

Revolutions May Erupt in Central America

Continued from Page 1

Salvador, both Protestant and Catholic, condemned activities by the government — and, in some cases by influential private interests — involving the deaths, torture, mistreatment and the "violation of human rights" of campesinos, clergy and church workers.

The National Guard of Nicaragua was condemned by the Catholic bishop of Matagalpa for the deliberate "mistreatment" of campesinos in a series of incidents. Bishop Guiliano Barni, OFM, in turn, was attacked over radio stations controlled by Gen. Anastasio Somoza, de facto ruler of Nicaragua.

In Guatemala, from which several foreign priests were expelled in 1974, an ecumenical group of 27 Christian leaders protested government harassment of foreign missionaries and uncontrolled violence against the poor. In a public letter to President Carlos Arana Osorio, they called the government's order for the expulsion of the priests "arbitrary and unjust."

Three years earlier, Episcopal Bishop William Frey of Guatemala, a U.S. citizen, was deported for "alleged interference in political activities." The bishop later charged that the government "needed" a scapegoat after he had joined a Catholic bishop, four Catholic priests and four Protestant pastors in a "low-key" request for restoration of constitutional rights.

Father Joseph Towle, MM, an American Maryknoll missionary expelled from Guatemala three years after Bishop Frey, told a similar story.

Stating that the government's action "does not reflect the feeling nor the will of the people in any way," Father Towle said it stemmed from "our work among the Indians who are growing in consciousness of their dignity as Sons of God and in accepting responsibility for the administration of their own communities."

Earlier this year in El Salvador, the Catholic hierarchy charged the government with "flagrant violation of human rights" in the killing of six "innocent and defenseless" campesinos by the national police in La Cayetana, a town in central El Salvador.

Although government forces said they were "ambushed" by the campesinos, the bishops cited witnesses who claimed the victims were accused of being guerrillas and thieves and were machine-gunned as they sought refuge in a farm house. A spokesman for campesinos told the bishops the government's action was spurred by wealthy landowners who were attempting illegally to raise the rent of farm lands, an increase the campesinos refused to pay.

In many areas of South America, church-state ties have been strongly developed over the years and the wealthy classes have been closely aligned with the church. But religious leaders in Central America have, to some extent, maintained a more critical position concerning political, social and economic questions, particularly as they affect the poor.

In 1971, for instance, the Catholic bishops of El Salvador strongly supported the country's sugar cane and coffee plantation workers in their drive to form free labor unions. This action flew in

the face of opposition by plantation owners (many of whom were foreigners) who controlled a large portion of the country's economic power.

Today, in Honduras, where the four-month-old government of Col. Juan Alberto Melgar Castro is attempting to weather the storm precipitated by the murder of two priests and several other persons, the nation's leading Catholic prelate, Archbishop Hector Santos Hernandez, SDB, of Tegucigalpa, has warned that Honduras is undergoing a "serious church-state crisis" marked by "death and violence."

In many South American countries such as Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia and Peru, church leaders have cited the oppression and exploitation of the masses by government, wealthy landowners and businessmen, and by multinational corporations.

In Chile, because of the prohibition of unions and the demise of government technical and credit assistance, the task of protecting and organizing the agrarian reform sector has fallen to the church. Some 50,000 campesino families live in that sector, located in the coastal-rural portion of the Santiago archdiocese.

A pastoral letter issued by the archdiocese in May warned that the military junta's policies are creating a "situation of unemployment, indigency, indebtedness and atomization among the peasants." Major among these policies is the return of lands expropriated under two previous Chilean regimes to the original owners, leaving 25 per cent of the peasants without means.

It was to offset just such a possible reversal of policy that an independent peasant organization in Honduras, supported by many church leaders, attempted to place pressure on the government to step up the agrarian reform program. And it was following a "hunger march" on the capital of Tegucigalpa that the murders of priests and peasants took place.

For some observers, the small, dense and perhaps more volatile nations of Central America are viewed as the microcosm of unrest and potential violence that could set the tone for other areas of the Third World seeking radical political, social and economic reform.

Also, it is in Central America, they say, that peasants are becoming better organized and the coalition of government and influential private interests is growing more apparent, to the extent that violence of the sort witnessed in Honduras is becoming a mode of reaction by political and economic power groups.

In Costa Rica, the issue over land distribution to peasants has become a top priority of church leaders who have drawn the fire of large landholders. The landholders, reacting to a "freeze" placed on some land by the national legislature, described the act as "plunder" and lashed out at Bishop Arrieta-Villalobos for demanding it.

In Mexico a few months ago, five bishops denounced "the growing violence which seeks public justification through mass communication and simple conversation . . . terrorism against persons and the destruction of installations and

buildings, kidnappings, arbitrary arrests, guerrilla movements . . . torture and the multiple forms of repression and provocation.

The statement by the Mexican bishops particularly condemned terrorism on the right, citing such violence as a "growing phenomenon" in Latin America.

A Canadian Catholic prelate, Bishop Remi De Roo of Victoria, B.C., who recently completed a tour of Latin America — including two Central American countries — said that one of the most significant developments he observed is the "growing process of conscientization . . . whereby masses of people are becoming aware of their dignity . . . and rights as citizens and their power to affect change."

Reflecting on the process of social reform emerging in Latin America, he said he did not know if violence could be avoided. "Violence is already a built-in component of the structures of power which oppress the poor. Revolution in various forms is in the offing."

Commenting on the church's role, Father Towle, said that since Vatican II and a 1968 conference of Latin America's Catholic bishops there has been "an emphasis on human dignity, on rights as well as obligations. We look upon it as the Gospel of the whole man."

Observing that many of the church's initiatives have been labeled "communist" by the government, he said the church today "will not be easily intimidated and has publicly and firmly declared its intention to continue its God-given mission even though some conveniently misunderstand it."

Buckley to Address Right to Life Confab

Senator James Buckley will be the featured speaker at this year's New York State Right to Life Convention which will be held here Sept. 26 through 28.

The convention, hosted by the Rochester Area and Western New York Right to Life groups, will convene at the Holiday Inn Downtown.

Included in the convention will be several workshops on the subjects of political action, teaching life issues, euthanasia, population perspectives, appreciating the handicapped and youth activities.

The convention will open with a cocktail party on Friday, Sept. 26. Senator Buckley will speak on the "Human Life Amendment — The Inalienable Right to Life" on Saturday.

The Sunday agenda includes religious services and the State Annual Report to Right to Life groups.

Registration forms and further information are available through the NYS Right to Life Convention Committee, 192 Rogers Pkwy., Rochester 14617.

Car Wash To Benefit World's Poor

The James O. Stein Circle of the Columbian Squires in Webster is sponsoring a car wash Aug. 16 to raise funds for the Crusade against Poverty, a nationwide Squires activity to help feed the world's poor.

According to Stanley Zawacki, one of the Knights of Columbus advisers, "A \$15,000 goal has been set by the boys and any monies raised will be matched dollar for dollar by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. All funds will be presented to Pope Paul VI later this year."

The Squires are the youth wing of the K. of C.

The Webster group will donate about 50 per cent of the money raised to the Crusade. The rest will be used to support other local projects.

The car wash will be at the Hess gasoline station on Empire Boulevard and Creek Street in West Webster from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 16. Cost will be \$1.

Monastery Gets New Prior

Waverly — Father Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD, a scholar in the field of spiritual theology, has joined the Discalced Carmelites of Waverly as their prior. Father Thomas Hickey, OCD whose specialty is communications, is the new novice master. Both are natives of Milwaukee.

Father Kavanaugh has been in Washington, D.C., for the past 18 years, teaching and writing. He has translated into English the works of St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila and other Spanish mystics.


Father Hickey spent last year at the University of Iowa teaching in the journalism school while working for a doctoral degree in communications.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for Rochester Mental Health Center's Big Brother/Big Sister Program.

Program Coordinator Elsie Jablonski explained that each volunteer will be assigned a child, age 5 through 17, who has emotional and/or learning difficulties.

Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Jablonski at the Rochester Mental Health Center, 544-5220.



AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL
1776-1976

Your Heritage

Aug. 15, 1790. Bishop Charles Walmsley, OSB, of England, on this day, in the chapel of Lulworth Castle, Dorset, England, consecrated as bishop John Carroll, the first Bishop of Baltimore. Carroll (1735-1815) was born into a prominent Maryland family and educated in French Flanders, where he entered the Jesuits. When the Jesuit order was suppressed in 1773, he returned to Maryland to work as a secular priest. In 1784 Pope Pius VI named him head of the Church in the United States; and, in 1789, the first American bishop. Thoroughly American as well as thoroughly apostolic, it was he who gave a genuinely American stamp to the Catholic Church in this country. In 1808 he was named archbishop of Baltimore.

Rochester Diocesan Bicentennial Commission.

Play Set

The Borchard St. Players will present an original musical, "For Love of Money" at Hilton High School on August 21, 22, 23, 24.

Evening performances will be at 8 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.

... the Goal's the Thing

Continued from Page 1

the newly formed (June 1975) consultative body of elected lay, religious and clergy identified (26) tentative pastoral ministries' goal statements.

3. Staff — identified immediate and long-range needs to achieve the success of programs Bishop Hogan has set in motion.

Bishop Hogan clarified the general directions he will strive for in three pastoral statements:

1. To design and establish a coordinated ongoing training and education program that will effectively strengthen the parishes in ministering to the needs of their people in the 1970s and 1980s.

2. To increase the number of clergy, lay and religious people in Pastoral Ministry of each parish.

3. To structure the parish, regional, diocesan and consultative agencies that will assist

in ministering to the needs of our people in the 1970s and 1980s.

As the departments begin to establish their departmental directions, they will consider how they can translate the tentative goal statements of the Diocesan Pastoral Council into action programs based on Gospel imperatives.

In next week's article, goals established in the areas of Worship and Life and Teaching Mission will be discussed with explanations and clarifications offered by members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

DIMES GRANT

Elmira — Southern Tier Institute of Rehabilitation at St. Joseph's Hospital has received a \$6 thousand grant from the Chemung County Chapter March of Dimes. The monies provide various equipment that will assist in treatment of children with birth defects. Included are an auditory training unit, children's stand-up table and an assortment of rehabilitation items used in ongoing therapy and child patient treatment.

Table of Contents

Beahon	13	Editorials	4
Bishop Hogan	3	Greeley	12
Child	6	Hohman	7
Church and Politics	14	Letters	4
Classified	14,15	Murphy	9
Costa	11	Shamon	10
Cuddy	5	Vatican	3
Deaths	10	World, National	8