



Facing fears of death

Students at Christ the King School discuss how a class helped them come to terms with fears of death and losing loved ones. Story on Page 4.



Quest for independence

Echo debuts with a feature on a Nazareth student who doesn't let a handicap limit her participation in school activities. Story on Page 10.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Government condemned

El Salvador, El Salvador (NC) — San Salvador's Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas said the Salvadoran air force bombed a village four miles from where he was visiting in the rebel-held northern area of El Salvador's Chelatenango department. He condemned the government for indiscriminate bombings of civilians and the destruction of homes and crops during army operations in rebel areas. The archbishop made the charges in a statement read in his name Jan. 12 at the cathedral in San Salvador, the nation's capital.

Pope welcomes ambassador

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II praised India's spiritual traditions Jan. 10 and said he hoped his upcoming visit there would strengthen the country's ties with the Holy See. He spoke at a welcoming ceremony for India's new ambassador to the Vatican, Ashoke Sen Chib. The pope was scheduled to visit 14 Indian cities during his Jan. 31-Feb. 10 trip.

Britain gives ultimatum

Northern Ireland (NC) — An aviation company in Belfast, Northern Ireland, has been told to change its recruiting procedures and hire more Catholics or its "equal opportunity" certificate might be withdrawn. The warning to Short Brothers PLC came in a report from Britain's Fair Employment Agency, which issues the certificates. Of the 7,000 employees at Shorts, more than 92 percent are Protestant. According to the report, the U.S. government in October 1984 warned that if the firm did not hire more Catholics, its contracts with the U.S. Air Force could be endangered.

Nation

Court 'hostile' to religion

New York (NC) — Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia said in a homily Jan. 11 that the U.S. Supreme Court had departed in some of its decisions from the constitutional principle prohibiting establishment of religion and instead expressed "judicial hostility to all religion." He said that Catholics, in addition to criticizing the influence of secular humanism on the court, should "examine our own consciences" regarding whether they have been sufficiently alert in "claiming our rights."

Retired bishop dies

Rockville Centre, N.Y. (NC) — Retired Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg, bishop of Rockville Centre from 1957 to 1976, died Jan. 11. He was 74. A funeral Mass was to be celebrated Jan. 16 at St. Agnes Cathedral with burial at Cemetery of the Gate of Heaven in Hawthorne, N.Y. During his years as bishop, Bishop Kellenberg spoke out often against New York state's abortion laws and also addressed the issues of poverty and racial discrimination.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Singing for King

Linda Bryant of St. Bridget's Parish, Rochester, beats out the rhythm in Sunday evening's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Nearly a dozen gospel groups participated. For story and more photos, see Page 5.

Marchers for Life set to lobby Congress

By Liz S. Armstrong
Washington (NC) — When several thousand abortion opponents hike down Pennsylvania Avenue on Jan. 22, during their annual March for Life, they'll have a full agenda to lay before Congress.

They'll arrive on Capitol Hill with the strength of their prior successes but with reminders of setbacks as well.

The right-to-life movement won several victories in the first session of the 99th Congress: renewal of the Hyde amendment, an annual ban on government funded abortions; blockage of funding to groups — such as the United Nations' Fund for Population Activities — that purportedly support foreign programs of coercive abortion; denial of quick passage of new civil rights legislation that does not carry riders to ensure against use to back abortion; and action barring the Legal Services Corp. from taking abortion cases.

Failures, however, again include scant progress on a constitutional amendment banning abortion, although several such measures have been introduced.

"They really are not on the front burner," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee. "They still represent our ultimate public policy (goal)," he added, but "the focus has not really been on those proposals." Requiring a two-thirds vote for passage, they are difficult to maneuver through Congress.

According to Johnson and Richard Doerflinger, assistant director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Pro-Life Activities, issues likely to

win Congress' attention in 1986 include the basic legislation that keeps pro-lifers busy anyway: the continued bans on government-funded abortion; the attempt to forbid family-planning agencies from providing abortion referrals; and, perhaps, a fight for approval of pro-life federal judges.

Some items likely to come up are:

Hyde amendment

The amendment will be up for renewal as part of the fiscal 1987 budget, which Congress should begin deliberating early in its term. Because of the past success of the Hyde amendment, pro-life leaders do not anticipate a real struggle over it or over similar legislation — such as bans on federal insurance coverage of abortion.

Ban on funding of UNFPA

Debate over funding of the UNFPA could be revived in fiscal 1987, but in light of efforts to put a lid on the federal deficit and of the aversion to coercive abortion, UNFPA may not fare well. As Johnson of Right to Life said, "The fight may be re-opened but there's not a lot of members of Congress who want to defend what's going on in China."

Kemp-Hatch amendment

This rider to deny Title X government family-planning funds to organizations that perform abortions or offer abortion referrals was deleted from a major money bill in December, 1985, but a new version could surface. On Congress' agenda is consideration of a major four-year-long Title X family planning program authorization — a likely vehicle for attaching a Kemp-Hatch-

type measure. However, Congress could avoid haggling over an authorization bill by funding Title X as needed whenever the money runs out.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act

This legislation got bogged down in an angry fight over addition of a so-called "abortion-neutral" amendment to ensure that it is not used to facilitate abortion — for example, by requiring universities and hospitals to provide abortion coverage in the guise of offering non-discriminatory benefits. The bill "is languishing but it is not dead," Johnson said. "They could pass it tomorrow if they'd accept the abortion neutralization amendment."

Meanwhile, the so-called Paramount Human Life Amendment seems to have stalled. The amendment, promoted at past March for Life activities, forbids abortion even to save the life of the mother.

Although it was introduced in the House in the first session of the 99th Congress, it has not been introduced in the Senate, according to the NRLC.

"The movement won the battle over direct abortion funding and is nowhere near a majority for passage of a constitutional amendment" banning abortion, Doerflinger said.

Working on the other bills "is not as appealing as working on a human life amendment, but that's where the legal debate over the status of abortion is," he said. "It's a debate about the inclusion or exclusion of abortion in larger federal programs."