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## Hard Times for Holy Father

BY CARMEN J. VIGLUCCI

Rome — Because the Red Brigade has managed to attract the world's spotlight to Italy through its terrorist acts, these are indeed difficult times for all citizens here. And in a sense they are probably even worse days for Pope Paul who was not only personally affected by the assassination of his personal friend Aldo Moro but also, with his fellow bishops, was recently beset by the passage of Europe's most liberal abortion law.

The Holy Father has been perhaps the world's greatest and most consistent apostle for peace and his efforts have largely been ignored on the international stage. However, the recent murder of Mr. Moro and its bitter aftermath which have literally focused on the Pope's very doorstep must have added greatly to his disappointment.

As he has in the past, Pope Paul showed his personal courage when he presided at the Mass for Mr. Moro in St. John Lateran despite the obvious threat from terrorists. His prayer poetically reflected his personal sorrow — "... the cry and weeping of the unutterable grief with which this tragedy suffocates our voice."

He was echoing the sentiment of a nation. Even the Communist Party disowned the vicious act of the Red Brigade which seemed to have suffered a strategic setback by the murder.

If he looks and listens hard enough a visitor to Italy's shores may notice some signs of tension but otherwise life goes on as usual. Except for unusual cold and wet weather which has been reducing crowds in the piazzas and main streets, activity has been normal even to the late hours of the evening.

Probably the most visible sign that everything isn't in pizza pie order is the frequency of police cars, sirens screeching, racing about town, often unmarked and peopled by plainclothes operatives.

Another signal of the uneasiness is the number of police at any public gathering. For instance a Saturday night torchlight parade of young school children in St. Peter's Square draws dozens of armed city police and federal carabinieri, obviously as a protective measure.

**'Flags waved, grown men cried, children cheered, and all pushed, shoved, grappled to get a better glimpse of this holy man.'**

And rumors abound. A school on the outskirts of Rome is closed because it is reported that the Brigade will strike there. This is symptomatic of the scuttlebutt that a large number of people, probably children, will be the next object of Brigade terrorist activities.

And though these political activities occupy most of the nation's attention, another happening has caused the Roman Catholic Church even more consternation. Italy approved liberalized abortion.

Thus when the Italian bishops met in Rome for their annual conference and gathered at the weekly general audience, Pope Paul spoke of their plight to the faithful — "They show the unity of the Church in Italy ... many are the problems they face ... such as the legalization of divorce and abortion."

But the Pope who appeared remarkably healthy and spirited despite the turns of events, offered hope. "Fear not, it is I, he quoted Christ, adding, "We say to our Italian bishops, fear not, Christ is with us."

He attacked abortion as a "crime against an innocent and defenseless creature" and reiterated that human life is sacred from its beginning in its mother's womb. These were his first public remarks since the parliament had approved a law which allows abortion on demand in the first 90 days of pregnancy.

The day before, Cardinal Antonio Poma, president of the National Conference of Italian Bishops, told the 280 Italian bishops that the ratification of the abortion law could never be justified. "To annihilate a human life is the peak of

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## Refugees Here

The nine-member family of Van The Nguyen arrives early in the morning in Rochester from Malaysia where they had sought refuge from the Communist rulers of their native land, Vietnam. The Nguyens have been sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Adamson of Honeoye Falls. Above Mrs. Thi Van Luu Nguyen both bows and shakes the hand of Lois Adamson in greeting, blending the traditional gestures of respect and friendship of the two nations.



## New DPC Members Preparing for Convocation

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) will seat 29 new members at its fourth annual convocation June 16 and 17 at Becket Hall.

The new members include three priests from the Priests Council, two sisters from the Sisters Council, 16 newly elected regional representatives, and eight newly appointed members. One of the priests, the Priests Council liaison, will be elected at that body's June meeting.

Two regional representatives who had completed their terms will be rejoining the council, and five appointed members were named by Bishop Hogan to another term.

Election to the council is for a two-year term; Bishop Hogan's appointments are to one-year terms.

Informational sessions in Rochester and Corning for new members are being conducted this week, providing them with an opportunity to become informed on the DPC before the Convocation.

A trio of new delegates will represent the North Region. Elaine Clausen of St. Stanislaus, Rochester, will complete a term of a resigned member, and Doris Jones of St. Thomas the Apostle and Lawrence Allen of St. Andrew's, Rochester, were elected to full terms.

Re-elected to the council were Elaine Gotham, from the Yates-Ontario-Wayne Region, and St. Mary's, Canandaigua, and Josephine Ciancaglioni of St. Ann's, Hornell, and the Livingston-Stauben Region, to a one-year term to fill a resigned member's term.

Reappointed were Sister Mary Jean Smith, principal of Nazareth Academy, to represent the ministry to Catholic education; Ruth E. Hauser, to represent ecumenism; Angel Rivera and Sister Aida Sansor, ministry to the Spanish-speaking; Brother Brian Walsh, CFC, of Bishop Kearney High School, to represent the brothers in the diocese, and Thomas Rosica,

a student at St. John Fisher College, to represent youth.

Eight members appointed by Bishop Hogan will be joining the DPC for the first time.

Frank Griffin of St. Louis, Pittsford, will represent ministry to the elderly.

Betty and John Schmitt of St. Boniface, Rochester, will represent ministry to renewal groups.

The emerging role of women in the Church will be represented by Diane Blum of St. John the Evangelist, Humboldt St., Rochester.

Two new members will represent black Catholics in

the diocese. Both parishioners of Immaculate Conception, Rochester, Jean Pryor and Alice Zealy will join the council.

Three new youth representatives will join the DPC. They are William Johnson of St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester; Betsy Cross of St. Mary's, Corning, and Glenda Straughter of Immaculate Conception, Rochester.

The two priests who have been elected are Father James Marvin, pastor of St. Ambrose, Rochester, and Father Charles Bennett of Old St. Mary's, Rochester.

Two sisters will be joining the council for the first time;

Sister Ann Miller, RSM, principal of the Corning Catholic Schools, and Sister Ann Habershaw, SSND, principal of Holy Ghost School, Rochester.

From the Northeast Region, William Hunt of St. Joseph's, Penfield, and Ronald Keller of Holy Spirit, Webster, will be joining the DPC.

John Dollinger of St. John the Evangelist, Humboldt St., Rochester, will be a new delegate from the Southeast Region.

Henry Maher of St. Monica's will be the new

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