

## Was it mistaken identity?

### U.S. gunmen seen in prelate's murder

By Mike Tangeman  
Catholic News Service

MEXICO CITY — Despite public skepticism, U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials say the murder of a Mexican cardinal was apparently a case of mistaken identity by a band of gunmen that included young Californians.

Mexico attorney general Jorge Carpizo said there is no doubt that Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo of Guadalajara was gunned down by mistake in the Guadalajara airport May 24. The cardinal was slain when an attempted ambush of Mexican drug lord Joaquin Guzman Loera by gunmen hired by his rivals went sour, he said.

U.S. officials have confirmed that among the suspects in Mexican custody are several members of the 30th Street gang of San Diego's Logan Heights neighborhood, also known as "Barrio Logan."

"You can forget about the conspiracy theories" targeting the cardinal, one official told Catholic News Service on condition of anonymity.

The official also said "the Mexican police work was magnificent at the street level" in pursuing the case.

In El Paso, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agent Travis Kurkendall was quoted by the Mexican news agency Apro as saying that he wasn't at all surprised that the Barrio Logan gang members had confused Cardinal Posadas with Guzman.

"They wouldn't have been able to tell the difference between Guzman and Henry Ford," he said.

Speaking to reporters in San Diego, FBI spokesman William J. Esposito said earlier in July that members of the Barrio Logan gang worked as bodyguards and contract killers for the Tijuana-based drug lords Benjamin and Javier Arellano Felix.

Tijuana is about 20 minutes south of San Diego in the Mexican state of Baja California Norte.

The government said the gunmen hired by the Arellano Felix brothers were supposed to kill rival trafficker Guzman, who is now in custody.

Guzman has said that he was at the

airport, but escaped unharmed.

He was arrested in Guatemala, where he fled, and was turned over June 9 to Mexican authorities.

Carpizo said in a July 14 statement that Mexican police have arrested 35 people in connection with the shooting, which left seven people dead, including the cardinal.

Although several members of the Arellano Felix brothers' drug ring and some of the alleged "shooters" in the Guadalajara killings are among those in custody, the brothers themselves are still at large.

The 19-member Permanent Council of the Mexican bishops' conference has said the government explanation is the most convincing to date.

But some Mexican bishops have expressed their dissatisfaction with it.

In an ongoing public opinion survey by the daily newspaper El Financiero, 64 percent of Mexicans polled said they agreed with the skeptical bishops that the cardinal was the target. Some 68 percent of those polled said they believe Guzman is a scapegoat and that the real killers are being protected by an official coverup.

U.S. officials say that Mexican drug traffickers' involvement with Hispanic street gangs in the United States is a relatively new phenomenon.

An international crackdown on transfers of drug money recently forced South American narcotics growers to switch from paying cash to paying in kind to the Mexican traffickers who transport the South American product into the United States. So, the Mexicans now get a share of the drugs they ferry.

As a result, said one U.S. official, "you've now got the Mexican with his own dope that he smuggles across the border and puts into his own distribution network in the United States."

U.S. law enforcement agencies believe that street gangs are a key link in that network.

According to the FBI's Esposito, the crackdown on the 30th Street gang which resulted from the killing of Cardinal Posadas has provided the first "concrete proof" that such gangs are being recruited by Mexican traffickers.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency estimates that 60-70 percent of all cocaine on the U.S. street market is moved through Mexico, while Mexican opium poppy cultivation is believed to account for about 30 percent of all the heroin distributed in the United States.

## Midwest floods continue



AP/Wide World Photos

### Iowa residents fight back the water

Pam Christian of Windsor Heights, Iowa, lies exhausted on a sand bag dike in West Des Moines on Tuesday, July 13. Residents of Central Iowa continue to fight back flood waters from local rivers. Recent flooding has created water-purity problems for Des Moines, leaving the water treatment plant contaminated.

## Pope: Celibacy rule follows Christ's design for priesthood

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Catholic Church has become more convinced throughout the centuries that celibacy is valuable for its priests and that it follows Christ's design for the priesthood, Pope John Paul II said.

At a special July 17 general audience following his mountain vacation, the pope said the church's commitment to celibacy among Latin-rite clergy remains firm despite modern obstacles to living a celibate life.

But the existence of married priests in the early church and among some Eastern churches today shows that celibacy "is not demanded of the priesthood by its nature," the pope said, quoting from the Second Vatican Council.

While the discipline of celibacy is not imposed on all churches, he said, "there are no doubts about its suitability and even congruence with the requirements of sacred ordination."

Priestly celibacy reflects Christ's call to his disciples to leave everything and follow him, the pope said. While not all of the disciples renounced marriage, it is clear that the Apostles, Christ's closest collaborators, did so.

"Jesus did not promulgate a law, but proposed an ideal of celibacy for the new priesthood he instituted," the pope said.

The ideal was affirmed with increas-

ing insistence and consistency throughout the church's history, he said.

"One can understand that in the first phase of the propagation and development of Christianity a great number of priests may have been married men, chosen and ordained following the Jewish tradition," he said.

But gradually, "on the basis of experience and reflection, the discipline of celibacy was progressively affirmed" to the point of becoming part of the canon law of the Latin-rite church, he said.

The pope said the church's commitment to priestly celibacy "reflects her conviction that the voluntary renunciation of marriage 'for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven' is a particularly appropriate sign of the priest's special consecration to Christ and to the mission of his church."

"It is also the source of greater freedom in serving God and his people and a sign of the world to come," he said.

The pope asked those at the audience to pray that more people would receive and esteem the gift of celibacy and that the gift would be understood and lived more generously.

Greeting Croatian pilgrims at the audience, the pope prayed with them that "the minds of leaders of nations would be illuminated so that they would act according to the criteria of justice to return true peace and freedom to the peoples of the Balkans."

### Organizers seek donated items for DeSales yard sale

GENEVA — Organizers of the annual yard sale at DeSales High School are seeking donated items to sell at the event, scheduled for Aug. 7 and 9. The sale will take place both days from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the school, 90 Pulteny St.

Among suggested donations are puzzles, toys, games, dolls, stuffed animals, microwaves, small household appliances, dishes, furniture and

sports equipment.

Organizers said they cannot accept clothes, stoves or refrigerators.

Donations may be brought to the school's gym Aug. 2-6, from 7 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. each day, or from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Aug. 3 and 5.

For information on donations or to volunteer, call Mary Lou Carnuli at 315/789-3415.

**Stokoe Farms**  
Pick Your Own  
Picked Quarts Always Available

## Raspberries & Blueberries

**RASPBERRY & BLUEBERRY STAND**

**Hours: Tues, Thurs. & Sun. 8-1  
Saturday 8-6  
Or till picked out**

**CALL BEFORE YOU COME**

889-2050

**SWEET CORN NOW AVAILABLE**