

# Sandinistas criticized; Ortega denies Church-state conflict

By Tracy Early  
New York (NC) — Church leaders have accused the Nicaraguan government of harassment and have criticized restrictions on civil liberties under a state of emergency imposed in mid-October.

But on Oct. 25, during a recent visit to New York, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega denied several times that there is church-state conflict in his country.

Ortega's speech at Riverside Church in New York followed his Oct. 15 declaration of a state of emergency, brought attention to Nicaragua's church-state relationship. In early October, Nicaraguan security agents had entered a church-owned building and seized 10,000 copies of Iglesia, an eight-page bulletin of the Archdiocese of Managua.

After Ortega's speech, one member of the audience, which numbered more than 600, asked Ortega whether he believed in God and about his view of the Church-state conflict. "About the church-state conflict, there is no such thing," Ortega said. "There is a larger political conflict that is sustained and fed by United States policy. And as there are priests who favor the revolutionary cause, there are others who don't."

Some clergy are involved in "political polemic and political clashing," Ortega replied, but traditional religious activities "continue normally."

The president declined to answer the question about his belief in God directly. "That is for others to judge," he said. The

important point, he said, is one's attitude toward justice.

Ortega said former Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza, overthrown by the Sandinista revolutionaries in 1979, prayed and received Communion every day and said he believed in God. "But my God cannot be Somoza's God," Ortega said.

Much of Ortega's address was devoted to defending his government's recent declaration of a state of emergency.

Ortega said the declaration of a state of emergency was "provisional," and that his government remained committed to political pluralism, a mixed economy and non-alignment.

Earlier in the week, during an appearance on The Phil Donahue show, Ortega had noted that "we don't kill priests" in Nicaragua. However, the Nicaraguan bishops' conference has protested government treatment of the church.

"Intimidation of priests, break-ins and raiding of church property, and threats and pressure on the laity injure the respect and guarantee of fundamental rights such as freedom of conscience and expression of Catholics' religious convictions," said the bishops in a statement released Oct. 20.

Monsignor Daniel F. Hoyer, general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, has protested the seizure of Iglesia. In an Oct. 16 telegram to Ortega, he said the USCC called for "a settlement which will respect the right of the church to publish freely."

Monsignor Hoyer also protested the emergency restrictions. "We deeply regret the decision of the government of Nicaragua to reinstate the excessively broad restrictions imposed by the state of emergency," he said.

On Oct. 20, Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo of Managua led about 7,000 people in a short procession from a church to a

cathedral in Esteli, about 100 miles north of Managua. Police watched the procession, but no incidents were reported, despite restrictions on assembly and travel.

When Ortega declared the state of emergency, he formally suspended freedom of speech, assembly and travel, as well as the right of workers to strike and the right of habeas corpus for prisoners. He said the rights were suspended because "the brutal aggression by North America and its internal allies has created an extraordinary situation."

Ortega also said there were "agents of imperialism," including some in "religious institutions," trying to destabilize the country.

In Managua, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry called Iglesia "not religious but highly political, openly attacking the policy of defending the revolution and especially patriotic military service."

## Lefebvre: Synod will move Church toward 'self-destruction'

By John Thavis

Rome (NC) — Dissident French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre has predicted that the Nov. 24-Dec. 8 extraordinary Synod of Bishops will take the Church a step closer to "self-destruction" by uncritically ratifying changes made by the Second Vatican Council.

Archbishop Lefebvre also said he might decide to ordain bishops, an act which would cause a schism in the Church.

"If it is shown that in Rome there is a schism with the tradition and the Church of old, I may decide to take this serious step. But if Rome returns to the doctrine of old, there will be no reason to do so," he said.

The goal of the synod is "to exclude all judgment or criticism of the council," the 79-year-old archbishop said. He said the two-week event would be a debate "among liberals only" because no true conservatives were left in the Church.

Archbishop Lefebvre described the synod as "the second stage of the revolution begun by the council, which is leading to self-destruction."

Pope John Paul II called the extraordinary synod to evaluate the results of the council. Some critics have suggested that the pope wants to modify some of the council's reforms.

Archbishop Lefebvre, former head of the Archdiocese of Tulle, France, has consistently rejected the teachings of Vatican II, which brought him into conflict with the Vatican.

In 1976 Pope Paul VI suspended him from his priestly functions after the archbishop defied papal orders and ordained priests at a traditionalist seminary he had established in Ecône, Switzerland.

"They (Vatican officials) want me to sign a paper in which I accept the council

according to tradition. But there are conciliar texts that contradict (tradition), and this is unacceptable. For me, the faith does not change," he said.

Archbishop Lefebvre said he told Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, during a January meeting: "Your description of the crisis in the Church is more terrifying than mine. I cannot understand why, when you see the destruction, you do not seek the true causes and have the courage to return to tradition."

In a book published in English this year under the title, "The Ratzinger Report," the cardinal said the Church had passed from "self-criticism to self-destruction" in the years since the council.

The archbishop said he thought Pope John Paul had "put aside the saving of souls" in order to find a way of living with the world.

### Livingston County CFC

The Catholic Family Center is now accepting clients for individual, marital, family and unwed parent counseling at sites in Avon, Geneseo and Livonia. For an appointment or more information, call the Catholic Family Center, (716)546-7220, or the Livingston County Office of Social Ministry, (716)226-8959.

**FIRE** presents

## A Day of Evangelization . . . with



REV. JOHN P. BERTOLUCCI, priest of the Diocese of Albany NY; Asst. Prof. of Theology at the Franciscan Univ. of Steubenville; ordained in 1965; director of St. Francis Assoc. for Catholic Evangelism — producing weekly radio and TV series "The Glory of God," aired in over 750 U.S. cities.

RALPH MARTIN, International author and speaker; former director of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal office working with Cardinal Suenens of Belgium; founding editor of New Covenant magazine; served on the staff of the National Secretariat of the Cursillo Movement; married and the father of six.



REV. MICHAEL SCANLAN, T.O.R., Pres. of the Franciscan Univ. of Steubenville; graduate of Harvard Law School and member of New York Bar; ordained in 1964; author of "The Power of Penance," "Inner Healing," "A Portion of My Spirit," and others.

ANN SHIELDS, contributing editor of New Covenant magazine and editor of the monthly Fire publication; served in higher education for eighteen years as an English instructor and as head of college campus ministry; co-author with Fr. Scanlan of "And Their Eyes Opened/ Encountering Jesus in the Sacraments."

**SATURDAY, Sept. 13, 1986 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.**

**RPI FIELD HOUSE** PEOPLES AND BURDETT AVENUE, TROY, NEW YORK 12180

Early registration \$6 per person (till Dec. 31, 1985)

Registration \$8 per person (Jan. 1, 1986 to Sept. 1, '86)

NO mail registration after Sept. 1

Registration at the door \$10

Make checks payable to FIRE/DSC

A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED

NAME TAGS WILL BE MAILED WITH MAP IN AUG. 1986 or, if requested, as soon as possible

Doors will open at 8 A.M.  
No reserve seats, please  
Bring your own bag lunch  
SORRY, no child care provided

Mail registration form to:

JERRY GRIGAITIS  
19 PAR DEL RIO  
CLIFTON PARK, NY 12065  
(518) 371-7911

### REGISTRATION FORM

(Please retain top portion of this form)

NAME (last) \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

No. of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$6 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

Make checks payable to: FIRE/DSC

Send this form and payment to: JERRY GRIGAITIS, 19 PAR DEL RIO, CLIFTON PARK, NY 12065

Please enclose names and addresses for each registration if possible.

Name tags will be mailed to the address on this form

THIS FORM EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1985.

PLEASE ENCLOSE SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE

### TAKE CREDIT FOR '86

START THE NEW YEAR WITH YOUR VERY OWN VISA CARD! ESTABLISH A CREDIT LINE OF \$500 OR MORE WITH THE ONLY FEDERAL BANK OFFERING A SECURED VISA CREDIT CARD FOR ALL. NO ANNUAL FEES! YOU MAY APPLY IF YOU EARN OVER \$185/WEEK AND HAVE NO RECENT CREDIT PROBLEMS. CALL FREE 1-800-441-4646 OR WRITE:

KEY OPERATIONS P.O. Box 7716  
Div. of Key Federal S & L Assn Newark, DE 19714

### THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

#### What is the difference between a memorial service and a funeral?

A memorial service is usually held without the body being present. Frequently the body is buried or cremated first. A funeral on the other hand is a ceremony held while the body is still present. Having the body present helps us face the reality of death and permits expressions of emotions. While viewing the body may not seem pleasant it helps us with a reality which must be accepted. Additionally the body's presence elicits emotions which need to be released in an honest and healthy manner. After a meaningful ceremony in the presence of friends the body is buried or cremated.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets, not because we expect the worst to happen, but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen. Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry-free future.

Burial      Cremation      Entombment

**SCHAUMAN FUNERAL HOME**

2100 St. Paul St. 342-3400