Bilingual priest

Continued from Page 5

clinics and even cattle instead of money, according to Father Cadena. "Many people accepted," he said. "They (the government) were trying to destroy the unity of the people."

By their involvement with the campesinos, two local religious communities - Father Cadena's and a group of Jesuits — have alternately worried and pleased their bishop, Rafael Garcia Gonzalez.

"The bishop was very scared about what we were doing, always warning us about this and that," Father Cadena said. "Then we would hear that he was somewhere else describing what good work was being done here.

"It was an enriching experience for me," he said. "It brought me more in touch with the needs of the people and made me realize the kind of priest I wanted to be — that I couldn't just be in my church saying Masses."

Father Cadena chose to work at Corpus Christi during his stay in the United States because he wanted to remain in a parish where lay leadership was strong. "It was important to be working with people along the same lines as I was doing in Tabasco - not just hitting the books," he said.

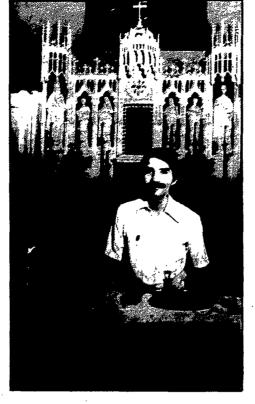
"I see myself as a priest not way up here on top, on a pedestal, but with the people . . . I am a priest, but also your brother, your

Although Father Cadena said he is looking forward to getting to know the American people, what little he knows of them so far is the power, both economic and social, which their government wields over the people of Central America. For that reason, he was initially ap-

prehensive about his stay in Rochester.
"I was a likele scared that I could be thrown. away. Then I decided I would just try to be my self, to share what I have to share," he said.

"I don't agree with the way of living of many people here. They are so individualistic, living by and for themselves alone, wanting to have

But he was relieved to find Americans who



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal Father Enrique Cadena

actively disagree with U.S. policy in Central America.

"I am glad to see Americans fighting for justice here? Father Cadena said. "Catholics there are looking to Catholics here to see what they will do.

"I would like to increase awareness while I am here of how had it is there - of the economic situation, for instance, which is a real oppression... We have to start to be the voice of the ones who have no voice, to speak out in the moments when we need to be in the right place at the right time," he said.

"I realize how I-am becoming a prophet of this time to these people and how I am allowing them to become prophets to me"

USCC official expresses support for sanctions against South Africa

Washington (NC) - Monsignor Daniel Hove, general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the U.S. bishops' public policy arm, has expressed support for economic sanctions against the South African government.

In a July 30 letter to members of the Senate, Monsignor Hove said concerted action by the international community "might be a spur to eventual peace and reconciliation in South Africa.

On Aug. 1, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 15-2 for a package of moderate and diplomatic sanctions against South Africa, but the measure was less extensive than the bill the House passed in July. The House bill would virtually sever all U.S. trade and investment ties with South Africa.

Monsignor Hoye said that failure to take 'concrete action" that would "make absolutely clear our support for full equality for all South Africans" would be "both morally indefensible and harmful to American long-term interests."

He said a "policy of moral and political appeasement of those who promote and acquiesce in systematic discrimination would relegate us to the sidelines in the worldwide

struggle for human rights."

Monsignor Hoye suggested several specific actions, which he called a "minimum accept-

able starting point." They include: • legislative affirmation of President Reagan's executive order of mid-1985, which he

called for limited economic sanctions; • the appropriation of funds for educational assistance to blacks; and

• the imposition of economic sanctions if significant progress in dismantling apartheid has not been clearly undertaken by Jan. 1,

Meanwhile, in a July 25 letter to the South African ambassador to the United States, Holy Cross Father William Lewers, director of the USCC's Office of International Justice and Peace, expressed concern about the imprisonment of a Catholic Church official and the disruption of a prayer service at a Catholic church.

In his letter to Ambassador Herbert Beukes, Father Lewers noted that Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, secretary general of the Southern African Bishops' Conference, has been detained in prison since a state of emergency was imposed in mid-June.

Church officials criticize halting of South African trial

London (NC) — The Catholic Church in Namibia criticized South African President Pieter W. Botha for squelching the trial of four white soldiers accused of murdering a black Catholic father of five in Namibia, according to a London-based interfaith agency.

On July 23, Botha authorized Namibia's interim government to stop the trial, saying the soldiers had acted "in good faith" in connection with "the prevention or suppression of terrorism in the operational area," according to the Namibia Communications Center.

A Catholic Church spokesman was quoted as saying that "all President Botha is doing is boosting the morale of the South African troops so they can do whatever they want to

The defendants allegedly killed 48-year-old Fans Uapota on Nov. 28, 1985, in his home village near Namibia's border with Angola.

His widow said Uapota had offered no resistance when the soldiers "beat, kicked and assaulted" him and other villagers. Mrs. Uapota said the troopers then attacked her husband "like a pack of wild dogs" and dragged him into the surrounding bushland with "something tied around his neck."

According to the information center, constant violence occurs in northern Namibia, where South African troops are engaged in suppressing local support for guerrillas of the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO), which has been fighting South African rule since 1977.

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