

Bolivian Bishops Score New Regime

La Paz, Bolivia [RNS] — After months of political and social unrest in Bolivia, the nation's Roman Catholic bishops charged in a strongly worded statement that the government of President Hugo Banzer Suarez is ineffective, corrupt and to blame for the current economic crisis.

The document, issued by the Bolivian bishops' conference, came on the heels of a warning by President Banzer that he would deal harshly with the 10-day-old series of strikes and student demonstrations protesting skyrocketing inflation, low wages and food and fuel shortages.

The bishops' statement refuted

Charismatics List Meetings

The following is a list of meetings and Masses sponsored by area Catholics in the Charismatic Renewal.

Pentecostal meetings are held on Mondays at the homes of: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunning, 159 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Chili Center; Mr. and Mrs. Klaus Schulz, 156 N. Greece Rd., N. Greece.

On Tuesdays, Mr. and Mrs. William Buechel, 3681 Lake Avenue, Rochester; Mrs. John Sherry, 15 Starlite Dr., Rochester; Mr. and Mrs. Warren Lynch, Hamlin-Clarkson Town Line Rd., Hamlin.

On Wednesdays, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mahaney, 479 Covewood Blvd., W. Webster.

claims of the rightist government that the nation's economic crisis is due to the world fuel crisis and large-scale smuggling to neighboring countries. The bishops said instead that the government's "indiscriminate public spending," bureaucratic "inefficiency" and "big swindles" have caused the current problems.

"The people have lost confidence to such a point that a state of collective apathy and defeatism can be observed," the bishops declared.

The Bolivian bishops' conference, headed by Cardinal Jose Clemente Maurer, CSSR, of Sucre, is made up of more than a score of Bolivian prelates. Their

On Thursdays, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hauser, 1570 Culver Rd., Rochester; St. Charles Borromeo Church, Rochester.

On Saturday evening, Mr. and Mrs. John Donnelly, 9 Ellicott St., Rochester; Mr. and Mrs. James Reid, 113 Amity St., Spencerport; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wollschlaeger, 350 N. Winton Rd., Rochester.

Weekly prayer meetings are held at St. Peter and Paul Church at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at St. Theodore Church at 8 p.m. on Mondays.

Mass is celebrated at 8 p.m. every First Friday at St. Lawrence Church and at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

statement marks the first time in the 2 1/2 years since President Banzer came to power in a military coup that the hierarchy has spoken strongly against the government.

Despite growing criticism and denunciations of the Banzer regime from both inside and outside Bolivia, Catholic Church until now had supported the Banzer regime because it had ousted the leftist regime of Gen. Juan Jose Torres Gonzales.

The Bolivian Commission for Justice and Peace, founded in 1972 by Catholic priests and laymen, has been in the forefront of criticism generated toward the Banzer regime. In December, 1973, it charged that the government was holding between 300 and 400 political prisoners, in addition to an undisclosed number of persons held in secret "houses of security."

Father Eric de Wasseige, president of the commission, said that while there had been a small decrease in "torture and repression" because of pressures from outside organizations, "we have ample evidence from families and freed prisoners that torture is still being used and there is no fundamental change in the arbitrary and repressive system."

Prelate is Sent 'Bible Bomb'

London [RNS] — The work of terrorists was suspected here when the Most Rev. Gerard W. Tickle, Roman Catholic Bishop for the British Navy, Army and Air Force, received a parcel containing a Bible which had explosives within its pages.

The bomb was found by Bishop Tickle when he sorted mail at his office in Kensington, west London. He opened the packet and as he was holding the Bible in his hands he noticed a wire coming from the book.

Police were called and took the Bible away. They found a bomb made of two ounces of explosives in the Bible and defused it.

The Bible was a Collins ruby clear type presentation Bible from which the center pages had been removed and the bomb inserted.

Bishop Tickle said it was lucky he did not open it, adding, "You could say some higher power was keeping an eye on me."

Commander Robert Huntley, head of Scotland Yard's Bomb Squad, said that if the Bible had been opened the resultant explosion would have caused serious injury or death.

When Bishop Tickle was asked why he had been selected as a parcel bomb victim he said: "I can only think that while I was in Northern Ireland in September last year I made a speech in which I praised the (British) security troops. Some of the people over there were not pleased with what I said."

The parcel was mailed in central London, police said.

He indicated that since President Banzer took power in August, 1971, more than 2,000 Bolivians have been arrested for political reasons and none have been brought to trial. In addition, torture is commonly used on prisoners, he said.

Father Vincent Sist, OP, an American who is a member of the Justice and Peace commission in Bolivia, said the "character of repression has changed here over the past six months."

Repression has become more extensive in that it has gone beyond the political opposition (leftists and Communists) to reach the principal labor unions, bankers, factory workers and miners.

He said the repression consists in "intimidation, then arrest, torture, lengthy imprisonment and deportation."

A movement for general political amnesty has grown over the past half year, boosted perhaps by a "statement of

solidarity" from the U.S. Catholic Conference's Division of Justice and Peace in Washington, D.C., as well as other group pressures, such as Amnesty International.

Leading the amnesty movement in Bolivia are the justice and peace commission, lawyers and professional associations, the Christian Democratic party, the Catholic Church's news journal, *Presencia*, and other church groups.

The USCC justice and peace organization specifically called on the Banzer regime to implement more than "piecemeal justice." They seconded the Bolivian justice and peace commission's call for "an end to arrest on mere suspicion, for investigation and reform of inhuman jail conditions, particularly as they involve women prisoners, for total abolition of torture, for a speedy and fair trial of any charged with civil crime and immediate amnesty for the vast majority who are guilty of no crime except that of holding dissident political views."



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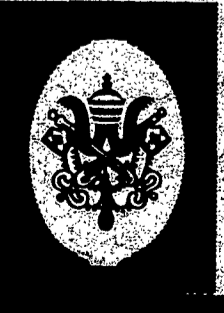
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THE OPEN WINDOW

Dear Father Hohman,

A number of us would like to make some requests regarding our own funerals. Here are my personal preferences:

*A simplified funeral Mass (no eulogy);

*No music;

*Burial service at the church, or more preferably, leaving my body to science;

*No embalment;

*No wake or visiting hours;

*A wooden box (dust to dust and ashes to ashes);

*No marker.

I feel a part of life's cycle, and I do not think this inconsistent with early Christian practice. Perhaps the Trappists' simple funeral and burial rules are valid.

Sincerely,
H.C.W.

Dear H. C. W.,

The answer to all your requests is "Yes" but let me take them one at a time.

There is not even supposed to be a eulogy — only a homily on the Christian understanding of death and resurrection. Would that be OK?

*You may indeed have the music skipped (some is better omitted) but the music is meant

to express the joy of resurrection. The Alleluias proclaim our gladness that the deceased still lives — with God.

*Burial service at the church — this is done frequently. And you may indeed send your body to science. Would someone send me the name and address of the organization which accepts pledges for the same?

*No embalment. No problem, at least with the Church.

*No wake and no visiting hours. Again no problem. But what about your bereaved loved ones? Might they not want company in that difficult time? Personally I like the Jewish way best — no wake, but a period of days in which people may call at the home.

*A wooden box. I know that at least the Carmelites (and probably the Trappists) are so buried. Again, this would be my preference.

*No marker. OK. The cemetery would have a record of the place of burial.

In summary, I would just like to mention that these preferences should be explained to those you would probably leave behind. I am certain you would not want to make them sadder or uneasy or wondering whether they should ignore your orders. Shouldn't Christians be able to discuss death without massive discomfort?

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