pope's message to the United Nations, the USCC announced May 18. The TV message is similar to a radio spot, also featuring the pope's voice, sent to U.S. dioceses early this year as part of USCC efforts to implement the bishops' pastoral on war and peace. Both spots were produced and donated by media consultant Tony Schwartz.

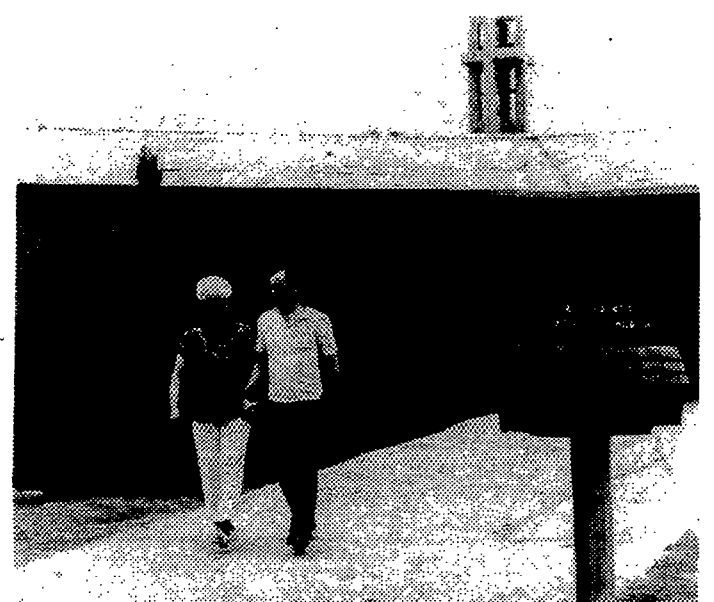
# Focus on Today's World



Peace activist Elizabeth McAlister, third from left, prays with supporters before entering Federal District Court in Syracuse for the trial of the Griffiss Plowshares Seven. They are charged with entering Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome last Thanksgiving and damaging government property. If convicted, Ms. McAlister, the wife of Philip Berrigan, could face up to 25 years in prison.



Archbishop Miguel Obando Bravo of Managua, Nicaragua, receives petitions signed by people supporting the Nicaraguan bishops who recently issued a pastoral letter that called for negotiations between government and guerrillas.



Father Rudy Kos strolls on the All Saints parish grounds in Dallas with his mother, Dolores Hosford. The two were reunited after a 32-year separation after Mrs. Hosford saw an NC photo of her son in the Texas Catholic Herald.

Photos provided by NC News Service

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## the Saints *by Luke*

### ST. NORBERT



NORBERT WAS BORN OF NOBLE PARENTS IN 1080 IN WHAT IS NOW XANTEN, WEST GERMANY. HE WAS MADE A CANON AND SERVED IN THE COURTS OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF COLOGNE AND EMPEROR HENRY V. LIKE MANY CLERICS OF HIS DAY HE LIVED A LIFE OF LUXURY. ONE DAY IN 1115, A BOLT OF LIGHTNING KNOCKED HIM FROM HIS HORSE. SEEING THIS AS AN INVITATION TO A LIFE OF PERFECTION, HE RETIRED TO A CELL NEAR XANTEN WHERE HE LIVED THREE YEARS OF PENANCE. AFTER ORDINATION HE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO REFORM HIS BROTHER CANONS OF XANTEN. NORBERT THEN GAVE HIS GOODS TO THE POOR AND JOURNEYED BAREFOOT TO SAINT-GILLES, FRANCE, WHERE POPE GELASIUS II AUTHORIZED HIM TO PREACH. NORBERT EVANGELIZED THROUGH EUROPE AND WON MANY CONVERTS TO THE FAITH. NORBERT ESTABLISHED A MONASTERY NEAR LAON, FRANCE, IN 1121 IN THE WILD VALE OF PREMONTRE. HIS FOLLOWERS BECAME KNOWN AS THE PREMONSTRATENSIS, ADOPTING THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE OF ST. AUGUSTINE WITH THE INTENTION OF MAKING REPARATION FOR INJURIES OFFERED TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. IN 1126, NORBERT RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO BECOME ARCHBISHOP OF MAGDEBURG IN SOUTHERN GERMANY, A LAND HALF PAGAN AND HALF CHRISTIAN. HERE HE WORKED FOR THE CHURCH UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1134. THE FEAST OF ST. NORBERT IS JUNE 6.

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