

# WORLD & NATION

## Nicaragua faces effects of storm, U.S. intervention

By Mike Lanchin  
Catholic News Service

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Almost 10 years after the end of the civil war, many Nicaraguans still have bitter feelings about the U.S. role in their country.

"I lived through those times when the gringos abused Nicaraguans and did what they like with us. That has remained with me even after the war," said Indiana Acevedo, a Catholic community organizer in Managua.

"Relations with the U.S. were really bad, and people think that things have now changed, but for whom? Only for private business and the government," she added with a shrug of her shoulders.

Marvel Penglass, a Catholic and former officer in the Nicaraguan army under the Sandinista government, said, "I grew up with the conviction that they were our enemies — not the American people but their leaders.

"As human beings we must come to an understanding, but there is still resentment between us. It's obvious that when you are enemies, you will never shake hands just for the sake of it," she added.

President Bill Clinton visited Nicaragua March 8 on the first leg of his four-country tour of Central America to survey the damage caused by last year's Hurricane Mitch.

Nicaragua's bloodstained history of dictators, insurrections and civil war has been closely tied with the ups and downs of the country's relations with Washington.

In the 1920s, U.S. Marines invaded the country and installed the Somoza family dy-



Young Nicaraguans wait to participate in play activities at La Virgen refugee camp in Posoltega, Nicaragua, Feb. 28. The survivors of a volcanic mud slide are still living in temporary shelters four months after Hurricane Mitch.

nasty. The Somozas ruled Nicaragua until their overthrow by a 1979 leftist revolution, led by the Sandinista Liberation Front.

During the Sandinistas' rule (1979-1990), U.S. Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush backed a guerrilla force, known as the "contras," which fought to overthrow the Sandinista regime. More than 100,000 people died during the ensuing civil war, which ended when the Sandinistas lost an election to a loose coalition

of rightist parties, supported by the U.S. government.

"I'm not really surprised if you delve a little bit into the feelings of the people (that) the animosity and really the anger at the U.S. intervention in Nicaragua would come to the surface," said anthropologist Galio Gurdian.

That anger came to a head recently for Acevedo, and others like her, when U.S. military arrived in Nicaragua in late No-

vember as part of the Clinton administration's emergency relief response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch.

"If they want to come here to help, that's OK, but not in uniform, this isn't their country," she said. "And the worst thing was that the Nicaraguan army went around protecting them. It's humiliating."

But foreign observers said that, in a sign of the changing times, the foreign troops' presence did not provoke massive public protest, not even from the Sandinista leadership, now in political opposition.

U.S. Jesuit Father Joseph Mulligan, who has worked with poor communities in Nicaragua for almost 13 years, said that was a sign that most Nicaraguans have other things on their minds.

"There's very little here in terms of street demonstrations and protests, on any occasion. People are so poor and are having such a hard time struggling for a day-to-day survival, they don't have time to get involved in social movements," he said.

U.S. investment in Nicaragua has soared since the Sandinistas lost power nine years ago. Numerous luxury hotels and U.S.-style shopping malls have been erected around the capital, Managua, many on sites that remained empty during the years of the U.S. trade embargo against the Sandinistas.

Father Mulligan noted that little has been done to alleviate the poverty, despite the massive influx of dollars after the end of the Sandinista period, he said.

"If social conditions remain the same for the majority, I don't see how people can take it indefinitely. It will eventually give rise to social unrest," Father Mulligan said.

## Elmira native to be an auxiliary bishop in Minnesota

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Frederick F. Campbell — an Elmira native and currently pastor of St. Joseph Church in West St. Paul, Minn. — has been appointed by Pope John Paul II as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

The appointment was announced March 2 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The 55-year-old bishop-designate was baptized and received first Communion at St. Casimir's Church, Elmira. His family moved to Horseheads, where they attended the Church of St. Mary Our Mother.

Bishop-designate Campbell attended St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., graduating magna cum laude. He went on to earn a doctorate in history at Ohio State University, then taught history in Ohio and California.

Roger Joy, a parishioner of the Church of St. Mary Our Mother, met Bishop-designate Campbell during the years when the priest was a college professor and came home to visit his parents. That contact continued through visits home during the years of seminary studies (1976-80)

and after the future bishop's 1980 ordination.

"We found him to be a very studious but dedicated priest," Joy said. "He was interested in working with people who were in particular spiritual needs. It was obvious that he was interested in people's concerns and bringing a spiritual dimension."

Joy said he was not surprised to hear that the news that his acquaintance is becoming a bishop.

"Because of his studious nature and the educational background and his spiritual concerns, we felt that possibly someday he could become a bishop," Joy said.

He explained that even in the way he celebrated Bishop-designate Campbell showed great care and devotion.

"You could just tell he was dedicated to his vocation," Joy stated. "He was totally

involved."

After studies at St. Paul Seminary in Minnesota and ordination, Bishop-designate Campbell was associate pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Minneapolis until 1987. He was pastor of St. John Parish in Hopkins, Minn., from 1987 to 1994, and has held his current pastorate at St. Joseph since then.

Ordination ceremonies are scheduled for May 14 at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn said he was pleased at the appointment of Bishop-designate Campbell and "relieved that our long wait as an archdiocese for an auxiliary bishop has finally ended."

The bishop-designate said his appointment was "a humbling experience," and expressed gratitude to the people of the parishes he has served for their prayers

and support.

Archbishop Flynn said he was confident that the pastoral and administrative skills of Bishop-designate Campbell would make him well-suited for his new responsibilities.

In addition to his parish responsibilities, Bishop-designate Campbell has served as a member of the Archdiocesan Commission on Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs. While a seminarian, he taught in the preparation program for the permanent diaconate.

Bishop-designate Campbell is the second of six children. His mother, sister and one brother live in the Twin Cities area. He also has brothers who live in North Carolina and Arizona.

Contains additional reporting by Lee Strong.

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