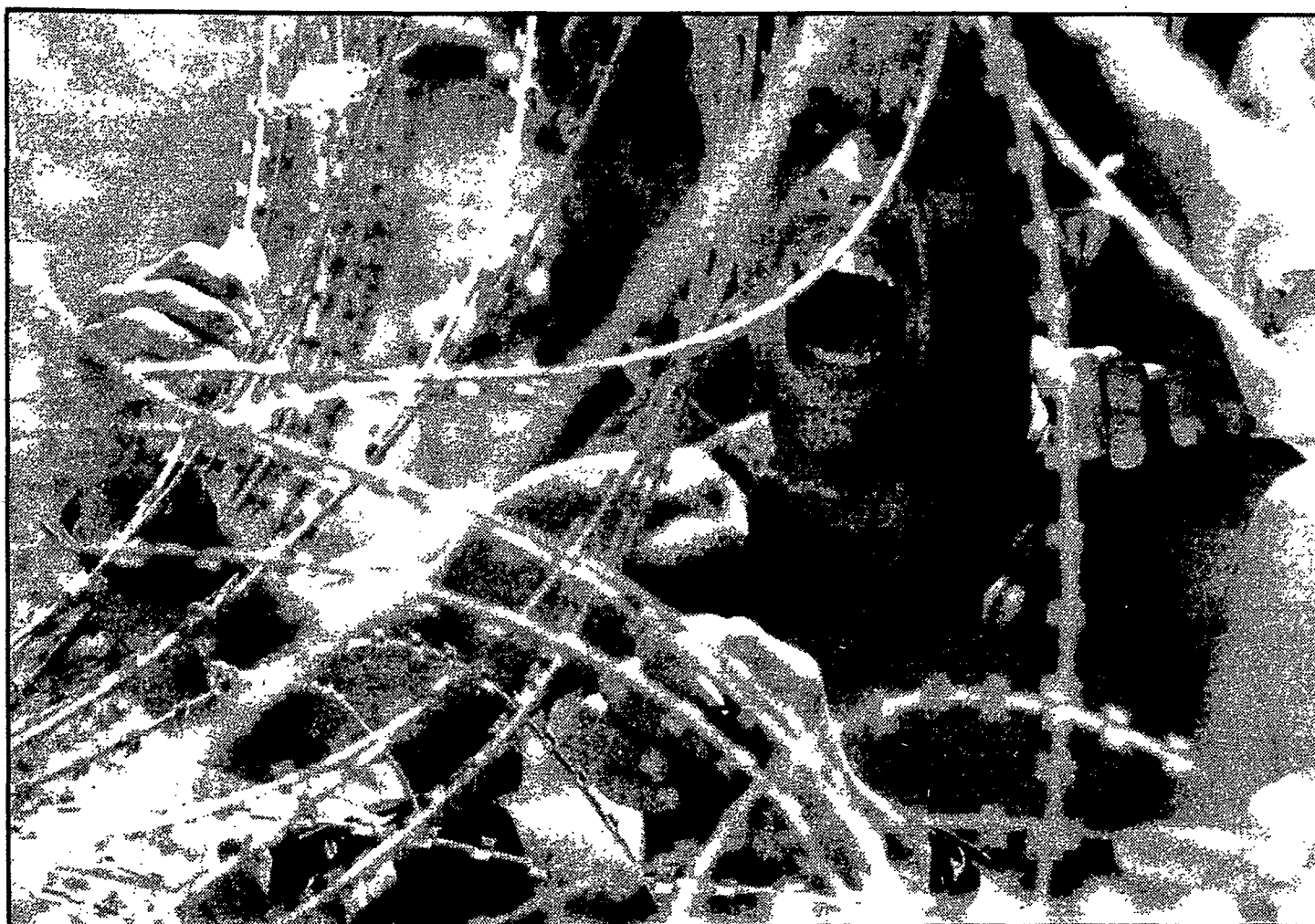


# Cry for freedom



Osvaldo Sene Sept. 1 yells 'Libertad, Libertad' at the media from behind a barbed wire fence at Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba. APWide World Photos

## Thousands attend service for crash victims

By John Franko  
Catholic News Service

PITTSBURGH — Family members of the crash victims of USAir Flight 427 were among an estimated 5,000 people gathered Sept. 12 in Market Square in downtown Pittsburgh for an ecumenical memorial service.

"We come together as a community, as friends, as co-workers, as neighbors, and people who care simply because other people hurt," said Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh at the service to remember the victims of the crash outside Pittsburgh Sept. 8. All 132 aboard the doomed flight were killed.

He asked guests in mourning to console each other in their loss as they struggle to understand why the tragedy happened. "We realize death's victory is ultimately fleeting," he said.

Bishop Wuerl added that even though the tragedy has taken away loved ones, "we need to assure each other that nothing can separate us from the love of God."

Alluding to the 12th chapter of Luke's Gospel, death came "like a thief ... unbidden and unwanted ... suddenly, catching us unawares," Bishop Wuerl said.

"Even in our anguish and loss we know that God loves us. Even in our confusion and inability to answer why did this happen — even in that frustration we know that God loves us, in life, in death, in joy and in affliction."

On Sept. 11 a special Mass for search and rescue workers was held at the site of the crash, the worst airline disaster in the United States since 1987.

Shortly after the plane went down, Father Robert Grecco, parochial vicar at St. Titus Parish in Aliquippa, saw smoke from the wreckage while visiting a funeral home. He later went to the accident command center at a suburban shopping mall to offer assistance.

"I prayed I would say the right thing," he told the *Pittsburgh Catholic*, diocesan newspaper. "I really didn't know how to react."

Father Dave Scharf, parochial vicar at

Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Hopewell, near the crash site, joined a group of ministers, doctor and nurses at Aliquippa Hospital shortly after the accident. The group traveled to the command center when it became apparent there were no survivors.

"Our role was to talk to survivors but there were none," Father Scharf said. He recalled the frustration of rescue units on the scene, adding, "The ambulances and fire personnel were there, but only to put out small fires."

Like most of those at the site, it was his first experience of a tragedy of such magnitude. "You're taught to handle situations one-on-one," he said. "When you have a tragic situation like this you just have to handle it the best you can."

Federal investigators said they would develop computer models to test theories of why flight 427 crashed. Three possible causes have been identified: The right engine went into reverse, the right engine came loose, or the air brakes were unevenly deployed.

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### Albright to Escort Alaska Group

David Albright the owner of *Cruise Holidays* of Rochester, will be escorting a group to Alaska in May of 1995. The seven day cruise portion of the tour will be aboard the Holland America MS Ryndam, the newest member of their fleet.

To be certain that the cruise tour offers the utmost in enjoyment and highlights Alaska's scenery and beauty, David Albright toured Alaska this season. After considering many options, a 14 day tour was selected. Departure date from Rochester will be May 29, 1995. Highlights of the tour include tours of Fairbanks with a Riverboat cruise, luxury rail transportation to Denali National Park, a wildlife tour in Denali, Anchorage Tours, a two night stay at the new ultra-deluxe Alyeska Prince Hotel and a Portage glacier cruise.

The tour will end with a 7 day Southbound cruise aboard the luxurious Ryndam. Ports include Valdez, Sitka, Juneau and Ketchikan. Cabins are available in most categories. Prices start at \$3749.00 per person based on double occupancy. Air from Rochester, port charges and a wide range of ship-board amenities are included.

David will be presenting details of the tour including his own slides and photos at an information meeting Wednesday, September 21, 1994 at the Holidome (Holiday Inn) 1111 Jefferson Road. The presentations will be at 3 PM and 7 PM. To obtain the best cabins and take advantage of the early booking discounts, David suggests you consider booking as early as possible. Call now to reserve your seats for the presentations.

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