

30-Year Terms Meted To Five in Slayings

San Salvador, El Salvador (NC) -- Judge Bernard Rauda Murcia June 18 sentenced five former Salvadoran national guardsmen to 30 years in prison with no possibility of parole for the 1980 murder of four American Catholic churchwomen.

"For me it has been a triumph, and it has been a triumph for Salvadoran justice and all those who believe in it," said Murcia, who tried the case.

The sentences are the maximum allowed under Salvadoran law, according to a U.S. State Department El Salvador specialist.

The former guardsmen were also convicted of destruction of property and robbery stemming from the murder case, but will not serve extra time for those crimes because of the 30-year limit, the State Department

official said.

The five men were convicted of the slayings May 24 after a 20-hour trial which had become a key issue in El Salvador's relations with the United States.

The four churchwomen, Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and lay volunteer Jean Donovan, were found shot to death Dec. 2, 1980, along a country road 15 miles from the San Salvador airport. They were last seen alive by a group of Canadian church members.

The delay of more than three years in bringing the case to trial had jeopardized U.S. military aid to El Salvador, which is locked in a bloody struggle with rebels. A bipartisan attempt was made earlier this year in Congress to link the aid to a verdict.

Suspicion still lingers in some quarters that high-ranking Salvadoran military officers were directly involved in the murders. The Maryknoll Sisters and Gov. Mario Cuomo of New York have called for more investigation of those allegations, but Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte has said he plans no further probe.

St. Simon School

A Summer 'Right On School,' sponsored by St. Simon's Episcopal Church Community Center will be held 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., weekdays, July 9 to August 24 at the Chester Dewey School, 200 University Ave. The program provides educational, cultural and recreational activities for children 6 to 12, with daily sessions in math, English, black history, arts and crafts and games.

60 Schools

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students.

Msgr. John Meyers, president of the National Catholic Educational Association, said that although what determines a good school may differ in different areas of the country, the awards included a good representation.

"What people were looking for were the ways that Catholic schools are meeting the needs of the students," he said.

The area covered by the education council includes 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Other N. Y. State Winners

Other schools in New York State receiving the awards are:

Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School, Brooklyn; Fordham Preparatory School,

Bronx; John F. Kennedy High School, Somers; St. Francis Prep School, Fresh Meadows.

Nazareth Academy

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A letter received by Sister Elaine Englert, Nazareth principal, indicated that "Nazareth Academy was selected because, in the view of the Project Committee and its panel of advisors, it is a school which exemplifies important characteristics of excellence within private education."

An awards ceremony will take place in Washington, D.C., in the fall, the school release said.

On receiving the news, Sister Elaine said, "It's so gratifying to have the hard work of faculty, staff and students recognized by an important panel of peers. It makes all the hard days so worthwhile."

"Nazareth Academy, Rochester's oldest school, was founded in 1871. It is an all-girl Catholic high school owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester," the release said.

Diocesan Foundation

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voting members of the foundation's board of directors. This board will be responsible for setting policy and making decisions with regard to accepting specific donations and for the proper distribution of funds in line with expressed or implied intentions of the donor.

The bishop expressed his heartfelt and sincere thanks to the Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation for the tuition subsidy grant of \$75,000, which is the first donation to the diocesan foundation.

Schools Grant

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the 1984-85 academic year due to this generous grant," Sister Roberta said.

The diocese has had a program for tuition subsidy in existence for eight years. "This program has been able to reach the neediest of the needy," Sister Roberta said, "to enable children to attend Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the diocese. The grant received from the Wilson Foundation will give new direction to the program by focusing on families struggling in a middle-class situation -- a group we couldn't consider before."

Boyer Concert

David Boyer, a Christian Gospel singer will be the featured star at a free concert, 8 p.m., Friday, June 29 at Brighton Presbyterian Church, 1775 East Ave. Boyer has appeared with the Billy Graham Crusade and is appearing at Methodist Camp Meetings Christian Revival in Syracuse.

"This additional funding will enable us to offer assistance to families who choose to send their children to Catholic schools even though it means financial sacrifice," Bishop Clark said. "I am grateful that the Wilson Foundation concurs with us in that this is a need and value for our Church and total community."

Grants to individual families will be awarded from applications which have been received from those registered in Catholic schools.

"We hope the interest of the Wilson Foundation will spark that of other philanthropic organizations," Sister Roberta said.

DSW Social

The Divorced Catholic Groups are having their monthly "TGIF" Social, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Friday, June 29 at Guardian Angels School, 2059 East Henrietta Road. Further information is available from the INFO LINE tape (716) 225-9102.



It's Time To Move

Sister Seraphine Herbst, SSJ, principal of the School of the Holy Childhood, embraces one of her students at a celebration marking the last day of school at its Buffalo Road address. In September, the school will open in Rush at the former Gillette School on Groton Parkway. Left, 10-year-old Tony Lehning gets a hug from Sister Pius Streb, SSJ, as they watch balloons float away, released as part of the festivities.

Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

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