



CNS/Reuters  
An ultraorthodox Jew looks toward the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem July 20.

## Peace in Jerusalem vital, pope says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — As Israeli and Palestinian leaders meeting in the United States tried to reach an agreement on the status of Jerusalem, Pope John Paul II encouraged them to keep the spiritual meaning of the city in mind.

Speaking to visitors at his summer residence July 23, the pope said he knew the negotiations between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak were not easy, but he asked "the leaders to continue their efforts."

U.S.-mediated negotiations began two weeks earlier at Camp David in Thurmont, Md., and seemed to be mired in the details of an agreement on Jerusalem, which Israelis and Palestinians have claimed as their capital.

At Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, Pope John Paul said he was praying for the suc-

cess of the negotiations, and he asked Arafat and Barak "not to disregard the importance of the spiritual dimension of the city of Jerusalem with its holy places and with the communities of the three monotheistic religions which surround them."

"The Holy See continues to maintain that only a special internationally guaranteed statute effectively can preserve the most sacred places in the holy city and assure freedom of faith and worship for all the faithful who, in the region and throughout the whole world, see Jerusalem as the crossroad of peace and coexistence," the pope said.

In Jerusalem, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, papal nuncio to Israel and Cyprus and apostolic delegate in Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories, said the Holy See's call for a "special status with international guar-

antees" is the only way to establish religious peace in Jerusalem.

"Religious peace in Jerusalem is fundamental for the peace of the city, but it is also fundamental for the peace of the Muslim, Christian and Jewish world," he told Catholic News Service July 24.

Archbishop Sambi said regardless of how the sovereignty over the city is divided or shared or not shared, there should be an international body — be it from the United Nations or made up of international religious leaders or another configuration — to assure that freedom of religion for all three religions is respected within the city.

Throughout history, people in political power in Jerusalem have tended to favor their own kind, he said.

"If the three religions are treated according to a just way there will be peace."

# Catholic Courier

DIocese OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 111 NO. 42 ■ THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2000 ■ 75¢ ■ 12 PAGES

## Pro-choice groups attack Holy See's U.N. mission

Story by  
Rob Cullivan

It's a state that has sent legations and ambassadors forth to the world's rulers since the fourth century.

It exchanges ambassadors with 169 nations, including the United States, and maintains 179 diplomatic missions abroad.

In fact, as an independently governed entity, it's older than virtually all of the United Nations' current members.

Despite these facts, an alliance of pro-choice nongovernmental organizations around the world want to degrade this state's status at the United Nations because the state vigorously opposes abortion and artificial contraception. Indeed, some opponents don't even consider it a state at all, labeling it the equivalent of an amusement park that's allowed to stand as a full nation in an international body.

The state is the Holy See, or the Vatican, the world's smallest nation, and its role at the United Nations is under attack by hundreds of groups worldwide. However, bodies like the U.S. House of Representatives, and the governments of Chile and the Philippines have recently gone on record supporting its role at the United Nations.

Continued on page 2

Magazine says FBI tracked Cardinal O'Connor : Page 2