

Pope dispatches envoy to Bosnia

By Agostino Bono
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — As the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina continued taking a heavy toll on civilians, Catholic officials increased their pleas for an end to the atrocities and Pope John Paul II sent a special envoy to the trouble spots.

Increasingly, Catholics joined the growing international chorus naming Serbians as the main perpetrators of such atrocities as establishing concentration camps and deporting masses of people.

Serbian actions were summed up in the term "ethnic cleansing," an effort to rid Serb-controlled areas of Croats and Muslims in the civil war, which has strong ethnic and religious overtones.

On Aug. 15, the pope announced that he sent Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, a top Vatican official, to the Serb-besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

The cardinal "will give witness to the archbishop, to the faithful and to all their compatriots of the constant affection and solidarity of the pope," said the pope.

Cardinal Etchegaray is president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and of the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum*, which coordinates Vatican relief programs. He celebrated Mass in Sarajevo Aug. 15 and was scheduled to visit other regions of heavy fighting.

The announcement came two days after a U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing the use of military force to allow humanitarian relief supplies to reach civilians.

Serbian roadblocks and attacks have been the main obstacle to the free flow of

food and medicine. Sarajevo has been a major focus of world efforts to get relief supplies to Bosnian victims.

The Vatican has not advocated military intervention, but Vatican officials have asked for "humanitarian intervention" to halt the fighting and relieve the suffering of the victims.

Bosnia declared its independence from Yugoslavia earlier this year. Its population is a mix of Serbs, Croats and Muslims. Serbs are mostly Orthodox, and Croats are mostly Catholics.

Since independence, Serbian militias supported by Serbia have been fighting the less-well-armed Croats and Muslims.

The result has been atrocities on all sides, but with the better-armed Serbs doing a more thorough job, according to many international organizations and journalists on the scene.

They cite such atrocities as beatings, torture and killings of people in detention camps.

Westerners "feel overwhelmed by reports of Serbian brutality. Smaller horrors perpetrated by Muslims and Croats will in time become known: Ancient hatreds find grotesque outlets," said Jose Cutileiro, one of the European mediators trying to end the fighting. "War is a nasty business, and civil war is perhaps the nastiest form of war."

At an Aug. 13-14 special session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the Vatican asked that "the horror of detention camps be immediately put to an end.

"The Holy See demands that the international community exercises pressure and intervenes so that peace returns,

especially to Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Monsignor Christophe Pierre, head of the Vatican delegation.

Monsignor Pierre also criticized massive deportations of non-Serbs and the difficulties in sending humanitarian aid.

He said the Vatican has firsthand testimony from church people about atrocities. One priest, tortured during 12 days in a detention camp, saw Catholics and Muslims being led away from camp and then heard the sound of gunfire, Monsignor Pierre said.

The commission appointed a special investigator to prepare an eyewitness report on the atrocity situation.

Meanwhile, Catholic officials in the former Yugoslavian republics reported atrocities.

"Many priests are imprisoned or hunted down, along with their faithful," said Bishop Franjo Komarica of Banja Luka, in Serb-controlled Bosnia.

"By the sole fact of being Catholic, they are not included in the plan foreseen for this autonomous region," he told Vatican Radio Aug. 12.

"The so-called 'ethnic-cleansing of the region' is unacceptable," he said. "It is a form of fascism."

Bishop Komarica said badly needed relief supplies are unable to reach millions of suffering people because huge areas of Bosnia have been isolated by the fighting.

In the Aug. 14 issue of the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Cardinal Franjo Kuharic of Zagreb, in neighboring Croatia, said that 40,000 Muslims have been killed in Serb-controlled Bosnia.



AP/Wide World Photos

NEVER FORGET — David Rosenblum, 77, listens to a speech during an Aug. 10 rally at the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach, Fla. Sponsored by a Jewish human-rights group, the rally called for military intervention to stop the bloody ethnic conflict in the region that was formerly Yugoslavia.

"Non-Serbs are oppressed" and "concentrated in detention camps," he said.

In a July 31 letter, Cardinal Kuharic said Serb actions were not limited to Croatian Catholics, but included Catholics of Polish, Italian and Ukrainian origins living in Bosnia.

In the United States, Karel Zelenka, an official of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' relief and development agency, expressed fear that the situation was worsening.

"We haven't seen the worst yet," he said after visiting the war-torn region. "If the Serbs are not stopped they will go all the way, and it will be too late."

ARNDT FUNERAL HOME
"Family Owned and Operated"
Ronald John Arndt — Robert J. Arndt

- Pre-planned funeral arrangements by appointment
- Lighted parking for over 100 cars
- Complete funeral arrangements at one convenient location
- Personal & dignified Services for All Faiths
- General price lists available
- Central Greece Area

225-6350

1118 Long Pond Road (South of Maiden Lane)

The Cemetery Gardener

THINK MUMS!

If you haven't had time to plant flowers at your family cemetery lots this year contact:

The Cemetery Gardener.
We'll provide the planting of mums for late summer and fall colors at very reasonable rates.

Phone Tom Denninger at 235-0713

Rochester Monument Co. Inc.



Formerly located at
1575 Clifford Avenue
Over 57 years of Service

All Work done on premises
by Master Stone Carver
Robert Micoli-President
1130 Ridge Rd., Webster
872-1827

FUNERAL DIRECTORS OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

The funeral Directors listed herein offer pre-need and at-need services and counseling in accordance with the Catholic faith.

MONROE/WAYNE COUNTIES

 <p>NULTON FUNERAL HOME MAIN OFFICE: 1704 Penfield Road (716) 381-3900 Penfield</p>	<p>MATTLE FUNERAL HOME 853 Culver Road (716) 482-2440 Rochester</p>	<p>PAYNE-NULTON FUNERAL HOME 22 Bickford Street (315) 986-7781 Macedon</p>	 <p>WOOD FUNERAL HOME 1530 Buffalo Road (716) 247-6360 Gates</p>
---	--	---	--

GREECE

<p>Arndt Funeral Home 1118 Long Pond Rd. (south of Maiden Lane) Parking for over 100 cars Greece, N.Y. 14626 Ronald John Arndt (716) 225-6350</p>	<p>Vay-Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home Inc. "Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facilities" 2692 Dewey Avenue 1075 Long Pond Rd. (716) 663-2100</p>
--	---

IRONDEQUOIT

<p>Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc. Edwin Sulewski 2100 St. Paul Street Rochester, N.Y. 14521 (716) 342-3400</p>	<p>Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home 1270 Norton Street Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 544-5000</p>
--	--

MONUMENTS

HART MONUMENT CO.
2301 Dewey Avenue
Opposite Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
Since 1856
865-6746

ROCHESTER

<p>Crawford Funeral Home, Inc. "Our Family Serving Your Family" Located at 495 N. Winton Rd. (Between Atlantic & Humboldt) (716) 482-0400</p>	<p>Lucey Funeral Home, Inc. 301 W. Main St. Victor, N.Y. 924-5730 2309 Culver Rd. 342-0470 Michael W. Lucey Lic. Mgr.</p>
<p>GATES Alvah Halloran & Son, Inc. Funeral Home H. Daniel Halloran 2125 Chili Avenue Rochester, N.Y. 14624 (716) 247-7590</p>	<p>DiPonzio Funeral Home, Inc. (Across from St. Theodore's Church) 219 Spencerport Road Rochester, N.Y. 14606 429-6700</p>