

WORLD & NATION

Pope, Spanish bishops decry politician's slaying

By Jeff M. Sellers
Catholic News Service

MADRID, Spain (CNS) — Bishop Ricardo Blazquez Perez of Bilbao, Spain, pleaded for calm in the Basque town of Ermua and throughout Spain at the funeral of a councilman kidnapped and killed by separatist ETA terrorists.

"The clamor of all has not been useless if a few (ETA members) have begun to awaken from their confusion and deception," Bishop Blazquez told those attending the service in a packed cathedral in Ermua in the Basque region July 14.

"We all need to remain serene and peaceful to continue struggling for peace and freedom," said the bishop.

Ermua Councilman Miguel Angel Blanco Garrido, 29, was found with two bullets in his head July 12 after the ETA abducted him July 10. ETA members had threatened to kill him in 48 hours if the government refused to relocate ETA prisoners throughout Spain to the Basque region.

The abduction and murder set off a backlash of demonstrations against ETA, the largest of which were held in Madrid and the Basque cities of Bilbao, Vitoria and San Sebastian.

The funeral service was broadcast live on state television. The day was declared a day of mourning throughout Spain.

Archbishop Elias Yanes Alvarez, president of the Spanish bishops' conference, also urged calm in a July 14 letter to Bishop Blazquez.

"To the entire people, which today suf-

fers from the violent death of a brother, from seeing his hopes truncated, we ask for calm, serenity and respect that comes from the strength that is born from Christian faith and hope," Archbishop Yanes said.

He pleaded for "those responsible for this horrendous crime" and its collaborators to stop the killing that has caused so much pain and tears.

"From our evangelical position of forgiveness, we ask for the violent to convert from the criminal conduct that degrades them to fair, peaceful and brotherly attitudes," Archbishop Yanes said.

Pope John Paul II condemned the killing as "barbaric."

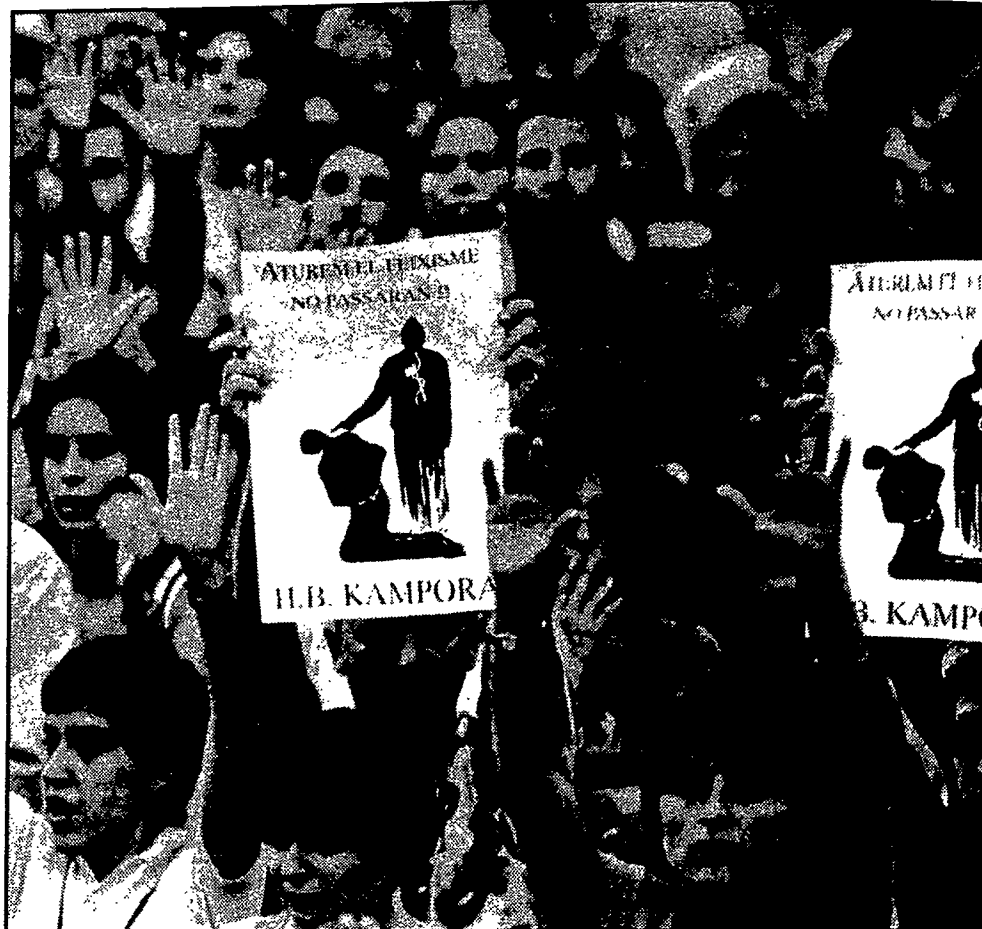
At a Sunday blessing while vacationing in the northern Italian mountains July 13 he said, "I strongly deplore this act of blood. The killing of an innocent person can never be justified."

The Spanish government had said ETA's ultimatum amounted to blackmail of the entire country.

Throughout the nation more than 1,500 demonstrations had pleaded for the terrorists to release Blanco.

Bishop Jose Maria Setien Alberro of San Sebastian had expressed his "deep shock" and "absolute repulsion" at the ultimatum during Bilbao's largest demonstration ever, a few hours before the 4 p.m. deadline July 12 and Blanco's murder.

"The firmness of our social rejection of ETA and of its actions must also be what sustains us in the peaceful struggle for peace," Bishop Setien said.



CNS/Reuters

Barcelona residents protest the terrorist murder of politician Miguel Angel Blanco Garrido by Basque separatists. About 1 million demonstrators joined the July 14 protest. Spanish bishops decried the killing and called for national calm.

CRS receives Bosnia funds

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services has received a \$1.5 million grant to help members of the Croat Catholic, Serb Orthodox and Muslim communities return to areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina where they are in the minority.

The grant from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration was announced July 14 by the Baltimore-based CRS. It complements a \$5 million "Open Cities Support" umbrella grant received from the State Department earlier this spring.

CRS is working with Caritas, Dobrotvor and Merhamet — national organizations representing Catholics, Orthodox and Muslims respectively — in coordinating grants on a local basis in areas that are open to the return of minorities.

Each community has a working group that designs the project assistance package to encourage local minority return.

"The beauty of this program is that it al-

lows Catholic Relief Services to respond quickly to an open community with a responsive, integrated project package that is designed by representative local community leadership," said Jim Kelly, who has served as CRS country representative in Bosnia for two years.

"Facilitating the return of families to areas where they are in the minority and rewarding the communities open to this possibility is one of the pillars of Catholic Relief Services' program in Bosnia and Herzegovina," Kelly added.

Michael Wiest, CRS executive deputy director, said CRS has had "a presence of neutrality and encouragement in Sarajevo."

"Our efforts at rebuilding the country with housing rehabilitation as well as trauma counseling have largely contributed in the country's rehabilitation," he added. "Our work with 'Open Cities Support' will continue that progression toward unity."

Survey finds youths lack morals

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A majority of American adults think teens are facing a moral crisis, and view young children as spoiled and out of control, according to a new survey.

The survey also showed that adults think much of the blame for youths' attitudes rests with their parents. But respondents also acknowledged it is difficult to be a par-

ent today and said they still care about the well-being of America's youngsters.

The survey, titled "Kids These Days: What Americans Really Think About the Next Generation," was conducted by the Public Agenda, a New York-based, nonpartisan public opinion research organization.

Its findings, released June 26, were based on telephone interviews with 2,000 adults last December, six focus groups across the country and follow-up interviews. The margin of error was plus or minus 2 percent.

The youngsters described themselves as happy and said they have good relationships with their parents and other adults, but in large numbers they also said they have too much time on their hands and see plenty of hazards and potential trouble facing them in their world.

Two-thirds of the surveyed adults described teens as "rude, irresponsible and wild" and with too much time on their hands. More than half described younger children, ages 5-12, as lacking discipline and being rude or spoiled.

"Americans are convinced," it said, "that today's adolescents face a crisis — not in their economic or physical well-being, but in their values and morals."

The lack of morals was seen across the board. Respondents put most of the blame on parents and schools.

67th ANNUAL SOLEMN NOVENA TO SAINT ANNE



**"REMEMBERING:
Reflections on the
Spirituality of
Saint John's Gospel"**

Guest Preacher:
Fr. James Gavin, OFM Cap.

**Nine Days of Prayers
July 17 to 25, 1997 at 7:30 PM
Evening Prayer, Sermon, Novena Prayers**

Thursday, July 17	The Road, the Fig Tree, and the Followers.....	John 1:35-52
Friday, July 18	The Wedding, the Water Jars, and the Mother	John 2:1-22
Saturday, July 19	The Jacob Well, the Water Jar, and the Woman	John 4:1-54
Sunday, July 20	The River Jordan, and the Requesting Sisters	John 11:1-16
Monday, July 21	The Village Gate, and the Interviewing Sisters.....	John 11:17-39
Tuesday, July 22	The Tomb, the Loud Voice, and the Raising.....	John 11:39-46
Wednesday, July 23	The Farewell Meal, and the Footwashing.....	John 13:1-20
Thursday, July 24	The Garden, the Trials, the Exaltation.....	John 19:1-42
Friday, July 25	The Empty Tomb, and the Mourner.....	John 20:11-18

**Feast of Saints Anne & Joachim
Saturday, 26 July 1997 at 5:15 PM
Solemn Celebration of the Eucharist**

For the Novena days • Organist: Brink Bush • Cantor: Julie Long
For the Feast Day • Choirmaster: Thomas Donohue • Choir of Saint Anne Church

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