

Columbus protests mark eve of papal visit

Laurie Hansen
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — As Pope John Paul II prepared last week to visit the Dominican Republic, small protests continued in the Latin American country in which some view celebrations of the Columbus anniversary as symbols of the abuses of Spanish colonialism.

Several people have been injured and two killed in the protests opposing the festivities in late September and early October.

The quincennial celebrations were to begin Oct. 6, with the inauguration of a controversial lighthouse honoring Christopher Columbus.

Originally the inauguration was scheduled for Oct. 12, the 500th anniversary date, but Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer's grandiose plans for anniversary festivities that day foundered.

Touted visits by heads of state and foreign royalty, including the king and queen of Spain, never materialized.

The Vatican has tried to distance the pope from the Columbus controversy. He is not scheduled to participate in state ceremonies at the lighthouse, and his Mass was not scheduled for the Oct. 12 anniversary date.

The Dominican government has downplayed the protests and violence to foreign journalists, while at the same time warning its own people that protests during the pope's visit could bring dire consequences.

"He who dares attack or disturb the public order may have to pay even with his life," Hector Garcia Tejada, the armed forces minister, told reporters a few days after a Dominican

human-rights leader was killed during a street protest.

But Pedro Morales, a member of the government-appointed quincennial commission, told Catholic News Service, "Everything is calm. This is the most tranquil nation in the Caribbean."

"The Ministry of Tourism has announced there are no more hotel vacancies during festivities. Restaurant owners are happy. Catholics are content the pope is coming," Morales said.

The pope has planned to celebrate an Oct. 11 Mass near the lighthouse despite the protests, said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman.

The site for the Oct. 11 outdoor Mass was chosen because of the open field in the area, not its proximity to the lighthouse, Navarro-Valls said during a Vatican news conference.

The seven-story, cross-shaped lighthouse was built by the government as a museum and as a mausoleum for the remains of Christopher Columbus, who landed in what is now the Dominican Republic in 1492. The government says the lighthouse cost \$13 million, and critics say the price was \$100 million.

The homes of some 50,000 people were bulldozed to build the lighthouse. Shacks of about 3,000 Dominicans living nearby have been enclosed behind a 10-foot, 1.5-mile-long wall that has been dubbed the "wall of shame."

Franciscan Father Mariano Errasti, a Spanish-born social historian who works at a poor parish in Santo Domingo, told CNS that Columbus is less of an "abstraction" in the Dominican Republic — where he took over as

the first governor — than elsewhere.

Columbus, who ruled the island of Hispaniola from the present site of Santo Domingo until 1499, established the "repartimiento" system of land settlement and native labor under which a European settler could be granted a large tract of land together with the services of the Indians living on it.

Later, in 1503, the Spanish crown replaced "repartimiento" with the "encomienda" system, under which all land became, in theory, the property of the crown, and the Indians were considered tenants on royal land.

Within 30 years of the Europeans' arrival, the nation's Taino Indian population was wiped out. Historians blame labor abuse and disease.

"The pope is not going to render homage to Columbus," said Navarro-Valls. "He is going to celebrate with his brothers in the episcopate the beginning of evangelization in America: North, Central and South."

A grass-roots Dominican group, the Latin American Collective for Special Communication Services, has said the pope should choose another Mass site.

Vatican officials acknowledge that it will be almost impossible during the visit for the pope avoid all mention of Columbus or the anniversary.

The main aims of the papal trip to the Dominican Republic are to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Catholicism's arrival and to help Latin American bishops set strategies for a new evangelization of the region.

This new evangelization includes tackling the region's social problems and the widespread success sects and Protestant churches have had in making converts.

It involves refining the church's position on liberation theology and basic church communities. Both are innovative Latin American ways of meeting the social and evangelizing challenges of the modern world, but have sparked debate as to whether they are too politically oriented.

Most of the pre-trip arguing, however, has focused on the controversies of the initial evangelization and its ties to Spanish and Portuguese colonialism.

The main event of the pope's 56th trip outside Italy is the Oct. 12 opening of the Fourth General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate in Santo Domingo.

The meeting, scheduled to end Oct. 28, was called to draft plans for the new evangelization of a region where most people are nominally Catholic.

The opening date was purposefully chosen because it marks the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the New World, after which evangelization of the Americas took place.

For the pope, the date and place are positive symbols that should stimulate pastoral planning.

The pope often has separated evangelization and colonization, saying that the purpose of the church is to commemorate the anniversary of Catholicism's arrival.

Early evangelization had its good and bad points, but there were "more lights than shadows," the pope has said.

On the pope's schedule are separate meetings Oct. 13 with Indians and blacks, the two groups suffering most under colonialism. Each group will receive a special papal message about the 500th anniversary.

Crandall Hearing Instruments
John E. Crandall, BC-HIS
1577 Ridge Road West, Rochester, NY 14615
Announces

Expressions
 hearing aids!

- No more volume control wheel-simple touch pins!
- No moving parts-no friction wear!
- No cracks or crevices-easy to maintain/keep clean!
- Color coded-easily identified left & right!
- Matched to your skin color-inconspicuous!
- Longer battery life!

Advanced Background Noise Reduction Technology!

- Bring your current hearing aid(s) in for free cleaning and evaluation!

Please call for an appointment or just stop by!

GREECE
 1577 Ridge Rd. West
 (716) 865 - 4311

CANANDAIGUA
 (In the Medicine Shoppe)
 66 West Avenue
 (716) 396 - 9970

HORNELL
 40 Federation Bldg.
 (607) 324 - 4171

NEWARK
 165 E. Union St.
 (315) 331 - 6161

WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS-NO CHARGE
CALL TOLL FREE : 1-800-421-1012

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation
 (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1A. Title of Publication: Catholic Courier

1B. PUBLICATION NO: 1355800

2. Date of Filing: 9/30/92

3. Frequency of Issue: weekly, except the first Thursday in January

3A. No. of Issues Published Annually: 51

3B. Annual Subscription Price: \$19.50

4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State and ZIP+4 Code) (Not printers): 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, Monroe, NY 14624-1899

5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher (Not printer): 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, Monroe, NY 14624-1899

6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (This item MUST NOT be blank):
 Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address): Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899
 Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address): Ms. Karen M. Franz, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899
 Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address): Mr. Richard A. Kiley, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899

7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Item must be completed.)
 Full Name: Rochester Catholic Press Association
 Complete Mailing Address: 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899

8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities (If there are none, so state)
 Full Name: NONE
 Complete Mailing Address:

9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates (DMM Section 424.12 only)
 The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (Check one)
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

10. Extent and Nature of Circulation (See instructions on reverse side)

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	47603	48850
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	196	131
2. Mail Subscription (Paid and/or requested)	45900	47433
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	46096	47564
D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies)	428	312
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)	46524	47876
F. Copies Not Distributed		
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	776	605
2. Return from News Agents	303	369
G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A)	47603	48850

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete
 Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Dennis W. Nicky, Business Manager

PS Form 3526, January 1991 (Get instructions on reverse)