

# Vatican still reviewing catechism translation

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A year after the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" was published in French, Italian and Spanish, the long-awaited English translation is still under review at the Vatican.

U.S. bishops who met recently with Vatican officials said it was their impression that the volume would be out in early 1994.

"The best prediction is that it will be ready in January, then take about two months to be printed and bound," said Bishop Frank J. Rodimer of Paterson, N.J., after talks at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in November.

Throughout the year, U.S. bishops making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican have stressed their eagerness to get their hands on the English version of the catechism. It was initially believed the English translation would take only a few months.

Pope John Paul II marked the one-year anniversary of the catechism's unveiling Dec. 8, saying he was pleased at the interest it was generating around the world and calling for a deeper reading of the text.

The pope, meanwhile, is said to be well aware of disappointment over delays in the English-language edition.

Under the direction of Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, an English translation was completed in early 1993, sent out for review by other English-speaking bishops and forwarded to the Vatican doctrinal congregation. But Vatican approval has been withheld pending study of problems reportedly related to inclusive language, international variations in English usage, Scripture passages and references to canon law.

At a general assembly of U.S. bishops in June, several bishops expressed dismay at the missed pastoral opportunities caused by the absence of the English catechism.

Many U.S. dioceses planned workshops and programs around the volume, which is seen as a major educational resource for the future. Some 250,000 advance orders for the catechism were placed in the United States.

In September, when a group of U.S. bishops again raised the issue at the Vatican, they were told how "complicated" the English translation is because the language is spoken differently in England, North America and Africa, said Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe.

Inclusive language also remained a problem, Archbishop Sheehan said, because "there is not unanimity on that in English-speaking countries and the Vatican has to find some consensus."

"We all begged for it as soon as possible," he said.

Bishop John C. Reiss of Trenton, N.J.,

# Somali violence



AP/Wide World Photos

## Inter-clan fighting continues to take toll

A group of Somali men carries a gunshot victim to receive medical treatment from U.N. doctors in North Mogadishu Dec. 4. A victim of inter-clan fighting, the man was dead on arrival at the U.N. compound.

said the pope has been informed of concerns over the nonappearance of the English catechism. In a recent meeting, the pope "shrugged his shoulders as if to say it's coming," Bishop Reiss said.

The pope built his "ad limina" talks around the content of the catechism and emphasized its importance in nearly all of his speeches to the bishops.

"Everyone is aware it is an embarrassment to have it still not out," Bishop Reiss said.

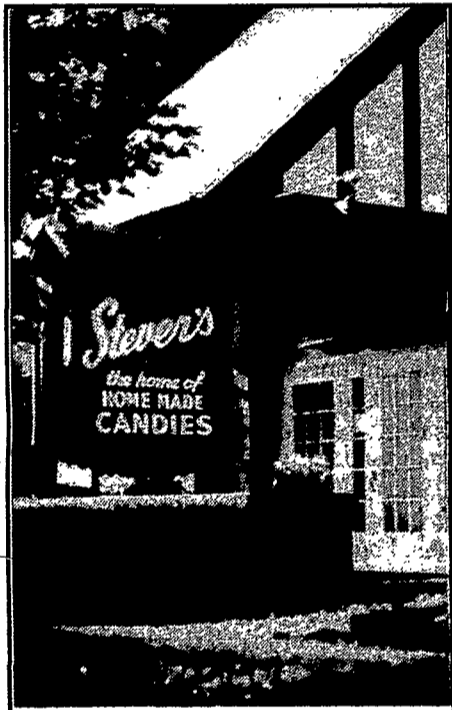
In addition to the original French, the catechism has already been published in

Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Catalan, Slovenian, Maltese and, in part, in Romanian.

Cardinal Law said in September he did not know what specific points were causing the delay in Vatican approval.

But he said the importance of the English translation could not be overestimated. The English version "is going to be a very, very influential text. That's why they have to be very careful," he said.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.



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# MISSION NEWS

As a young woman in Indonesia, Sister Juliana Boleng felt drawn to a Religious Community known for its special care of the poor, the sick, the orphans. As a Sister of the Imitation of Christ, she wishes especially to help children "who have not experienced very much love in their lives." Last year, with generous help through the Propagation of the Faith, 513 young Sister-novices in Indonesia were aided as they prepared for a lifetime of bringing Christ's love to children and their families. With your Christmas gift through the Propagation of the Faith, you will help many to experience the greatest of all loves, the love of Christ.



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# Priest fires pistol at burglar fleeing Va. pastoral center

By Ann M. Aughterton  
Catholic News Service

ANNANDALE, Va. — A priest at Holy Spirit Parish in the Washington suburb of Annandale reportedly fired several shots at a burglar at the parish's pastoral center in the pre-dawn hours of Dec. 6.

A Methodist church and a Baptist church nearby were also broken into the same night. Police have made no arrests.

Parish officials reported that cash was taken in the burglary.

The priest, whose name was not released because he is a witness to the crime, confronted the burglar as he was rifling through an office.

He first fired shots when the burglar charged at him during the 4 a.m. break-in, according to police. He then fired several more shots from a 9mm pistol as the burglar fled, police said.

The pastoral center houses four priests as well as parish offices. According to police, the burglar forced open a ground-level window.

Father Robert J. Rippy, chancellor of the Arlington Diocese, told the Arlington Catholic Herald, diocesan newspaper, that the diocese may look into the incident after the police investigation is completed.

But he added, "A priest, like any other citizen, has a right to self-preservation. A person has a right to preserve their life from an unjust aggressor."