

Doctors release pope from hospital in Rome

After rest, he can resume schedule

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

ROME — Pope John Paul II, smiling and waving to well-wishers, walked out of a Rome hospital where he spent 17 days for intestinal surgery.

The 72-year-old pope left the Gemelli Polyclinic July 28 to the cheers and applause of some 300 patients, doctors and nurses.

Dressed in his traditional white robes, he strode about 100 steps through the lobby and out the main exit into a waiting car. On the way, he stopped to kiss a baby and thank his team of doctors.

The pope was taken to his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome, where he was expected to spend about a month.

Doctors approved the pope's release from the hospital after a final medical check-up. They told him he was doing well but should continue to take things easy for about two months.

A medical bulletin released July 28 said the pontiff's condition 13 days after surgery was "good and getting better." He now needs "an adequate period of rest in order to gradually resume his normal activities," it said.

"The medical team has prescribed a certain period of rest. It's up to the patient to accept it or not. I think the pope will respect our advice," said Dr. Francesco Crucitti, the pope's surgeon.

The doctors said the pope will not require any extraordinary medical care. They predicted a full recovery from the operation in which a benign colon tumor and gallbladder were removed.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope was expected to spend a month free of appointments, with outdoor walks at the summer villa and limited personal work. The spokesman did not rule out the possibility of a late-August papal vacation in the northern Italian mountains — where the pope was to have spent two weeks in July.

Navarro-Valls acknowledged that keeping the pope away from visitors at Castel Gandolfo might not be easy. He said the pope was "feeling fine" and was "eager to resume his traditional working pace."

The pope's personal physician was expected to be on hand at the summer residence, which is located about 15 miles south of Rome.

On the evening before departing the hospital, the pope paid an impromptu visit to the children's cancer ward and spoke briefly to 15 patients and their families.

On July 26 the pope, looking pale and thin, made his first public appearance after the surgery when he waved to onlookers from his hospital room. He smiled and stood for about half a minute at a window following a noon blessing.

Doctors said it was normal that the pope had lost weight following the operation. They said he was gaining it back gradually after beginning a solid-food diet.

Asked by reporters who would pay the pope's medical bill, hospital authorities said the Vatican was expected to cover it, as it did in 1981 when the pope recovered from an assassination attempt. The Vatican's health plan operates under an agreement with the Gemelli hospital; however, the cost of surgery and the suite of rooms being used by papal aides would be extra.



AP/Wide World Photos
SORROW AND ANGUISH — Relatives and friends of one of the five police escorts of anti-Mafia Judge Paolo Brosellino killed in a car-bomb explosion July 19 follow a car carrying the body in Palermo, Italy July 21. Italy's president and national police chief were rushed out during the funeral as angry mourners jeered and crowded around.

Nicaraguan cardinal says U.S. aid is desperate need in his country

By Christena Colclough
Catholic News Service

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (CNS) — Nicaragua's Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo warned that the risk of civil disturbance is high if U.S. aid to his country remains frozen for a long period.

"If U.S. aid were to remain frozen indefinitely, this country will rise against the government, at minimum there will be violence and civil protest," Cardinal Obando Bravo told Catholic News Service in a recent interview.

However, he also said he understands the need of donors to apply

conditions to their aid loans.

A U.S. aid package for Nicaragua, about \$150 million, was delayed in June by Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere and Peace Corps Affairs. They said that members of the Sandinista movement retained too much political influence in the government.

One of the major sticking points for the release of aid concerns the army and police force, which remain predominantly Sandinista.

According to President Violeta Chamorro, Sandinistas have been left in positions of power within government institutions and the security forces because "this is a government of reconciliation."

Further tensions arose when loans from international aid funds, principally from the United States, issued under the Sandinista government to state institutions and coffee producers were never repaid.

Debtors say they have no funds to pay back loans. Chamorro's government is sitting tight in hope that next year borrowers can afford to settle their debts.

The U.S. government cites mismanagement and deliberate intention not to pay back loans.

But Archbishop Obando Bravo said Nicaragua desperately needs U.S. aid.

"Unemployment is overwhelming, people are hungry, our hospitals leave much to be desired, housing and education need huge amounts of investment," he said.

Chamorro emphatically insists she will not be browbeaten into running her country in a way to please aid donors. Nicaraguan sovereignty will not be compromised, she said.

However, the archbishop said he feels U.S. demands, which are attached to the unfreezing of aid, are not illogical or an attack on Nicaraguan sovereignty.

Nicaragua's reality is such that it needs foreign aid, Archbishop Obando Bravo said. "Donors place conditions on aid and this is logical," he said.

A new monthly calendar will appear in the Catholic Courier on the last Thursday of each month.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

The following prayer was dictated by Our Lord to Sister Josefa Menendez at Poitiers, France, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 3, 1921, with the instruction: "Josefa! Repeat these words daily."

JESUS PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 5, 1953

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him.

AUGUST, 1992

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
							1	
	For subsequent months or extra copies write to: MPRP, 70-A Green Knolls Drive, Rochester, NY 14620						Reverend Fathers:	Regis Tompkins
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
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	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	Joseph M. Sasso	Walter L. Wainwright	Laurence C. Tracy	William B. Holberton	William A. Burns	Raymond J. Wahi	Elmer A. McNamara	
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	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	P.J. Billotte	John Firpo						
	30	31	Patrick L. Connor	Frank E. Lioi	James E. Hewes	James M. Sauer	David W. Mura	
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Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the Catholic Courier's August 27th issue.

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