

Vatican Notes Tensions in Nicaragua

See Pope's statement, Page 14

Vatican media Aug. 19 in identically worded comments.

Vatican City (NC) — Vatican Radio and the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, have sharply criticized the reported "increasing tension" between church and state in Nicaragua.

The Sandinistas, a leftist coalition of Marxists, Socialists and Christians, ousted right-wing dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979 after two years of civil war and has ruled Nicaragua since.

and block its evangelizing role in Nicaragua."

The Vatican newspaper and Jesuit-run radio station said full information on the situation was not available but cited reports that as many as five Salesians were living in embassies under diplomatic protection.

embassies of Costa Rica and Spain, he said, and two Christian Brothers in Managua were briefly detained but then released. No other priests were under embassy protection, the source said.)

A major incident recently was a well-publicized case Aug. 11 when the government accused a prominent priest of being caught in a tryst with a woman.

The priest, Father Bismarck Carballo, Managua archdiocesan communications director and director of Radio Catolica, said he was visiting the

woman, an active church leader, when an armed man attacked them in her home and forced them to disrobe. Four policemen then came in and forced the two out into the street naked, he said. Journalists and photographers covering a pro-government demonstration just a short distance from the home got firsthand coverage of the scene, and the government's version of it was widely reported.

Father Carballo called the incident "a well-staged show to discredit the church," and

Archbishop Obando backed his version of the story.

Three people were killed, six wounded, and 81 arrested when police broke up a pro-church demonstration over the incident Aug. 16.

Archbishop Obando said he himself had also had "serious difficulties" with authorities recently, that his auxiliary, Bishop Bosco Vivas, had recently been beaten, and that another bishop in the country had been prevented several times recently from going back to his home.

Press reports indicate that "the church and its institutions are made the butt of offenses and violence by Sandinista groups," which has never before happened in a country of faith and Catholic traditions so living and rooted," said the two

The Vatican media criticisms followed a series of incidents in Nicaragua that led the country's leading churchman, Archbishop Miguel Obando of Managua, to denounce what he called "an attempt to destabilize" the church, blemish its image

(A well-placed church source in Managua, Nicaragua's capital, contacted by phone by NC News in Washington, said the figure five was wrong. Two Salesians missionaries, Fathers Jose Maria Pacheco and Jose Morataya, were taken to their respective

Benelli Hints Marcinkus Should Resign

Vatican City (NC) — Cardinal Giovanni Benelli of Florence has criticized the administration of the Vatican bank, headed since 1971 by Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, a native of Cicero, Ill.

After the cardinal's death, the Vatican bank continued to function without much interference from other Vatican agencies or the pope, Cardinal Benelli said.

bank's dealings, especially regarding letters of patronage.

But he added, "In the opinion of experts, the tone of those letters, which are normal banking practice, is such that they do not necessarily imply total commitment. I believe that there are limits to the links that many people think those letters give rise to."

chief accountant.

A judicial communique is a formal notice that a person may be called for questioning regarding a special investigation. It usually contains accusations made against the person which could lead to the filing of formal charges.

Archbishop Marcinkus recently stated, "I have never done anything that could be considered, even in the slightest way, fraudulent."

The Vatican and the archbishop have consistently declined to comment on reports saying that the Vatican bank gave the Banco Ambrosiano letters of patronage that were used by the Italian bank in making some of the high-risk loans through overseas subsidiaries.

New Pastor

Father Roger Trott, a native of Rochester working for the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., has been named pastor of St. Matthew Church in Saltsburg, Pa. In addition, Father Trott, son of Katherine and Franklyn Trott of Rochester, will continue his work as diocesan director of Vocations.

Archbishop Marcinkus has been under fire over his handling of the bank's affairs and especially its ties with the Banco Ambrosiano, which was liquidated by the Italian government Aug. 6.

"If there was any imprudence, it was because of incompetence and inexperience," he said. "There has been imprudence and even ingenuousness. But that the Church could now be involved in speculation — no, no, this is false."

Cardinal Benelli has for many years been one of the most powerful figures in the Vatican as undersecretary of state under Pope Paul VI and was considered a frontrunner for the papacy itself after Paul's death. He told the Italian weekly newspaper Il Sabato that the Vatican Bank had no problems when it headed by the late Cardinal Alberto di Jorio, Archbishop Marcinkus' predecessor.

(In a separate interview later in the week in Rio de Janeiro, Cardinal Benelli hinted that he thought Archbishop Marcinkus should resign as bank president.)

"In the Church, no one keeps a post forever. The fact that Archbishop Marcinkus is a friend of the pope does not mean that he has to remain on the job," he said.

"As long as there was Cardinal di Jorio, everything was calm because he was a man of great prudence," Cardinal Benelli said.

In another development Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, papal secretary of state, said that many things still need to be clarified regarding the

Helen Costello Dies, Served Church 50 Years

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 27 for Helen Costello who died at St. Ann's Home July 25, 1982. The rites took place in the chapel.

accountant for all but the last two Charities directors.

"During her many years as a devoted employe, Miss Costello participated in the changes that saw Charities move from a highly centralized organization to one with many decentralized subsidiaries," according to Maurice Tierney, executive

Miss Costello served diocesan Catholic Charities for 50 years. She retired in 1972. She had been secretary, bookkeeper or

director.

Miss Catherine E. Wobus, casework director for Catholic Family Center, remembers Miss Costello as a person "with a good sense of humor, a sense of great dedication to the Charities' movement, and a loyal employe."

Miss Costello is survived by four sisters, Sister Marion Patricia, Mrs. Monica Beachel, Mrs. Alice Ostertag and Mrs. Marion Powers, and several nieces.

Anthony Tea

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs will hold the Presidents Susan B. Anthony Tea, 1 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 9, at the Anthony House, 17 Madison St. At the event Ginny Kohler will present a Strolling Fashion Show.

Blue Army Vigil

A vigil sponsored by the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima will open 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3, at Holy Rosary Church. Father Joseph Hart, Donald Curtiss and William Leone will lead the devotions.

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