

Bishops release appeal

Bosnians asked to stop blaming

ZAGREB, Croatia (CNS) — Bosnia-Herzegovina's bishops have asked their country's warring factions to forgive their enemies, not blame them for the slaughter of innocent victims.

"The enumeration of 'guilts' ... will never end if there is no forgiveness," they said in a statement commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The statement, dated May 3, was made public in Zagreb by the Catholic Press Agency of the Zagreb Archdiocese.

The bishops lamented that "for nearly the entire 20th century, our soil has been marked by injustices, conflicts, bloodshed and blame."

They noted that World War I began in Sarajevo in 1914 and that a civil war that began in 1991 is still raging, dividing Muslims, Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs.

In between came World War II and

the harsh repression of communist rule, they said.

The bishops asked for scholarly research into the history of the region to sort out the truth.

"Entire books of accusations, condemnations and slander have been written, not only against the Croatian nation but against the Catholic Church," they said.

"It is the duty not only of secular historians but also of the churches to investigate, collect and evaluate data correctly in order to arrive at the truth about everything that has happened," they added.

The bishops set aside May 13-14 as days of prayer for the perpetrators and victims of the 20th-century conflicts.

Their statement came at a time of deep concern over extended fighting in the former Yugoslavia. The end of an often-violated Bosnian truce expired May 1 with an upsurge in fighting. In Croatia, meanwhile, government troops attacked Serbs occupying Croatian territory. This brought retaliatory mortar attacks on Zagreb.

The Catholic Press Agency reported



AP/Wide World Photos
Cardinal Vinko Puljic holds a picture of Croatian Bishop Franjo Komarica, who claims he has been under house arrest by Serbian soldiers.

that Serbs escaping from Croatia into Bosnia expelled 10 Catholic nuns and two female workers from their convents in Bosanski Aleksandrovac and Topola.

The nuns and workers fled to convents in Croatia, said the press agency.

Franz wins seat in CPA election

RONKONKOMA, N.Y. (CNS) — Karen M. Franz, editor in chief and assistant general manager of the *Catholic Courier*, has been elected to the Catholic Press Association's board of directors in mail balloting.

In addition, Daniel Medinger of *The Catholic Review* in Baltimore retained his seat as an at-large board member and acting treasurer Margaret Gabriel of *The Mountain Spirit* in Lancaster, Ky., ran unopposed for the post of treasurer.

Franz defeated Richard McMunn of *Columbia* magazine for Eastern regional representative.

The other new board members are:

— Father Maurice J. Voity of the *West Texas Angelus* in San Angelo, Texas, elected newspaper publisher member over Monsignor David M. Lee of the Western New York Catholic in Buffalo.

— Anne M. Ibach of the *Intermountain Catholic* in Salt Lake City, Utah, chosen as business staff member in a race with Robert Lindley of *The Bayou Catholic*, Houma-Thibodaux, La.

Medinger ran against Redemptorist Father Allen Weinert of *Liguorian* magazine for the at-large seat.

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