

World, Nation, People... in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

Pope, Reagan Criticized

London -- Controversial Swiss theologian Father Hans Kung said Pope John Paul II and President Reagan contradict themselves by supporting human rights in some areas while suppressing rights in others. Father Kung drew several comparisons between the two leaders in an interview published June 7 in The Times of London. He also questioned the pope's commitment to ecumenism. He said the pope and the president protest human rights violations in Eastern Europe, but the president "helps to suppress such rights in Central America, and the pope suppresses them inside the church."

Sympathy for Communist Chief

Vatican City -- Pope John Paul II had prayed for the health of Italian Communist Party leader Enrico Berlinguer and, three days before Berlinguer died, sent an archbishop to the ailing man's hospital room to comfort his family. Berlinguer, the party's general secretary since 1972, died June 11 at the age of 62. He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage June 7 while addressing a party rally in the northern Italian city of Padua and lapsed into a coma from which he never recovered. The Vatican press office called Berlinguer "a man esteemed for the seriousness of his work and for the zeal which animated him."

Timely Criticism of Apartheid

Vatican City -- Moments after a June 11 audience between Pope John Paul II and South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha, the Vatican criticized apartheid. South Africa's system of racial discrimination. "Such policies have been judged contrary to the Christian principle of equal dignity of all men," the Vatican press office said in a one-page statement following the audience. But the Vatican also said that recent non-aggression pacts and ceasefires between South Africa and its neighbors represent a "positive evolution" in southern Africa's political situation.

Nation

Pro-Life Range Expounded

Kansas City, Mo. -- Addressing a broad range of pro-life issues does not mean diluting the content of the pro-life message. Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago told participants in the 1984 National Right to Life convention in Kansas City. At the June 7-9 convention, National Right to Life Committee leaders said the re-election of Ronald Reagan is the organization's number one priority. More than 1,000 people attended the convention, which included sessions on adoption, in vitro fertilization, fetal pain and teenagers and abortion. More details, Page 10.

'Liturgical Movement Needed

Washington -- "The need for a new liturgical movement is imperative," Archbishop Virgilio Noe, secretary of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship, said in a speech in Washington June 7. Surprising many of the liturgists, theologians and national church officials in the audience with his forthrightness, the 62-year-old Vatican official admitted that the role of women in liturgy needs more study and that Rome is sometimes very slow in responding to such issues. Archbishop Noe was in the United States for a 13-day visit. He spoke during a reception in his honor at The Catholic University of America, co-hosted by university's Department of Theology and the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Archbishop Gets Apology

Newark, N.J. -- A New York City television station issued a public apology June 6 to Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark after the station reported a week earlier that the archbishop had been summoned to Rome by Pope John Paul II. The station, WABC-TV, which broadcasts into Newark, linked the summons to the appearance of Archbishop Gerety's imprimatur in the book "Christ Among Us," which was ordered withdrawn from circulation by the Vatican's doctrinal congregation.

People

Names Make News

Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York has been elected president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, succeeding the late Cardinal Terence Cooke. The New York-based group provides relief and development programs for people of all faiths in the Middle East. Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Pittsburgh was admitted to the bar in a three-court "concelebrated" session June 5. Ten judges from the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for Western Pennsylvania met to welcome its new member, who is a former instructor in immigration law. After being administered the oaths, Bishop Bevilacqua said, "I never swore so much in my life."

Focus on Today's World



Bishop William R. Houck is embraced by other bishops during his installation Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Jackson, Miss. Bishop Houck served nearly five years as auxiliary to retired Bishop Joseph Brunini. (NC Photo)



Two children place flowers on caskets containing 11 fetuses during a non-denominational funeral service in Milwaukee's Holy Cross Cemetery. They were discovered by youngsters playing near a trash bin behind a medical center on the city's north side. The fetuses were buried in a baby section plot donated by the Milwaukee archdiocese. (NC Photo)



Archbishop John O'Connor dons a hat given to him while viewing the Puerto Rican Day parade in New York. Police officer Luis Salgado, president of the police department's Spanish Society, presented the archbishop with a hat and a hug. (NC Photo)

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the Saints *by Luke*

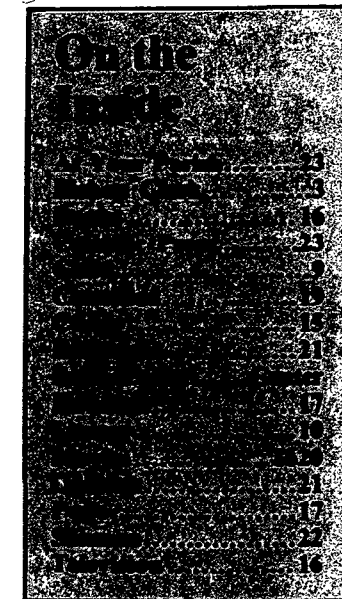
SIMON WAS A FISHERMAN WHO, ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER ANDREW, BECAME ONE OF JESUS' FIRST FOLLOWERS. AFTER ANSWERING JESUS' CALL TO "COME FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN" (Mt 4:19), SIMON RECEIVED THE NEW NAME OF PETER, MEANING "ROCK," AS A SYMBOL OF HIS ROLE AS FIRST HEAD OF THE CHURCH WHICH CHRIST INSTITUTED.

ST. PETER The Apostle

ONE DAY JESUS SAID TO HIS 12 APOSTLES, "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" PETER ANSWERED, "YOU ARE THE MESSIAH." JESUS WAS PLEASED AND SAID, "YOU ARE 'ROCK' AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH... I WILL ENTRUST TO YOU THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN." (Mt 16:18-19) THIS GAVE PETER THE POWER TO HELP PEOPLE GET TO HEAVEN.



AFTER HIS RESURRECTION, JESUS ASKED PETER THREE TIMES: "DO YOU LOVE ME?" THREE TIMES PETER ANSWERED, "YES, LORD YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU." AND JESUS SAID TO HIM, "FEED MY LAMBS. TEND MY SHEEP. FEED MY SHEEP." (Jn 21:15-17) IN THIS WAY, JESUS MADE IT CLEAR THAT PETER WAS TO BE THE FIRST POPE. PETER WAS CRUCIFIED, HEAD DOWNWARD, IN ROME, BECAUSE HE SAID HE WAS NOT WORTHY TO DIE IN THE SAME WAY AS JESUS DID. THE FEAST OF ST. PETER, APOSTLE, MARTYR, AND FIRST HEAD OF THE CHURCH, IS JUNE 29.



COURIER-JOURNAL

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Vol. 95, No. 38 June 20, 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.