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News Digest

By The Associated Press

Pope accepts recommendations of bishops following synod

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II accepted with "joy and gratitude" all the findings of the extraordinary synod of bishops that reviewed the effects of the Second Vatican Council, a senior Vatican official said Monday.

The findings and suggestions were contained in a 14-page report approved by the bishops at the end of the two-week assembly. The report was officially made public Monday.

"The Holy Father accepted the whole thing with joy and gratitude," Archbishop Jan Schotte, secretary-general of the synod, told a news conference.

The document makes recommendations in several major areas. It suggests the promotion of "deeper knowledge and reception" of the council and drafting of a universal catechism on Catholic doctrine and morals.

It calls for tighter religious disciplines; better definition of the role of national bishops' conferences; application of the new canon law; further efforts to promote Christian unity and dialogue with other religions; and greater church commitment to the poor and oppressed.

In his address to the final working session Saturday, John Paul mentioned

three "valuable" suggestions the bishops make — a universal catechism, further studies on the nature of bishops conferences and the publication of the canon law for the Eastern rite churches.

The report is a careful consensus among the bishops, who fended off challenges from both the right and the left and fashioned a compromise course of action for the church's 840 million followers.

On social justice and "human promotion," it condemns abortion and says the church "must prophetically denounce every form of poverty and oppression. . ."

In Brief

Income taxes higher

LINCOLN — Most Nebraskans will receive smaller refund checks or pay more in tax returns next year as a result of a retroactive one percentage point income tax increase, state Tax Commissioner Donna Karnes says.

Karnes said in an interview that the rate of increase will be included in tax forms mailed to people late this year or early next year. The forms are now being printed.

The commissioner said the state's withholding rate on wages will remain the same.

Sexual diseases on rise

LINCOLN — While public attention has been fixed on AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases remain at epidemic proportions in Nebraska, health officials say.

The number of infectious syphilis cases reported so far in 1985, however, is down significantly from last year, said Dr. Paul Stoesz, state director of disease control. He said there are signs that the number of gonorrhea cases also may be declining.

Thirty-seven cases of chlamydia were reported in the state from May 1984, when the disease began to be reported, to October 1984, the department said. A total of 325 cases were reported from January through October of this year.

UN denounces terrorism

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations closed ranks Monday on one of its most divisive issues and unanimously adopted a landmark resolution condemning all acts of terrorism as criminal.

U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters hailed the action, taken without a formal vote in the 159-member General Assembly, as "a symbol of new times."

The resolution was a clear compromise to overcome more than a

decade of East-West and North-South wrangling over the definition of terrorism.

Munford is released

LINCOLN — Nebraska football linebacker Marc Munford, who was hospitalized with a kidney ailment following recent knee surgery, has been released from Bryan Memorial Hospital.

"I can't say that he's completely cured but he's past any danger point for which we are very grateful," Nebraska trainer George Sullivan said Sunday. Sullivan said Munford has returned home to Littleton, Colo., with his parents.

Lincoln man pleads guilty

LINCOLN — A Lincoln man accused of carrying out a Cornhusker football ticket scam pleaded guilty Monday in Lancaster County District court to one count of theft by deception.

In a plea agreement with the Lancaster County attorney's office, Roger K. McNeil agreed to repay nearly \$20,000 to up to 15 people who paid for but never received tickets, said Deputy Lancaster County Attorney John Colborn.

Under the plea agreement, McNeil, 35, must repay \$3,000 by his sentencing on Jan. 31 and repay the remainder within 30 days after sentencing.

OPEC ends talks

GENEVA — Oil ministers from 13 countries on Monday ended three days of talks with an agreement to defend OPEC's "fair share" of world oil sales, the conference chairman said.

Ministers from the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, however, stopped short of formally breaking from their failing strategy of propping up oil prices by restricting production.

But sources said the ministers had agreed to focus on keeping production up even if it meant risking a major decline in prices.

Farmer kills 3, self

HILLS, Iowa — A farmer apparently distraught over his finances killed the president of his bank Monday, a neighbor and his own wife before turning the gun on himself, authorities said.

Authorities identified the farmer as Dale Burr, who farmed just east of Lone Tree near this southeastern Iowa town of 550 residents.

Laurel now candidate

MANILA, Philippines — Salvador H. Laurel registered as a candidate for the presidency Monday, rejecting an offer by the widow of slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino that he join her in a "grand coalition" against President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Laurel became the first major candidate to file for the Feb. 7 election which Corazon Aquino's supporters had hoped would pit her alone against Marcos — the man she says had her husband assassinated in 1983.

Argentina lifts siege

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — The government on Monday lifted a nationwide state of siege declared in October to combat an alleged effort by extreme rightists to undermine democratic rule.

The move was announced at a noon news conference by Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli. He said the government felt a state of siege was no longer needed because of a decline in the number of bombings, telephone threats and other anti-government acts.

President Raul Alfonsin declared the state of siege on Oct. 25 to ensure the arrest of 12 alleged rightist subversives.

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