

Guatemalan Bishops Hit Harassment of Missionaries

Guatemala City [RNS] — Guatemala's Roman Catholic bishops joined an ecumenical group of 27 Christian leaders in protesting government harassment of foreign missionaries and uncontrolled violence during recent elections.

In a public letter to Guatemala's President Carlos Arana Osorio, the bishops condemned the government for ordering the expulsion of 11 Catholic missionaries on charges of meddling in the elections. They called the government's action "arbitrary and unjust" and asked the president to reverse the expulsion order.

President Arana Osorio reportedly has refused the bishops' demand.

Three of the missionaries ordered to leave the country are reportedly members of Maryknoll, the Catholic Foreign

Mission Society of America, with headquarters in New York. The priests are Father William Price, 49, of Syracuse, N.Y.; Father Thomas Fox, 45, Bronx, N.Y.; and Father Joseph Towle, 36, of East Weymouth, Mass. All are assigned to the Huehuetenango diocese, headed by Maryknoll Bishop Hugo Gerbermann of Nada, Tex.

(A spokesman for Maryknoll headquarters at Ossining, N.Y., could not confirm that the number of missionaries ordered expelled had reached 11. He indicated that the three Maryknoll priests are still in Guatemala and that negotiations with the government are continuing.)

A week before the Catholic bishops' statement, the 27 Christian clergy and lay persons, both Catholic and Protestant, signed an eight-point protest. Among the points of protest were:

* Uncontrolled violence at election time which caused five reported deaths, and the presence of armed quasi-military groups of the political Right and Left.

* The detention of at least five priests (including the Maryknollers) in the capital during the week prior to the (March 4) elections.

* The carrying of busloads of peasants to demonstrate for one of the candidates, resulting in injuries to students and reporters.

* The unaccustomed slowness with which election results were reported and the silencing of radio-news broadcasts allowing only government-controlled broadcasts.

Sister Mary Inez (above), finishes packaging candles for the sale as Sister Mary de Pazzi and Sister Mary Florence make afghans, which will also be on sale at Mercy.



Mercy Sisters Set Fund Raiser For New Roof

The Sisters of Mercy will sponsor a roast beef dinner and minisale, Saturday, April 20, from 4:30 — 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria and gym of Mercy High School.

The mini-sale features bread and baked goods, hand crafts, and a Flea Market.

Tickets for the supper can be obtained from any Sister of Mercy, by calling 716-288-2710, or at the door.

Proceeds will be used for an immediately needed, new roof for the Mercy Motherhouse. This building houses the Congregation's Infirmary, administrative offices, and 108 resident sisters. The present roof dates back 43 years to 1931, when the Motherhouse was built.

The sale-dinner committee is headed by Sister Mary

Bonaventure, a member of the congregation's Executive Council. The committee includes Sister Mary Dismas, dinner; Sister Mary Berchmans, publicity; Sister Mary Edwina, sale; and Sister Mary Alphonsus, cafeteria arrangements.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL SETS OPEN HOUSE

The Greece Montessori School will hold open house, Sunday, April 28, 2-4 p.m. at its rooms in the Lutheran Church of Concord, 485 Holmes Rd. Director, staff, and board members will be available to answer questions. Further information may be obtained from Carol Bell, 647-9391, or Sheryl Buscemi, 352-1473.

Business In The Diocese

Gloria L. Korman has joined the staff of the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County as associate director for program planning and research. She is well known throughout the community for her volunteer contributions to the fields of

education, political action and community action.

She is married to Barry Korman, division manager for Superba Cravats, Inc. and has two children, ages 13 and 10.

Catholics Up Donations For Latin America Aid

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — "Encouraging trends" in U.S. Roman Catholic Church aid to Latin America were noted in a report issued here. It revealed that more than \$6.5 million was allocated during 1973 to implement religious and social restructuring.

In a report prepared by the U.S. Catholic Conference's Division for Latin America, Father Frederick McGuire, CM, division director, said "the total U.S. Church contribution to programs in Latin America shows a steady increase in recent years which is a tribute to the generosity and concern of Catholics in this country."

The USCC report was prepared at the request of the Committee for the Church in Latin America of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The committee is headed by Cardinal Humberto Medeiros of Boston.

The report observed that in 1972, U.S. Catholics contributed a

total of \$4,558,015 to projects in Latin America, and that the 1973 contribution exceeded that figure by more than \$2.3 million. The 1973 National Collection for Latin America totaled \$1,574,614, up \$66,452 from 1972.

Father McGuire said the amount and pattern of U.S. Catholic contributions to Latin America indicate that some encouraging trends are apparently forming.

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