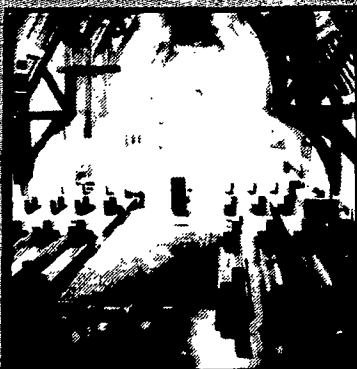




Pioneering parishes

Members of the Cayuga Town Ministry pioneered parish clustering in the diocese two years ago. Staff and parishioners of the four Cayuga Lake parishes evaluate their progress. See Page 4.



End of an era

Three landmark buildings that once comprised the heart of St. Bernard's Seminary will soon be renovated by Eastman Kodak Company. Our story on Page 10 'preserves' more than architectural detail.

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World & Nation in Brief from NC News

Nation

Central Americans denied

Washington — Grass-roots efforts are needed to persuade Congress to temporarily stop deportation of Central American refugees, the U.S. Catholic Conference urged in the March issue of the USCC Migration and Refugee Services publication, "Refugees: Concerns and Responses."

Political asylum applications filed by Central Americans are "disproportionately denied," the publication claimed.

According to MRS statistics, nearly 100 percent of the Guatemalans and Salvadorans who applied for political asylum from June 1983 to September 1985 were denied. Nicaraguan applicants fared only slightly better.

Store pulls adult magazines

The Southland Corp. will discontinue sales of adult magazines at all of its company-owned 7-Eleven Stores, a spokesman for the Dallas-based corporation said April 11. 7-Eleven, the largest chain of convenience stores in the world, will no longer sell Playboy, Penthouse and Forum magazines once the May issues, currently on the newstands, sell out, said Doug Reed, a Southland public relations spokesman. Reed said his company based its decision on recent hearings conducted by the U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography which "indicate a growing concern over a possible connection between adult magazines and crime, violence and child abuse."

World

Pope visits synagogue

Rome — Pope John Paul II, in an unprecedented gesture of fraternity between Christians and Jews, prayed in Rome's main synagogue April 13 and told the congregation that he considered them his "elder brothers."

It was the first recorded visit by any pope to a Jewish house of worship since biblical times.

Speaking on the site of Rome's former Jewish ghetto, established by a pope some 400 years earlier, the pope said his visit "brings to a close" a certain period of history. The pope decried the "acts of discrimination, unjustified limitation of religious freedom" and "oppression" of the Jews in the past.

Boff silencing lifted

Vatican City — A Franciscan official in Rome and a Vatican press spokesman have confirmed that the Vatican's silencing of Franciscan Father Leonardo Boff, a controversial liberation theologian, was lifted late last month.

The disciplinary action prohibited Father Boff from lecturing or writing on theology. Franciscan Father Angelo Stelline spoke with NC News after press reports, from Brazil quoted Father Boff as saying his Franciscan superiors had removed the penalties March 29.

"I can confirm Father Boff's statement," Father Stelline said.

The lifting of the penalties came two weeks after a March 13-15 Vatican meeting of key Brazilian bishops, Pope John Paul II and high-ranking Vatican officials.



Hurriyet Necdet Aydogan

A refuge for women with nowhere to turn

At Melita House — the Sisters of Mercy's home for pregnant young women — Penny (left) and Cindy enjoy playing with Penny's seven-month-old daughter, Kristen, as Brenda looks on. For story on Melita House, see Page 6.

MELITA HOUSE

Libya releases Franciscan hostages; bombs seriously damage convent

By Agostino Bono

Vatican City (NC) — The Libyan government has released Franciscan Bishop Giovanni Martinelli, who had been detained since April 10, the Vatican announced Tuesday.

The Vatican did not release any information about four other religious reported to have been detained along with Bishop Martinelli, but Vatican Radio reported that the three Franciscan priests and an Italian nun had been freed.

"I can confirm that the Vatican has received, through diplomatic channels, the news of the release of Bishop Martinelli," said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican press spokesman.

Franciscan officials in Rome have also confirmed the detentions of the four religious, but said Tuesday morning that they had no new information about them.

Bishop Martinelli is head of the Vicariate of Tripoli, Libya, and is apostolic administrator of the Vicariate of Benghazi, Libya.

On April 14, Father Juan Pujol, Franciscan spokesman in Rome, said the bishop was being held in "preventive detention" as part of a roundup of "hostages with foreign ties in case of a U.S. attack."

Vatican confirmation of Bishop Martinelli's release came after U.S. Navy and Air Force warplanes hit targets in Tripoli, Benghazi and other locations in Libya in an April 15 early morning raid in retaliation for the killings of Americans in Europe in terrorist attacks blamed on Libya.

In an telephone interview Tuesday with Vatican Radio, Father Innocente Barbaglia,

head of the Franciscan mission in Tripoli, said no priests or religious were hurt in the Tripoli bombing, but the house of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary was "seriously damaged."

"Regarding civilian deaths, there seem to be quite a few, but the number is not known," Father Barbaglia said.

In an earlier interview with Vatican Radio, Father Barbaglia said the bishop had been making a pastoral visit to Benghazi when he was detained.

Father Barbaglia said three Franciscan priests and one Italian nun also were taken. The priests were Maltese Father Giustino Sciortino, Polish Father Zygmunt Charymski and Philippine Father Danilo Terales. Also seized was Immaculate Conception Sister Gemma Gaetana Mancini.

Bishop Martinelli, 44, was born in Libya of Italian parents and is a member of an Italian province of Franciscans. He has headed the Tripoli vicariate since May 1985.

Those captured had been sleeping at the Franciscan order's residence in Benghazi. Their absence was not noted until April 11, The Washington Post reported. One priest was quoted as saying their rooms had been ransacked.

Libyan authorities said the five were being held in a villa near Benghazi, according to Washington Post reports.

The Washington Post also reported April 14 that an unidentified Middle Eastern diplomat speculated that the bishop and religious were seized by the Revolutionary Committees as part of a power play. Devoted followers of Libyan leader Moammar Khadafi, the committees are seeking a more

powerful role in the country at the expense of the Libyan army, the diplomat said.

No official Vatican reaction to the bombing had been released as of Tuesday afternoon, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told National Catholic News Service. But he noted the pope's condemnations of terrorist actions and reprisals in the pope's Easter message.

"The position of condemnation by the Holy See of terrorist actions and reprisals already has been expressed by the pope last March 30 in his Easter message," said Navarro-Valls.

Libya does not have diplomatic ties with the Vatican. Islam is the state religion. There are 43,000 Catholics in a total Libyan population of 3.1 million.

Pax Christi USA, U.S. branch of an international Catholic peace organization, said in a statement April 15 it "deplores" the air raid and urged "our government above all to stop the military action against Libya."

"While we condemn terrorism without reservation, we exclude military force as an acceptable way to deal with the problem," the statement said.

"The bombing of Tripoli and other Libyan targets has resulted in what it was meant to protest -- the injury and death of innocent civilians. The bombing will certainly cause what it was meant to prevent -- more and worse terrorist attacks."

Pax Christi said the bombing would increase East-West tensions in the Mediterranean and alienate Arab governments. It called upon the U.S. government "to explore all peaceful options for preventing terrorism."