

WORLD & NATION

Bishop

Continued from page 1

clared martial law in East Timor in a last-ditch effort to restore order. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan Sept. 6 gave Habibie 48 hours to end the violence or face international intervention.

Hours prior to the attack on Bishop Belo's residence, militias attacked the diocesan complex in Dili, burning several buildings. The Carmelite-run Motael clinic in Dili was also attacked, sources in East Timor said. Attacks were also reported at a Canossians sisters convent that was sheltering refugees and at the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters, located next door to Bishop Belo's residence.

Eyewitnesses said militias, which Timorese have said are backed by the Indonesian military, were seen marching refugees through the streets of Dili. Casualty reports were impossible to verify, but one observer in Dili said more than 100 "would be a conservative number."

"The people are panicking. You don't think of asking 'how many people have died.' But with each passing moment, many people are being killed, many people," said a Salesian nun in Dili, who spoke by telephone to Catholic News Service in New York.

The latest round of violence came after the United Nations announced Sept. 4 that East Timorese overwhelmingly rejected by a nearly 5-1 margin an Indonesian offer of autonomy. Within hours of the announcement, armed militiamen went on a rampage in Dili, turning the city into a fiery nightmare.

"They're destroying this city. There's nothing left. As I am talking to you, I am



Reuters/CNS

East Timorese people pray on the grounds of Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo's compound in Dili Sept. 5. Thousands of people sought refuge on the grounds of the bishop's home as violence swept the region. Bishop Belo has pleaded for international peace-keeping troops to help restore peace to East Timor.

watching the city burn," said the Salesian nun, who spoke with the request of anonymity.

"The houses nearby are burning, and the military is just letting them do it. No one can do anything at this point, not UN-AMET, no one. I don't know what you can do, but we need peace-keeping troops in here right away," she said.

During a series of conversations with Catholic News Service, the sounds of automatic gunfire and explosions from hand grenades could be heard outside the Salesian convent, while militia men screamed, "Burn, burn" and "Those of you who are pro-independence come out

and show your faces."

"There is no one watching over us, no one," the nun said. "The police and the military have retreated. We're all alone here. Earlier today, an Indonesian military officer told us he could no longer guarantee our safety. The people are scared. They've been praying the rosary all day. What else can we do?"

Reached early Sept. 6, hours before his home was attacked, Bishop Belo said that the campaign by the militias was a coup d'etat by the Indonesian military to overturn the results of the Aug. 30 ballot.

In a statement released by his biographer, Arnold Kohen, Bishop Belo plead-

ed for international peace-keeping troops, a request he has repeated for several months.

Most of those who remained in East Timor have fled to the island's rugged mountainside. Refugees have been pouring into Atambua in Indonesian-controlled West Timor at the rate of 1,000 per hour, said a humanitarian aid official.

There were reports of severed heads on sticks on the roads outside Dili.

"Some of our people are leaving for the hillside because we can't offer them protection. We have no guns. We are only women and children and nuns here. There are no men," said the Salesian nun. More than 300 refugees had been living at the convent in the Balide section of Dili in early September.

On Sept. 4, militias opened fire on the nun's vehicle as she was driving to U.N. headquarters in Dili. She was not injured in the attack.

Across town, a Salesian Fathers complex was sheltering more than 3,000 people, mostly men and young boys. Militias were circling outside the complex's high walls and threatened to attack. Police and military also abandoned the priests' complex, the nun said.

Thomas Quigley, senior policy adviser on Asia for the U.S. Catholic Conference, was forced to leave East Timor Sept. 4 as dozens of journalists, election observers and nonessential U.N. personnel fled the country. He rarely left Bishop Belo's compound during the two-day visit.

He said Bishop Belo was "one of the few reconciling factors" in East Timor.

"After the voting results were announced, he made it clear that there were no winners, no losers; there was to be no gloating by independence supporters. He was playing the role of calming tensions," Quigley told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Bali, Indonesia.

Hindu extremists kill Catholic priest in India

BERHAMPUR, India (CNS)—Using bows and arrows, assailants killed a Catholic priest in a part of Orissa state where a Hindu extremist is blamed for murdering an Australian missionary and his two sons eight months ago.

The priest's killing, seen as part of a pattern of killings by Hindu extremists, has evoked outrage from church leaders, and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has ordered the arrest of the alleged culprits.

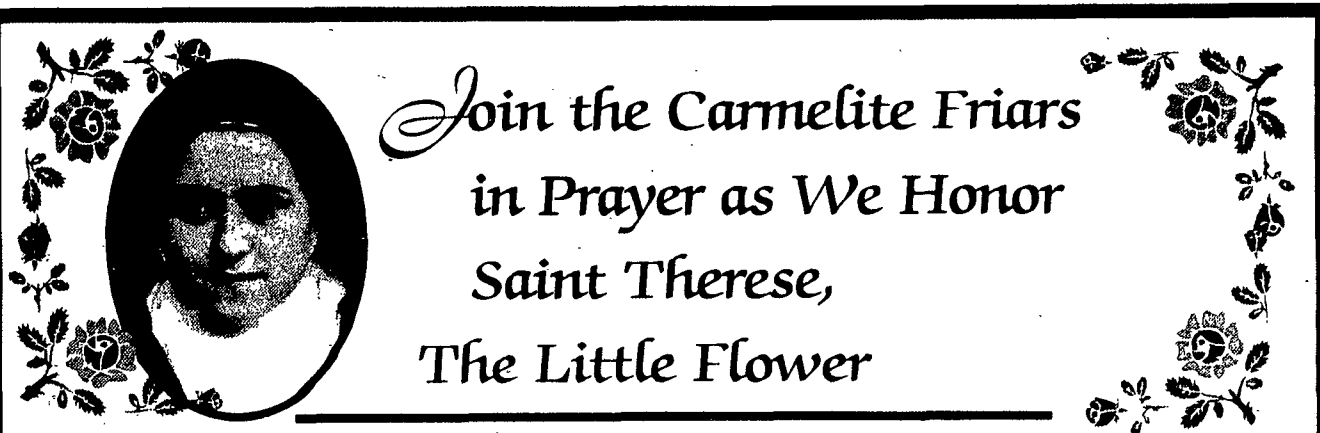
Father Arul Doss, 35, was attacked by 15-20 men in Jambani village in the eastern Indian state's Mayurbhanj district at dawn Sept. 2, Batsore Diocese sources reported based on testimony by eyewitnesses.

Bishop Murphy dies; decried war, sexism

BALTIMORE (CNS)—Auxiliary Bishop P. Francis Murphy of Baltimore, nationally known advocate of peace and nonviolence and the advancement of women, died of cancer Sept. 2 at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore. He was 66.

It was Bishop Murphy's 1980 proposal to take a fresh look at the morality of nuclear weapons that led to the U.S. bishops' landmark 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response." He frequently spoke out against war and the arms race.

In 1992, when the bishops were in the midst of trying to write a pastoral letter on women, he wrote an article in *Commonweal*, a national Catholic magazine, in which he condemned the "sin of sexism" and urged the ordination of women "because justice demands it."



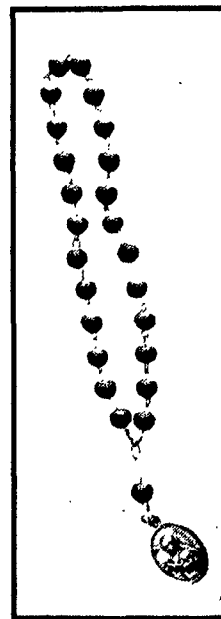
In joyful anticipation of the Little Flower's life and spirituality, we would like to include your needs in our prayers.

Please join us as we petition St. Therese during two Novenas of Masses from October 2-10 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Basilica of St. Therese in Lisieux, France.

When you join us during this special time of prayer, you may want to honor and petition St. Therese by using the Little Flower Rose Petal Chaplet.

This unique blessed Chaplet is made of genuine rose petals which are compressed into beads. Each of the 25 beads (1 *Our Father* and 24 to represent each year of St. Therese's life) has the beautiful fragrance of roses... a wonderful reminder of the Little Flower. The Chaplet also has a silver-tone St. Therese medal and comes with an instructional prayer card.

The Little Flower Rose Petal Chaplet will be sent to our friends making an offering of \$12 or more to support Carmelite Ministry. Please check the appropriate box on the coupon to receive this beautiful gift.



Father Matthias, O. Carm
National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
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Dear Father Matt,

Please include my intentions in your devotions honoring St. Therese beginning October 2

I have enclosed an offering in support of Carmelite Ministry.

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CC-TH 99