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World, Nation, People... in Brief

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World

Laity Synod Postponed

Vatican City — The 1986 world Synod of Bishops on the role of the laity has been postponed until the fall of 1987 because bishops need more time to prepare for it, the Vatican announced April 12. The one-sentence announcement said the decision was made by Pope John Paul II after he received numerous requests for a delay. "Many bishops' conferences asked to be given more time for consultations now that they have to also prepare for the 1985 extraordinary synod," Archbishop Jozef Tomko, secretary general of the synod, told National Catholic News Service after the Vatican issued the announcement. In January the pope, in a surprise announcement, said an extraordinary synod would take place Nov. 25 to Dec. 8 to analyze the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and to mark the 20th anniversary of the end of the council.

Archbishop Delivers Offer

San Salvador, El Salvador — Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas of San Salvador said he brought President Jose Napoleon Duarte a proposal from rebel groups for a third peace meeting. The archbishop, who has led church efforts to mediate the Salvadoran civil war, said that the president would respond to the rebels "at an opportune moment." He gave no details of the proposal. Statements issued after the two previous meetings between the government and rebels revealed little progress toward peace, but showed a willingness to continue the dialogue. Archbishop Rivera Damas said that some good came out of the previous meetings. He said the first established a commission to oversee planning for future talks. In the second round both sides were able to "present their positions," he said.

Czechs Seek Papal Visit

Prague, Czechoslovakia — Approximately 10,000 Catholics called for a visit by Pope John Paul II to their country during a Mass celebrated at a central Czechoslovakian village believed to be the burial place of St. Methodius, the apostle of the Slavs. Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, Czechoslovakia's primate, who read a letter from the pope during the ceremony, said last April that he invited the pontiff to visit the country. Vatican officials said that a visit is unlikely.

Brazil's Archbishop Resigns

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation because of age of Archbishop Helder Camara of Olinda-Recife, Brazil, an outspoken critic of the series of military governments which ruled Brazil in the 1960s and 1970s. The Vatican announced the papal decision April 10 and said that Bishop Jose Cardoso Sobrinho, 51, of Paracatu, Brazil, will succeed the 76-year-old archbishop.

Nation

Msgr. Carroll-Abbing Feted

New York — Monsignor John Patrick Carroll-Abbing, an Irish priest who founded nine Boys' Towns and one Girls' Town of Italy, has been honored by the Foreign Press Association in New York with its first World Humanitarian Award. Msgr. Carroll-Abbing was working at the Vatican during World War II when he established himself as guardian for a host of homeless youths.

Pastoral 'Fills Void'

St. Louis — Recent U.S. bishops' pastoral letters are getting increased attention because the bishops are filling a vacuum in upholding the values of American society, Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee said April 11. "So many of the moral and value standards of the nation had come from mainline Protestants and that was no longer filling the need, so we have stepped into that vacuum," the archbishop told a press conference at the National Catholic Educational Association convention in St. Louis. Archbishop Weakland said U.S. society is still religious and said the bishops' pastorals are "the first concerted effort against secularization that is taking place." The archbishop heads the committee drafting the pastoral letter on the economy, scheduled for completion in 1986.

Pope Asks Senate To Protect Unborn

By Agostino Bono

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II asked visiting U.S. senators to take legislative action to protect the unborn as U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., gave the pope a letter from President Reagan on Central America and arms control April 13.

"As senators of the United States you are in a splendid position to make a monumental contribution to the defense of life, the preservation of liberty and the attainment of true happiness for countless men, women and children — millions of whom are yet unborn," the pope told Dole and five other U.S. senators accompanying him.

The pope did not elaborate.

President Reagan, in an April 4 announcement, said he was sending Dole to seek papal advice on his Nicaraguan peace plan, which includes mediation by the Nicaraguan bishops of the fighting between the Sandinista government and U.S.-backed guerrillas.

Dole said after the papal meeting that he delivered a personal letter to the pope but could not disclose the specific details.

"But it did address two troubled areas of great concern to the pope and the president — Central America and arms control," said Dole.

The pope did not discuss the issues during the meeting and "we don't anticipate public reaction soon," said Dole.

Vatican press spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said April 15 that it was still too early for a papal response to the Reagan letter.

Reagan linked his Nicaraguan peace plan to congressional release of \$14 million in aid for the guerrillas. Congress approved the funds but later froze the money because of mounting criticisms over U.S. support for the guerrillas.

Reagan said the money would be used for humanitarian supplies, not weapons, for two months if the Sandinistas and guerrillas negotiate toward agreeing on internationally supervised elections. Under the plan, the funds could be used for weapons after two months if there is no progress in the talks.

On March 25 the Nicaraguan bishops reiterated an earlier offer to mediate, and in the past, the pope has supported their efforts for national reconciliation.

The Nicaraguan government rejected the Reagan plan, saying it wanted to negotiate directly with the U.S. government and not the guerrillas.

In a 250-word speech to the pope, Dole said Reagan "is firmly committed to doing everything reasonably possible to make progress" in current arms talks and in achieving peace in Central America.

The pope also asked the senators to foster international solidarity among people.

"I am sure that this visit of yours to Europe is in fact placed under the sign of solidarity — a solidarity that you wish to manifest as representatives of the American

people, a solidarity that transcends your national boundaries and reaches out to people everywhere," the pope said in a 400-word speech to the delegation.

The visit came at the end of the delegation's trip to Britain, France, West Germany and Italy to discuss international issues.

Other members of the delegation were: Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.; Sen. Jim McClure, R-Idaho; Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev.; Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss.; and Sen. Larry Pressler, R-S.D.

On April 15 Pope John Paul met Edward Rowny, special adviser to President Reagan on arms control issues and former chief U.S. negotiator for the START disarmament talks.

The Vatican announced the meeting but provided no details of what was discussed.



Sanctuary City

Sister Rose Marie Cummins, director of Centro Presente, a Cambridge refugee assistance organization, addresses the council. By a 5-4 vote, the council declared the whole city of Cambridge a sanctuary. (NC photo).

40 Years Later, Priest Recalls Experience in Concentration Camp

By Diane Gianelli
NC News Service

On April 11, 1945, the U.S. Army's 104th Timberwolf Division dispatched its medical battalion to deliver assistance to a little camp about 60 miles southwest of Berlin.

"We came upon a world of such horror and tragedy," said Dominican Father Edward Paul Doyle, the Catholic chaplain whose division liberated Nordhausen, a subcamp of the infamous Buchenwald.

"I've seen pictures, but being there outvisions them all," he said.

Father Doyle, now 77 and a chaplain in Rhode Island,

was interviewed in conjunction with 40th anniversary commemorations of the liberation of the concentration camps.

Nationwide "Days of Remembrance" were being held the week of April 14, culminating in an April 21 "Evening of Remembrance" in Philadelphia bringing together liberators and survivors of the camps.

The events were being sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, established by Congress in 1980 to coordinate Holocaust remembrance activities.

There were about 1,000 survivors at the Nordhausen camp, Father Doyle recalled.

"But they were just barely alive."

"After we took care of the living, we buried about 5,000 bodies on a hill outside the town — all mutilated, beaten and starved skeletons...."

"We went into town and rounded up able-bodied men to come and help us bury them. They said they were unaware of the goings-on at the death camp," Father Doyle said.

The priest said that he himself had no idea what to expect before he arrived at the concentration camp.

Many people blame God for allowing the Holocaust to happen, Father Doyle said, but he said he sees it as a "tragic failure of man."

"It isn't God who failed," he said, "it's man who failed."

"We need God more than ever, if this can happen to man."

After the war, Father Doyle, who rose to the rank of major, returned to teaching theology and personal guidance at Providence College and other Dominican schools, and now serves as chaplain at Summit Medical Center in Providence.

But every year he meets the 104th Division for a reunion, and every year the division holds a memorial service for the thousands they buried at Nordhausen, as well as for those who went before them.

Bishop Announces Nine Reappointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan reappointments:

Father William Barrett, from pastor St. Monica's Church, Rochester, to pastor Holy Cross, Dryden.

Father Lewis Brown, from associate Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, to chaplain U.S. Navy.

Father Robert Collins, from rector Becket Hall, chaplain Monroe Community College and sabbatical, to pastor St. Thomas More Church, Rochester.

Monsignor George Cocuzzi, from pastor St. Francis Xavier Church, Rochester, to supporting pastor at both St. Francis Xavier and Holy Redeemer churches, Rochester.

Father Thomas Erdle, from pastor St. Mary's

Parish of the Deaf, Rochester, to St. Mark's Church, Rochester.

Father Robert G. Kreckel, from pastor Church of the Resurrection, Fairport, to pastor St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario.

Father William Leone, from pastor Holy Redeemer, Rochester, to pastor of both Holy Redeemer and St. Francis Xavier, Rochester.

Father Neil Miller, from Tabasco mission team, to pastor Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester.

Father Patrick Seelman, TOR, from associate St. Stephen's Church, Geneva, to pastor St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn.