

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

Murder Trial Proceeds

Torun, Poland -- A Polish secret policeman accused of being a ringleader in the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko said the pro-Solidarity priest had to die because "a smaller evil was necessary to stop a larger evil." Capt. Grzegorz Piotrowski also said he believed the murder had high-level approval, but that he had no proof. Piotrowski, who worked in an Interior Ministry department monitoring Catholic Church affairs, told the court Jan. 8 he had been frustrated by the police failure to curb the activities of Father Popieluszko, a frequent critic of the government. Piotrowski and three other officers have admitted to the Oct. 19 kidnap and murder of Father Popieluszko and face possible death sentences if convicted.

Pope: Release Priest

Vatican City -- Pope John Paul II appealed Jan. 9 for the release of an American priest kidnapped in Beirut and condemned several other recent episodes of violence against missionaries and Religious in other parts of the world. The pope's plea for the release of Father Lawrence Jenco, the director of Catholic Relief Services in Lebanon, came one day after the 50-year-old priest was abducted by eight armed men in predominantly Moslem West Beirut. The pope said he was "particularly saddened" by the priest's kidnapping, by the recent deaths of two missionaries in Africa, and by the disappearance of a priest in Sri Lanka.

Nation

Group Protests Stamp

Washington -- Americans United for Separation of Church and State has protested U.S. Postal Service plans to issue a 1985 stamp commemorating Father Junipero Serra, the Franciscan pioneer and missionary in early California who died in 1784. Americans United said government promotion of religious figures or events violates the Constitution. "We have repeatedly expressed our concerns about this Postal Service trend," said the Rev. Robert Maddox, a Baptist minister who is Americans United's executive director. Father Serra is recognized for his efforts in founding mission settlements in what is now the state of California.

Dorothy Day a Saint?

New York -- Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York has raised the possibility that Dorothy Day, the Catholic Worker leader who died in 1980, be proposed for canonization. In the Jan. 3 issue of the New York archdiocesan weekly, Catholic New York, Archbishop O'Connor commented that since he initiated preparatory work for the cause of his predecessor, Cardinal Terence Cooke, who died Oct. 6, 1983, "several people wrote to ask me: 'Why not Dorothy Day?'" Calling it an excellent question, the archbishop concluded his column, "I would be interested in your answers." See story, Page 1.

Father Drinan Arrested

Washington -- Jesuit Father Robert Drinan, a former member of Congress currently on the Georgetown University law school faculty, was arrested Jan. 8 in an anti-apartheid protest at the South African Embassy in Washington. Seven other protesters, including former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, also were arrested during the demonstration. About 600 protesters have been arrested in Washington and in other cities in the demonstrations, which began Nov. 21. Charges against many have been dropped.

People

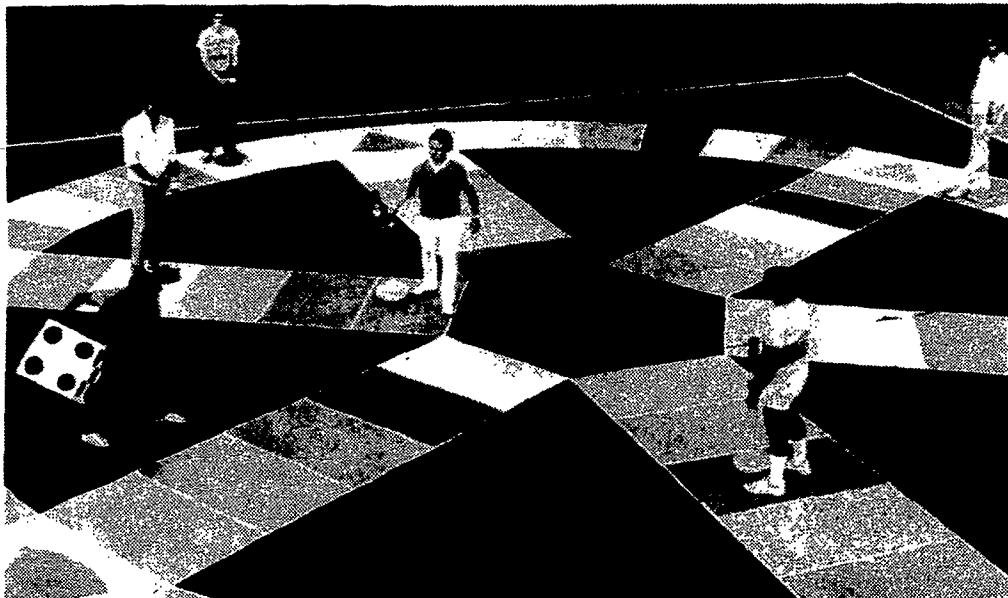
Names Make News

Mother Teresa of Calcutta has praised the Ethiopian government for its "very good beginning" in resettling its famine victims. The 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner also called on other nations to help by "adopting" resettlement sites. The Ethiopian government has moved tens of thousands of drought and famine victims from the north to the more fertile southern and western regions of the country. Authorities say they plan to move 1.5 million people within a year. . . **John E. Curley Jr.**, president of the Catholic Health Association, has received the first Cardinal Stritch Award of the Conference of Diocesan Coordinators of Health Affairs. The award, for significant contributions to the church's health ministry, was presented during the conference's 40th annual meeting Jan. 7-9 in Washington. . . **Jesuit Father Joseph J. Labaj**, former provincial superior of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus, died Jan. 1 in Omaha after a lengthy battle with cancer. He served as president of Creighton University, Omaha, from 1970 to 1978.

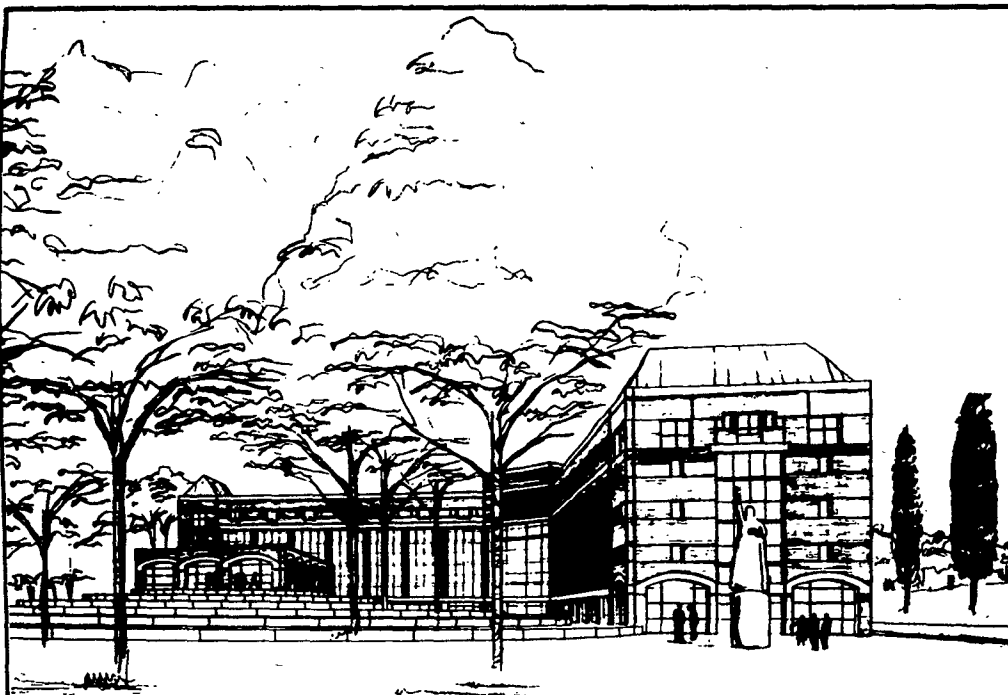
Focus on Today's World



An explosion ripped through a Washington abortion clinic early New Year's Day causing extensive damage to the building. No one was injured in the blast at the Hillcrest Women's Surgical Center, the fourth Washington-area abortion facility to be attacked in two months. (NC Photo)



Students at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa. participate in a king-size version of the popular game Trivial Pursuit. Students joining in a recent tournament take the place of board markers. (NC Photo)



Above is an architect's sketch of the \$20 million Washington headquarters of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops - U.S. Catholic Conference to be completed in 1987. Right, Margaret Mealy, president of Catholic Golden Age, signs a pledge of \$500,000 which CGA will contribute to the building fund. Expressing approval of the contribution by the 900,000-member organization are, from left, Msgr. Daniel F. Hoyer, NCCB-USCC general secretary; Thomas D. Hinton, CGA vice president; and Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville, Ky., former NCCB-USCC general secretary.



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