

Nicaragua Missioner Blasts Somoza

By JOHN DASH

Father Bernard Survil, the native of Olean whose letters from Latin America occasionally grace the "and Opinions" column of the Courier-Journal, stopped in Rochester last week to discuss the current tensions between the Church and the government of President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua.

Several weeks ago reports of a general strike and armed insurrection on the part of the populace drew the attention of the world press. The activities were seen as aimed at ending the 40-year control of the Somoza family over the Central American nation.

Father Survil was refused re-entry into Nicaragua last May after he had left the country for a brief period. Father Survil worked for a year prior to the event as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Managua, the capital city.

He is an associate of the Maryknoll Missioners in that country.



FATHER SURVIL

Father Survil unreeled a brief history of the difficulties between the Church and the government, opening in January of 1977. At that time, the national conference of bishops, using information supplied by U.S. Capuchin missionaries, denounced the "disappearance" of hundreds of peasants during military operations.

A year later the bishops pointed out specifics of public administrative corruption in Nicaragua.

This past August the bishops issued a call for a new socio-economic order in Nicaragua; and, shortly thereafter, Archbishop Miguel Obando Bravo and his Priests Senate called for Somoza's resignation and for the establishment of a transitional government.

When he was denied re-entry into Nicaragua, Father Survil notes, he went to live in Honduras where members of his parish contacted him and urged him to return to the United States and organize

support for the movement to oust Somoza.

"Somoza is trying to convince the American public that when he goes, then comes Communism," Father Survil stated last week.

"Strange that neither the archbishop, his priests, nor the many other sectors of Nicaraguan society are all that worried. And they are the ones who will have to live with the outcome."

Father Survil asserts that "What's happening in Central America is not a side-show for us Americans to watch on our TV screens."

He encourages dioceses to write letters of encouragement to the archbishop at Apartado 2008, Managua, Nicaragua. "He and his people need to know in a concrete way that we are thinking of them, and praying that they maintain their courage," he said.

Father Survil also is concerned that Americans write President Carter with "a simple one-liner: No more aid to General Somoza."

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All in the Family

By Sarah Child

Best To Be Silent, Invisible

There was a time when taking the kids out in public more often than not proved to be a source of embarrassment.



Sarah Child

If they were not confiding family secrets at the top of chirping little voices, or providing the correct anatomical terms for their peers' euphemisms, then inevitably they would be engaged in combat among themselves, screaming at the top of healthy lungs and trading blows with the ferocity usually reserved for one's worst enemies.

Now, the shoe appears to be on the other foot. And... Revenge is sweet.

It is not difficult to embarrass a 13-year-old girl. All one need do is speak politely to, or otherwise acknowledge, a boy of the same age whom she may or may not be interested in.

Moth-ER! will come the reproach in sufficiently hushed but nevertheless clearly disapproving tones.

Mothers in the company of such easily mortified children should also remember never to question the heavy hand of a supermarket cashier, even when overcharged; to refrain from asking a waitress to trade one's coffee for some that was not made yesterday, or from returning the new shoes when it is discovered there are two lefts and no right.

Mothers of such creatures also should never, ever giggle should the two of you encounter a

fashion plate dressed in seven distinct layers of wrinkled, frilly, pastel garments, or even suggest that the Fifties were somewhat less funky than John Travolta and Olivia dear would lead one to believe.

Above all, mothers should never sing, hum or whistle in public or otherwise give evidence that they are still among the living.

Boys of 11 are somewhat more difficult to disgrace, but it can be done.

Kissing him in front of a friend (of either sex), tousling his hair or otherwise showing affection are all good for a rebuke.

Requesting that he thank grandparents over the phone for gifts and other assorted favors will win castigation, as will the reminder that brushing his teeth twice a day is far better than combing his hair 26 times.

Finally, a mother must never divulge by the slightest nuance or action that an 11-year-old boy is afraid of anything. All 11-year-old males are fearless.

Eight-year-old girls are less easy to discomfit than their older sisters, but easier than their brothers. They are just beginning to fine-tune their sensibilities, using, of course, their older sisters as role models.

Tease an eight-year-old in public and she may retaliate in kind or turn purple with censure. A public compliment may bring a hug or a frown (this dress looks horrible on me) and a caress draw a smile or a look that says clearly she never saw you before in her life.

For all three, it is clear that a mother, for the time being, should be seldom seen and never heard.

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