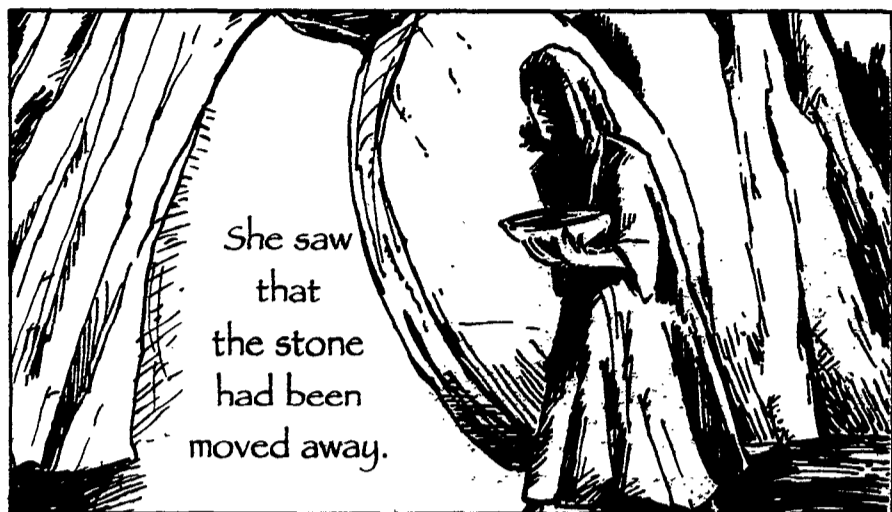


# WORLD & NATION

## THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE



She saw that the stone had been moved away.

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple (the one that Jesus loved) and told them, "The Lord has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put Him!" At that Peter and the other disciple started out on their way to the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He did not enter but bent down to peer in, and saw the wrappings lying on the ground. Presently, Simon Peter came along behind him and entered the tomb. He observed the wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth which had covered the head not lying with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. (Remember, as yet they did not understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

— From the Gospel of Saint John

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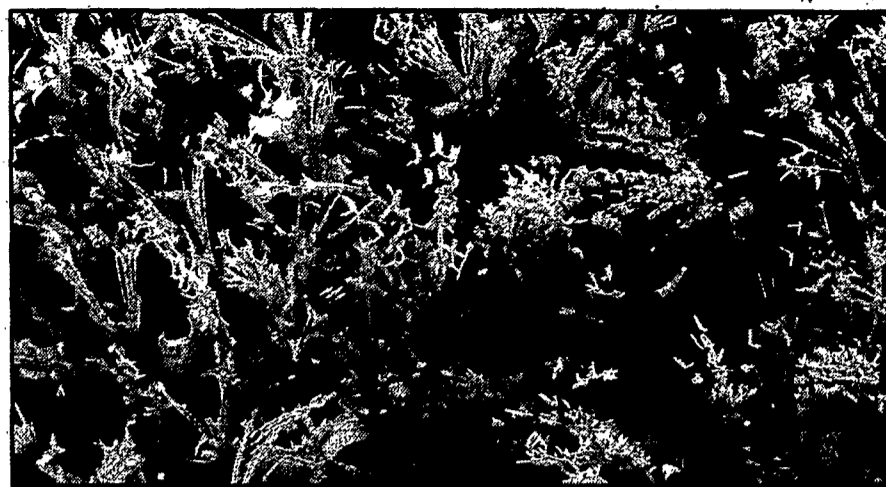
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Reuters/CNS

### Festive palms

Filipino Catholics wave palm fronds outside a church in the Manila suburb of Antipolo March 31. Palm Sunday services around the world commemorated Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem before he was crucified.

## Cardinals lead prayer vigil in support of abortion limit

By Patricia Zapor  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Struggling to keep candles lit under umbrellas in a heavy downpour, several hundred people — mostly Catholics — prayed at an April 1 White House vigil aimed at persuading President Clinton to sign a bill to ban the partial-birth abortion procedure.

Led by Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law and Washington Cardinal James A. Hickey, young families, teens, college students, retirees, parish groups and priests gathered in a steady rainfall outside the White House to encourage Clinton to sign the bill, which would ban one type of late-term abortion.

The hastily arranged prayer vigil was announced at some Washington area parishes just a day earlier, but that was enough warning for participants who came from as far away as York, Pa., to make their point.

"Mr. President, You can stop this," read several signs, with line drawings illustrating the late-term abortion procedure that would be banned by the bill.

The House approved final wording on the measure shortly before spring recess and the bill was expected to reach the president's desk sometime the first week of April. White House spokesmen had

said Clinton would veto the bill because it does not include a provision allowing the procedure when the pregnant woman's health is put at risk by continuing the pregnancy.

Supporters of the bill said a "health" exception could be interpreted to include a wide range of circumstances, even when a pregnant woman changes her mind about wanting a baby or fears motherhood would change her life too much.

The controversial procedure involves a doctor partially delivering a fetus, then making final removal of the fetus from the birth canal easier by stabbing the head with scissors and suctioning out brain matter. Opponents of the bill claim the procedure should be allowed because it poses the least risk to the mother when fetal abnormalities or other complications are discovered late in a pregnancy.

The U.S. Catholic Conference Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities arranged the vigil just a few days earlier, relying on faxed messages, parish announcements and word-of-mouth to bring out a crowd. With no idea how many people to expect, and aware that the daylong rainfall would keep many away, organizers said they were pleased at the turnout of about 300 to 400. USCC employees said they had brought and distributed about 500 candles.

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