

# Haitian leaders claim recognition by Vatican

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — Haiti's army-backed provisional government, shunned by the international community, claimed it has been recognized by the Vatican after the Holy See promoted a charge d'affaires to nuncio.

The Vatican said the appointment is primarily focused on the interests of the local church.

In Haiti, a foreign ministry communique read over the government-run Radio Nationale hailed "the Holy See's attitude of good will." The statement noted that Pope John Paul II had appointed Monsignor Lorenzo Baldisseri as papal nuncio to Haiti.

Radio Nationale commented that the announcement signified "recognition by the Vatican" and was "great news."

Asked if the appointment implied Vatican recognition of the provisional government, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls replied, "When the Holy See names an apostolic nuncio, it has in view, first of all, the situation and the good of the church."

No foreign state has recognized the government that was installed following the Sept. 30 military coup that ousted Haiti's democratically elected president, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Archbishop-designate Baldisseri's appointment came one year after the former nuncio was harassed by rioters. The new nuncio was named charge d'affaires at the Haitian nunciature nine days after the riot.

Last June the Vatican named the former nuncio, Archbishop Giuseppe Leanza, as pro-nuncio in Malawi and Zambia. Archbishop Leanza had been in Haiti for just six months when crowds protesting a coup attempt and remarks by Haiti's top churchman forced the archbishop into the street and stripped him to his undershorts.

Archbishop-designate Baldisseri, a 51-year-old Italian, entered the Vatican's diplomatic corps in 1973. His previous assignments were in Guatemala, Japan, Brazil, Paraguay, France and Zimbabwe.

In a Jan. 11 speech to the diplomatic corps, Pope John Paul urged the international community to "help Haitians to be the builders of their own future."

He said that in Haiti "a whole population finds itself in the grip of poverty, a victim of an implacable logic of violence and hate, which does not allow it to express its aspirations toward peace and democracy."



AP/Wide World Photos  
**MOTHER TERESA DISCHARGED** — A woman reaches out to touch Mother Teresa Jan. 15, as the Nobel Prize laureate leaves the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, Calif. Admitted to the Scripps Clinic Dec. 26 for treatment of bacterial pneumonia, Mother Teresa was hospitalized for three weeks. Clinic physicians announced Jan. 15 that Mother Teresa, 81, had fully recovered and sustained no heart damage. Physicians noted, however, that the illness may leave her vulnerable to recurrent pulmonary and cardiac problems. Mother Teresa was expected to continue recuperating at the Missionaries of Charity house in the Mexican border town of Tijuana for a few weeks before resuming her regular schedule. She was taken ill while spending Christmas at her Missionaries of Charity home in Tijuana.

## Educator: Promote schools now

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Now is the time" for promoting Catholic schools as the "entire nation is struggling with the need for educational reform," asserted the president of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Sister Catherine T. McNamee, CSJ, made her comments in anticipation of the annual Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 26-Feb. 6.

"Discover Catholic Schools" is the theme of Catholic Schools Week as well as a yearlong marketing campaign launched in September by the NCEA and U.S. bishops. This year's theme is illustrated by a tall-masted ship on rough waters, reminiscent of Columbus' voyage to the New World 500 years ago.

On Jan. 29, schools will celebrate National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools. To mark the day, parents and school officials were urged to meet with government and corporate leaders, both nationally and locally, to prompt support for choice in education and Catholic schools.

The NCEA and the bishops began the campaign "to showcase the value-added education and academic excellence of Catholic schools and help parents select schools for their children," according to NCEA press materials.

Mercy Sister Lourdes Sheehan, U.S. Catholic Conference secretary for education, said the bishops support the campaign because they believe Catholic schools are vital to the future of the Catholic Church "and to our country."

## Cardinal urges government to emphasize life

BROOKLYN (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities called Jan. 18 for a re-ordering of government spending priorities to serve the cause of life.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York said prenatal care, child care centers and other services, especially for the poor, were "outrageously inadequate."

Observing that many women felt forced into abortions by poverty, he deplored government policies that would continue paying doctors "to destroy human life" while funds for housing and other urgent needs were cut.

"Our entire socio-economic system is at fault, not the unborn babies," he said.

Cardinal O'Connor made the comments as homilist and principal celebrant for the sixth-annual Pro Vita Mass Jan. 18 at St. James Cathedral.

Following the Mass, Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn presented annual awards for service to the pro-life movement.

Cardinal O'Connor said the work of the parish "gives the lie once again to the allegation that those involved in the movement to save unborn babies are uninterested in those that are already born."

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