WORLD NEWS

Pope's health, world unrest among the year's highlights

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Here is a month-by-month review of some of religious news highlights of 1994:

• JANUARY: Indians in Chiapas state rebel against Mexican government; church officials mediate. Vatican and Israel name diplomatic envoys.

• FEBRUARY: Sudan government launches new offensive against southern rebels, forces halt to relief supplies. European Parliament resolution backing legal rights for gay couples draws Vatican fire. China restates strict regulation of religions. Lone Jewish gunman massacres Muslims in West Bank mosque. Steven Cook withdraws all claims against Cardinal Bernardin in $10 million sex abuse lawsuit.

• MARCH: After six years in courts, Pennsylvania abortion law takes effect. Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis dies. Church of England ordains its first women priests. Pope convenes ambassadors to Vatican and writes President Clinton to warn that draft U.N. population document threatens humanity.

• APRIL: Rwandan president's assassination triggers nationwide massacres, leaving more than 100,000 dead and millions of refugees. Vatican decision allowing female altar servers becomes public. First African synod of bishops opens in Rome. Pope breaks leg, gets implant.

• MAY: African synod in Rome ends with plea for end to ethnic hatreds. Pope says church cannot ordain women to priesthood. Nelson Mandela sworn in as president of post-apartheid South Africa.

• JUNE: Pope, Clinton meet at Vatican. Cardinals meet in Rome, denounce abortion and contraception. "Catechism of the Catholic Church" makes English-language debut. U.S. bishops in San Diego discuss liturgy renewal, altar girls. Supreme Court upholds abortion clinic buffer zones, with limits.

• JULY: Paul Hill murders abortion doctor and escort in Pensacola, Fla. U.S. threatens invasion as Haitian refugee crisis grows. Catholic leaders oppose abortion coverage as Congress considers health care reform proposals.

• AUGUST: Irish Republican Army announces cease- fire. Cuban bishops urge dialogue, end of U.S. embargo, amid refugee exodus.

• SEPTEMBER: Vatican has key role in U.N. population and development conference's conclusions on marriage, family and abortion. Pope visits Croatia but cannot go to Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Herzegovina; cancels U.S.-U.N. trip. U.S. negotiates departure of Haitian junta.

• OCTOBER: News emerges that Vatican has withdrawn approval for liturgical use of two inclusive-language Scripture translations approved by U.S. bishops. Papal book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," is published.

• NOVEMBER: Americans elect first Republican Congress in 40 years. Californians back public services cutoff to illegal immigrants. Oregonians approve physician-assisted suicide. Pope creates 30 new cardinals. U.S. bishops meet in Washington, issue statements on violence and women in the church.

• DECEMBER: Clinton mixes proposals to fund creation of human embryos for research. Paul Hill receives death sentence for July abortion clinic murders. Clinton fires Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, whose views on religion and sex education angered many religious leaders. Immigration and Naturalization Service says at year's end it will let expire a 1990 order protecting nearly 200,000 Salvadoran refugees from deportation.

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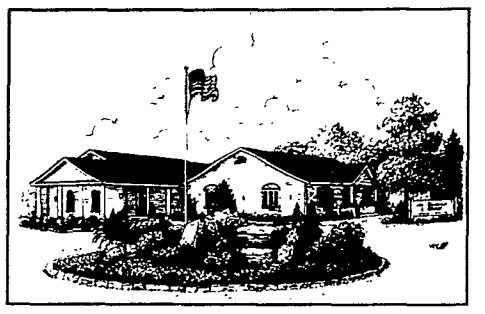
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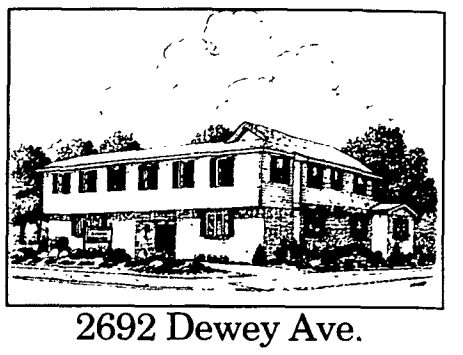
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