

Patriarch: Peace must be realized

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

ROME — When the Middle East peace conference takes up the issue of Jerusalem's status, church leaders must have a voice in the debate, said Jerusalem Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah.

The patriarch, speaking to reporters in Rome Oct. 30, said he was optimistic about the conference, which began in Madrid the same day. Direct talks between Arabs and Israelis have a good chance of breaking through the "psychological barriers" that have prevented peace for decades, he said.

"Nothing is impossible. Jerusalem can be the capital of Israel. It can be the capital of Palestine. It can be the spiritual capital for all Christians, and a place where all believers feel at home. Nothing is impossible, as long as the sides sit down at the table and seek a solution," Patriarch Sabbah said.

The patriarch, a Palestinian, empha-

sized that Jerusalem does not merely represent a political obstacle.

"The political dimension alone can never resolve the problem of Jerusalem. There is a religious dimension, and if it is neglected now, it will cause disturbances in the future," he said.

In Madrid, representatives of Israel, Palestinians and Arab countries were sitting down together for the first time to discuss peace in the region. Neither the Vatican nor other church institutions were invited to attend the talks, sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

The status of Jerusalem has long been a stumbling block to an Arab-Israeli settlement; the city, sacred to all three monotheistic religions, has been the site of increasing tensions after its eastern part came under Israeli occupation during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Christian patriarchs in Jerusalem have met twice in recent weeks to work out a common position on the

city's future, so they are ready if and when the conference takes up those kind of details, perhaps in a second phase, he said.

Patriarch Sabbah said an eventual Palestinian solution should be based on U.N. resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw from occupied territories. Although Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said recently that Israel would not give up land for peace, the patriarch discounted that as pre-conference posturing.

Asked if he had a message for Shamir, the patriarch said the Israeli leader should "not be afraid of peace."

"Peace must be found and will be found. It is not impossible to combine the security of Israel with human rights and justice for Palestinians," he said.

Patriarch Sabbah said Israel could make a gesture of good will by putting a moratorium on new settlements in occupied territory during the peace talks.



AP/Wide World Photos
MIXED SIGNALS — A masked Palestinian holds a pistol and an olive branch over his head during an Oct. 30 march on the occupied West Bank near the village of Jenin.

Call 723-8760



Personalized to meet your needs:

- Companionship
- Respite Care
- Senior sitting
- Transportation
- Shopping
- Light Cleaning
- Meal Prep



Reasonable Rates!
Fully Insured. Bonded

1100 Long Pond Rd. Suite 3

MEDJUGORJE VISIONARY RETURNS TO ROCHESTER



Babette G. Augustin/Catholic Courier

Ivan Dragicevic will be the kick off speaker for nine days of Prayer for World Peace. We will be praying for the intercession of the Queen of Peace to the Prince of Peace. Ivan will be at the Riverside Convention Center November 29, 1991. He will speak to the youth at 2:00p.m., and adults at 7:30p.m. Tickets are \$1.00/youth, \$10.00/adults, \$15.00

at the door (no one will be turned away because they can't afford a ticket. Please write the St. Charles Borromeo Medjugorje Fund if you need a reduced rate). Tickets sold on a first come, first serve basis (no limit on number) and are available by mail immediately. Please send your order + 1.00 ship./handling to:

St. Charles Borromeo Medjugorje Fund,
3003 Dewey Ave. Rochester, NY 14616

November 29th Schedule of Events

2:00 pm: Youth Rally, Christian Rock Concert,

Ivan Dragicevic's Message

7:30 pm: Rosary, Eucharist, Ivan Dragicevic's Message

Sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Medjugorje Fund and Don's Travel, 53 Swift St., Waterloo, NY 13165, 315-539-2912. Call Don's for information on Medjugorje Trips.

Louisiana bishops issue statement on vote

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Louisiana's eight Catholic bishops have urged voters to take a "calm, rational and prayerful approach" to the Nov. 16 gubernatorial election pitting a former Ku Klux Klan leader against an ex-governor indicted on racketeering charges while in office.

The bishops issued a statement Oct. 30 encouraging voters and candidates to "take the high ground" in the electoral battle between former Klan leader David Duke and former governor Edwin Edwards. Edwards was acquitted of racketeering charges in 1986, and his three consecutive terms as governor were riddled with scandal. He left office in 1987.

Candidates should not use "slogans, phrases and one-liners which conjure up the problems and tensions of past years," the statement said. "Our lagging economy, the education of our children and a host of other problems are the issues which must be faced and solved."

The statement was issued by New Orleans Archbishop Francis B. Schulte; Bishops Stanley J. Ott of Baton Rouge, Warren L. Boudreaux of Houma-Thibodaux, William B. Friend of Shreveport, Harry J. Flynn of Lafayette, Sam Jacobs of Alexandria and Jude Speyrer of Lake Charles; and Auxiliary Bishop Robert W. Muench of New Orleans.

Noting that the Louisiana Catholic Conference does not endorse candidates for public office, the bishops said they were recognizing their responsibility to address religious and moral questions in the public arena.

"Louisiana has been blessed by the racial, religious and cultural diversity of its citizens," they said. "Racial and religious division and prejudice have no place in our electoral process, in our government, in our institutions or in our society. Catholics and other citizens of good will should carefully and prayerfully consider these moral issues as they ponder their choice of the candidates."

Mary's Call

When you have tried everything else ... Now try the rosary.
Watch it turn your life around.

- Bible, New Testament, Paperback, All time best seller, latest version (check one): Catholic Protestant Catholic Spanish Protestant Spanish (Write about our quantity discounts on Bibles) \$3.00
- Meditations and Poems on Cassette with musical background \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette, 15 decades, 5 copyrighted songs, Litany of Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorare \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette, 5 decades, Joyful Mysteries, Songs Litany of Blessed Virgin Mary, Prayers \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette, 5 decades, Sorrowful Mysteries, Short Way of the Cross, Songs, Prayers - Meditation \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette, 5 decades, Glorious Mysteries, Litany of St. Joseph, Songs, Prayers - Meditation \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette, Spanish plus Spanish Songs \$3.00
- Stations of the Cross Cassette, Songs, Litany of Holy Name of Jesus \$3.00
- St. Bridget Prayer Cassette, 15 prayers, Litany of Sacred Heart, Footprints in the Sand poem, Songs \$3.00
- Religious Hymns Cassette, Be Not Afraid, Hail Mary Gentle Woman, Praise Be the Lord, plus nine others \$4.00
- Prayer Cards, 13 cards, Prayers on both sides, Litanies, Poems, Prayer, Best of popular and traditional favorites \$1.00

Free upon request: Rosary, Brown Scapular, Brochures on Apparitions in Medjugorje. Over 75,000 sold in U.S. and 30 Foreign Countries.

Mary's Call — P.O. Box 162 - Salisbury, MO 65281
(816) 388-5308