

While We Were Away...

Annually, the Courier-Journal does not publish the week after the Fourth of July. Of course, that does not mean that the world stops twirling. In an effort to keep readers up with stories which may not have appeared elsewhere and/or as a matter of record, we are providing the following capsulized wrapup of such happenings.



Pope John Paul II prepares to place a pallium over the shoulders of Archbishop John O'Connor of New York during a Vatican ceremony. (NC Photo)

3 U.S. Archbishops Given Vatican Palliums

Vatican City (NC) -- Three Americans were among 11 new archbishops who received their palliums, the white wool bands symbolizing the authority they share with the pontiff, from Pope John Paul II in a historic ceremony June 29.

They were Archbishops John O'Connor of New York, Bernard Law of Boston and Daniel Kucera of Dubuque, Iowa.

Vatican officials said it was the first time in modern church history in which a pope has personally conferred the palliums. Previously the circular two-inch-wide bands of white wool were blessed by the pope at a consistory of cardinals and conferred at a later time by a cardinal representing the pope.

The ceremony took place during a Mass attended by an estimated 15,000 people in St. Peter's Basilica on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

The pontiff also blessed 14 palliums for recently named archbishops who were unable to attend the ceremony. Those palliums will be conferred by the pope's representative in each country.

Of the 25 archbishops for whom palliums were blessed, 11 are from Latin America, four from Africa, one from the Philippines and six from Europe.

The new archbishops will wear the bands when they preside at formal church ceremonies in their ecclesiastical provinces.

Archbishop O'Connor said that the conferral of the pallium was designed to show the link between the pope and the pastoral responsibility exercised by the archbishop for the local church. "I feel that link deeply myself," he said, "and it's that dependency on the Chair of Peter which I will be stressing when I describe the ceremony to people back in New York."

Vatican to Publish Documents on Galileo

Vatican City (NC) -- The Vatican said July 2 that it is publishing for the first time its complete set of documents concerning the trial of 17th-century astronomer Galileo Galilei, who in 1633 was censured by the church for claiming that the earth revolves around the sun.

The book, "Documents of the Trial of Galileo Galilei," compiled by two Vatican archivists, reveals that the original transcripts of the trial no longer exist among Vatican records.

The editors said the discovery is important because it means that a previously published Vatican "codex," until now thought to be a key part of the trial record, is in fact an incomplete abstract made at a later time.

Last March, a special Vatican commission assigned to study the case released its findings that Galileo had been wrongly condemned.

The editors, Father Sergio Pagano and Antonio Luciani, also said that new evidence makes it unlikely that Galileo's anonymous accuser was a Jesuit priest, as some historians have claimed. They said, instead, that the accuser was "certainly an archbishop or a cardinal." They based their conclusion on the watermarked coat of arms found on a letter denouncing the scientist.

The editors said in a press release that the original trial records were probably lost in 1810 when Napoleon transferred many Vatican documents to Paris.

Apartheid, Racial Bias Denounced by Pontiff

Vatican City (NC) -- Pope John Paul II has denounced apartheid, South Africa's policy of imposed racial segregation, calling it an offense to human dignity and a possible threat to regional and world peace.

The pope also criticized the forced removals of black people to tribal homelands established by South Africa and called for the rapid establishment of independence for Namibia, a territory administered by South Africa.

In other activities in a busy July 7, the pope urged Indonesia to respect human rights in East Timor, which has a large Catholic population. The pontiff also met with hundreds of Armenian Catholics and told them to maintain ecumenical dialogue with Eastern Orthodox churches.

The pope's strongly worded statement against apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination came during a Vatican meeting with the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid. The committee was led by chairman Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria.

"Every form of discrimination based on race, whether occasional or systematically practiced, and whether it is aimed at individuals or whole racial groups, is absolutely unacceptable," the pope said in an address to the group. Such discrimination violates the church's principle of "the fundamental equality of all human beings," he said.

Recalling that Pope Paul VI had voiced concern about the attempts to create discriminatory political structures in Africa, Pope John Paul said the Vatican has continued to follow events in southern Africa closely and speak out about human rights violations.

"As for Namibia, the Holy See expresses the hope that it will be possible for the negotiations, which have been going on for a long time, to be translated, without too much delay, into clear decisions which will recognize without ambiguity the right of this nation to be sovereign and independent," the pope said.

Namibia, also known as South West Africa, is administered by South Africa under a disputed mandate dating from World War I. The South-West Africa Peoples Organization, which the U.N. has declared the "sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people," has battled South African troops in an 18-year guerrilla war there.

The Pontifical Academy of Sciences collaborated in the book's publication.

Galileo got into trouble with the church when he published his scientific studies which back the theory that the earth revolves around the sun. He was charged with heresy because his thesis was believed to contradict a literal interpretation of Scripture which held that the sun moves around the earth. His scientific conclusion also, at the time, seemed in conflict with the belief that humans are redeemed by Christ were at the center of the universe.

Although he recanted, Galileo was ultimately sentenced to house arrest for the remainder of his life.

Pope John Paul II in 1980 created a commission to study Galileo's trial. The commission's initial findings, made public in March, indicated that the judges who condemned Galileo were wrong.

17 Catholic Senators Given Bibles in D.C.

Washington (NC) -- Auxiliary Bishop Thomas W. Lyons of Washington presented Bibles to Catholic senators at the Capitol June 27 in a ceremony marking the conclusion of the observance of the Year of the Bible.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato R-N.Y., and the national executive committee of the Year of the Bible co-sponsored the ceremony. Seventeen Catholic senators received copies of the New American Bible.

Similar presentations have been made to members of other faiths during the past year.

President Reagan proclaimed 1983 as the Year of the Bible at a national prayer breakfast in Washington in February 1983.

In his message, Reagan said that many Americans turn to the Bible as a guide to personal faith and "most who read the Bible hear it as the word of God. Scholars agree that the founding concepts of Western civilization and democracy are drawn from the Bible, which is, at the same time, a guide to public and individual fulfillment."

Mother Teresa Nuns To Work in Canada

Winnipeg, Manitoba (NC) -- Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity were expected to open their first Canadian foundation in Winnipeg by the end of July, the order's American superior told Winnipeg Archbishop Adam Exner.

Four nuns were to be assigned to the Manitoba provincial capital in response to Archbishop Exner's request to Mother Teresa during her 1982 visit to the city.

"For the poor and needy of our city, your sisters will be a sign of Jesus, who wishes to liberate his children from all that oppresses them...and to bring them the fullness of life," Archbishop Exner said in his letter to Mother Teresa.

The nuns will live in a building purchased for them by the Co-Workers of Mother Teresa, a volunteer organization whose members serve the elderly, suffering and poor. The house is in a multi-ethnic area in northern Winnipeg.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta founded the Missionaries of

The pope saved his strongest criticism for what he called the "forced displacement of vast numbers of people in South Africa."

The government's relocation policy, the pope said, represents a grave violation of the rights of the human person, and at the same time is deeply damaging to family life and the social fabric.

The situation, he said, is "a consequence of the system of apartheid."

"The Holy See, for its part, expresses its concern at procedures contrary to the dignity of individuals and whole communities," he said. "It earnestly hopes that a different policy will be established, in order that a population already so sorely tried and whose right to be treated without discrimination is systematically flouted may be spared further painful and tragic experiences."

Apartheid must be changed, the pope added, "so that other catastrophic consequences can be avoided in the future, for the true good of all who live in the region and for the sake of world peace."

It was the second time since June that the Vatican spelled out its objections to apartheid.

After Pope John Paul met June 11 with South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha, the Vatican issued a statement criticizing apartheid and calling for Namibian independence.

However, it praised recent non-aggression pacts and cease-fires between South Africa and the neighboring countries of Mozambique, Swaziland and Angola.

The pope in his July 7 talk also mentioned the recent agreements, saying they represented a step in the right direction. But he cautioned that until the Namibian question was settled, authorities in that territory should take care to respect the rights of its inhabitants in situations of confrontation.

Pope John Paul said his reason for mentioning the Namibian and relocation issues "is not that the Holy See wishes to put forward proposals of a political nature."

The church's interest "is on another level: the level of the human person," he said. "What is at stake is the dignity of the human person and the well-being of all mankind."

Charity in 1950 to serve the poor. The order has more than 2,000 members worldwide.

According to the 1981 Canadian census, nearly 22 percent of metropolitan Winnipeg's 217,000 households had incomes under \$10,000. The metropolitan area's average income was about \$23,000.

1st Venezuelan Cardinal Dies

Vatican City (NC) -- Pope John Paul II has expressed sorrow at the death of 81-year-old Cardinal Jose Humberto Quintero, retired archbishop of Caracas, Venezuela. Cardinal Quintero, the first Venezuelan to be named a cardinal, died July 8 in Caracas of respiratory complications caused by a lung ailment.

Cardinal Quintero headed the Caracas archdiocese from 1960 until his retirement in 1980. Besides his pastoral duties, the cardinal was a noted historian and an honorary member of the Venezuelan Academy of Language and the Academy of History.



Convicted

Stacey Lynn Merkt, 29, has received a 90-day suspended sentence and two years probation for transporting illegal aliens from El Salvador. The worker at Casa Oscar Romero shelter in San Benito, Tex., is the first sanctuary movement worker to be prosecuted for attempting to aid Central Americans fleeing to the United States. The shelter is sponsored by the Brownsville diocese. (NC Photo)

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