

# U.S. bishops

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 speakers at the pastoral center's forum, but Bishop Vega was unable to attend. He had been delayed in Italy for further talks with Pope John Paul II and other Vatican officials, Cardinal O'Connor said.

Bishop Sean O'Malley of St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands, chairman of the pastoral center's board, read a statement condemning Nicaragua's actions against Bishop Vega and Monsignor Carballo. He said that if there were specific charges against Bishop Vega, as President Daniel Ortega had indicated, they should be made "before a court of law presided over by a competent and impartial judge."

"For the sake of peace, and as a contribution to reconciliation, we call on the Nicaraguan government to allow the immediate, unconditional return of Bishop Vega and Monsignor Carballo to their own country," said Bishop O'Malley, who visited Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala in mid-July.

Bishop O'Malley said in a brief written report on his visit that Cardinal Miguel

## Nicaraguan president seeks talk with Vatican

By NC News Service

Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega said he wants to talk to the Vatican about the state of the Church in his country.

Ortega said the ruling Sandinistas are prepared "to establish serious discussions with the Vatican" over complaints of anti-Church reprisals by the government.

Pope John Paul II met with Nicaraguan Vice President Ramirez Mercado in a private audience at the Vatican June 19. As is customary with private audiences, the Vatican did not comment on the 25-minute meeting, but in a June 20 interview with Vatican Radio, Mercado said he told the pope that the government hopes for stable Church-state relations "through productive dialogue."

Speaking to a Chicago audience Aug. 3,

### Correction

Misleading information taken from a parish bulletin led the Courier-Journal to report inaccurately that a support program for hurt partners was being sponsored by Most Precious Blood Parish. The program — which was mentioned in the July 24 Parish Notes column — is actually open to all members of the diocese. We regret the error.

### Diocesan Appointments

The following clergy appointments have been announced for the Diocese of Rochester:

**Father Nicholas Arioli, CPPS**, from pastor of St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester, to the office of vicar provincial of the Atlantic Vicariate of the Society of the Precious Blood.

**Father Richard Masciangelo, CPPS**, from associate at Most Precious Blood Church, Rochester, to pastor of St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester, effective September 1, 1986.

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Obando Bravo of Managua was convinced that Bishop Vega and Monsignor Carballo would not be allowed to return to their country. As a result, Bishop O'Malley reported, the cardinal believes "they could take advantage of this moment to let the world know what is happening in Nicaragua."

"Bishop Vega hopes to be able to accept some speaking engagements while his case is still news, to help focus attention on the plight of the Church in Nicaragua," Bishop O'Malley reported.

He said he thought the U.S. and other bishops' conferences "can be of great assistance, both to afford him access to the media and also to prevent political groups from instrumentalizing his testimony."

Monsignor Carballo, speaking through an interpreter, said he wishes to return to his country, even if he might face trial and a possible prison sentence.

Asked about U.S. military aid to the contras, he said he shared the view expressed by the Nicaraguan bishops in the April 6 statement quoted earlier by Cardinal O'Connor.

Asked where he would stand if the United States were to invade Nicaragua, he said he would side with "the people of Nicaragua."

Ortega defended the government, saying that more than 140 clergy were killed in Latin America in recent years, but that none was killed in Nicaragua.

"If a bishop wants to attack or defend us, he can," Ortega told more than 1,000 people at the Chicago headquarters of People United to Save Humanity, the Rev. Jesse Jackson's organization for promoting self-development among the poor and minorities. In New York City a week earlier to seek United Nations support for a recent World Court ruling that U.S. aid to the contras is against international law, Ortega spoke at the interdenominational Riverside Church on July 18. He said that Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega of Juigalpa was not expelled for opposing the government, but for acting outside the law in "an outright campaign on behalf of those who are killing our people."

Ortega said that Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo of Managua had not been expelled from the country because he has acted "prudently" in relation to the issue of U.S. military aid for the contras.

Bishop Vega, vice president of the Nicaraguan bishops' conference, was expelled from the country July 4. The bishop has denied accusations that he has supported the contras. On June 28, Monsignor Bismarck Carballo, head of Managua archdiocesan communications, was denied re-entry into Nicaragua.

The Sandinistas have "no significant differences" with the other eight of

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**Along the Way**

In last week's issue of the Courier-Journal, Karen Franz did an excellent piece on our Catholic Thanks Giving Appeal. Her article noted the difficulty we had with last year's appeal, explored some of the reasons for the problem and mentioned the steps we have taken this year to make the Appeal as successful a venture as we possibly can.

Karen tried unsuccessfully to contact me to make some comments for that article. Because I missed that opportunity and because I judge our Thanks Giving Appeal to be such an important part of our lives, I want to make some comments about it here.

The revisions we made in last year's appeal were done for two basic purposes. The first was to lessen the work load in local parish communities. To this end we tried a centralized, direct-mail system designed to make the appeal less burdensome for parish leadership.

Experience and the evaluations offered by local leadership told us that this method did indeed lessen the work load in local parishes. But our response also indicated two negative effects of this system. One was that it simply did not catch the attention of large numbers of our people in any engaging way. Secondly, and more importantly I think, local leadership and communities did not experience the kind of direction, ownership and pride they had enjoyed in earlier appeal efforts.

The second basic purpose for changing our method last year was to reach out more effectively to those in our community who are able to offer larger gifts to our common cause. The evidence available to us suggested that in proportion to other dioceses, we were not realizing our potential among this category of donor.

We did in fact show notable improvement in the number of larger gifts we received, but once again discovered from your feedback that we also suffered some losses because of the new approach. Through such things as the program of receptions we conducted and

Nicaragua's 10 Catholic bishops, Ortega told the New York audience.

The Nicaraguan bishops have accused the Sandinistas of forming a "popular church" from their backers among priests, nuns and

the dollar amounts printed on our pledge cards, we somehow created the impression that we did not need or prize the gifts of all members of our faith community.

Having learned those lessons, we have decided after a great deal of research and discussion to return to our earlier and successful parish-based operation. It is my personal opinion that although we may have erred on several scores last year, our basic mistake was to switch to a direct-mail system, thereby depressing the sense of participation and commitment that so richly characterizes our faith community.

I am deeply gratified by the willingness, commitment and ability of all who have responded to my invitation to make the adjoined appeal in our appeal. They have done an excellent piece of work, and I am sure it will help us all.

I conclude this column by asking you to participate in this year's effort. As I do so, I wish to place special emphasis on these points:

1) Our Thanks Giving Appeal is not a collection for special needs conducted over and above ordinary means of generating our revenues. It replaces our previous taxation on annual parish income and is the one way in which we ask you to contribute to our yearly diocesan expenses.

2) The appeal is not a project of mine with which I ask you to help me. It is our common work of which I remind you and to which I call you. We have common responsibilities and common ministries. We are each called to do our part.

3) If we all give gifts that we can describe to ourselves as generous—the amount is totally secondary! — we will accomplish the goal in a pleasing manner. More importantly, we will have grown in our awareness of who we are to one another and what we're capable of becoming for the sake of the kingdom.  
 Peace to all.

lay people who manipulate the gospel "for their own ends."

The bishops also accused the government of threatening pro-hierarchy clergy and laity.

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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.

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