

# Focus on Today's World



JOAN BENOIT

## Mass First, Then Marathon First

Los Angeles (NC) — After attending Mass at Our Saviour Church within the University of Southern California Olympic Village, Joan Benoit went running.

It was no ordinary Sunday morning run, but the first women's marathon in Olympic history. She set the pace from the start, winning with a time of 2:24:52.

It was the end of a race she began a half-continent away as a schoolgirl in St. Bartholomew parish in Cape Elisabeth, Maine. It was also the start of a new page in the annals of women's sports.

"There are those who have questioned the ability of a woman to run the long distance race. I hope this race has answered those questions," said the 27-year-old Miss Benoit, who has run since she was a youth even though she did not compete on a world-class level until 1978.

"When Frank Shorter won the marathon in 1972 it legitimized the race in the minds of many people. I hope this has done the same for the women's marathon," she said.

Miss Benoit's presence in Cape Elisabeth and nearby Freeport has been a source of pride for the community.

"Everybody is talking about Joanie. We are all very proud," said Father Francis Kane, pastor of St. Bartholomew.

Although Miss Benoit moved to nearby Freeport after graduating from Bowdoin College, her ties remain with Cape Elisabeth and St. Bartholomew.

"The Benoit's are very active and prominent members of our parish community. Her parents, Andre and Nancy, and the rest of the children, including Joanie, have been a part of the parish for years," Father Kane said.

Her competitors were impressed with her performance.

"She was performing in her own country and had a lot of adrenalin. I couldn't keep up with her," said Rosa Mota of Portugal.

## Pope Praises Knights

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II praised the Knights of Columbus for "their impressive record of generosity and service" in a message released Aug. 7.

The message, videotaped for presentation to the Knights during their Aug. 7-9 annual Supreme Council meeting in Denver, also thanked them for their faithfulness to church doctrine and leadership.

"Christian witness is of vital importance in every age. But in modern society it is more needed than ever before," the pope said.

"For this reason I wish to encourage you to remain steadfast in your love for Christ and in your many deserving efforts to defend and promote his saving message," he added.

The pontiff also praised the Knights for their spiritual devotion and "a hope not based on our own strength and resources but upon the power and mercy of God."

Pope John Paul asked for the Knights' continued support in the fight for human life, "especially that of the unborn, the elderly and the handicapped."

Nearly 2,500 representatives were expected to attend the Denver meeting.



In Pierreville, Quebec, Sister Jeannette Guevremont takes a picture of the "popemobile" that will be used when Pope John Paul II tours Canada next month. The 11,000-pound vehicle is designed to protect the pope from possible attack during the Sept. 9-20 visit. (NC photo)



Police officers carry a pro-life demonstrator from the Women's Suburban Clinic outside Philadelphia. Police arrested 19 of the protesters and charged them with "defiant trespass." Pro-lifers claimed that abortions were being performed at the clinic. (NC photo)



Franciscan Brother Anthony Vetrano leads cautious youngsters on a log across a mud pool at the Franciscan summer camp in Garrison, N.Y. The Franciscans invite children from poor parishes throughout the Archdiocese of New York to spend a week at the camp, about 40 miles north of New York City. (NC photo)

## the Saints *by Luke*

### ST. AUGUSTINE

**AUGUSTINE WAS BORN AT TAGASTE IN NORTH AFRICA IN 354. HIS FATHER WAS A PAGAN WHO WANTED HIS SON TO BE A MAN OF LEARNING. HIS MOTHER WAS ST. MONICA, WHO URGED HER SON TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE. AT 16 AND STILL NOT BAPTIZED, AUGUSTINE LOST BOTH HIS FAITH AND HIS INNOCENCE. FOR 13 YEARS HE LED AN EVIL LIFE; EMBRACING PAGAN RELIGIONS AND FINALLY MOVING IN WITH A WOMAN WHO BORE HIM A SON.**

**AUGUSTINE WENT TO ITALY. HE OFTEN LISTENED TO ST. AMBROSE, THE ARCHBISHOP OF MILAN, PREACH, BUT WAS NOT CONVERTED. HIS MOTHER KEPT PRAYING FOR HER SON. ONE DAY WHILE READING THE LETTERS OF ST. PAUL, HE MADE UP HIS MIND TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN. HIS MOTHER'S PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED. AT 33, HE WAS BAPTIZED, RETURNED HOME AND GAVE ALL TO THE POOR.**

**LATER AUGUSTINE BECAME A PRIEST AND THEN SERVED AS BISHOP OF HIPPO FOR 35 YEARS. HE PREACHED AND WROTE MANY BOOKS, HE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE CHURCH'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS AGAINST HERESY. HE WROTE "OUR HEARTS WERE MADE FOR YOU, O LORD, AND THEY ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN YOU." HE DIED IN 430. HIS FEAST IS AUG 28.**

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