

# WORLD & NATION

## Pope, Powell intercede in Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell continued his meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials, Pope John Paul II prayed for the success of his mission and for an end to the suffering in the Holy Land.

At the end of an April 14 beatification Mass, Pope John Paul said Israelis and Palestinians had sent him appeals for prayers and assistance.

On April 15, the pontiff telephoned the Franciscan friars under siege in the Church of the Nativity compound in Bethlehem, West Bank. Some 200 Palestinians, many heavily armed, broke into the church April 2 and have been holed up in the compound ever since. The Israeli army had the entire complex surrounded and sealed off.

Powell arrived in Israel April 11 and held meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and representatives of humanitarian agencies.

The secretary of state also met April 13 with religious leaders, including Latin Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem and Father Giovanni Battistelli, head of the Franciscans in the Holy Land.

The Islamic-Catholic Liaison Committee, which works under the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the International Islamic Forum for Dialogue, issued a call for an immediate cease-fire.

The statement said dialogue was the only way to bring peace to the region and called on Christians and Muslims worldwide to support initiatives to stop the Holy Land violence.

## Vatican calls U.S. cardinals to summit

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A special summit between Vatican officials and U.S. church leaders will examine the clergy sex abuse crisis and discuss ways of restoring trust among families, priests and U.S. Catholics, a Vatican statement said.

In a two-sentence announcement April 16, the Vatican said the "working session" April 23-24 would bring together U.S. cardinals and the heads of Vatican congregations that deal with clergy, doctrine and bishops.

The Vatican said the purpose of the meeting was to "examine problems that have been created in the church in the United States following scandals connected with pedophilia and to indicate guiding principles with the aim of returning safety and serenity to the families and trust to the clergy and faithful."

The Vatican did not list all the participants, saying merely that U.S. cardinals and the heads of three major Vatican agencies would attend: Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos of the Congregation for Clergy, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re of the Congregation for Bishops.

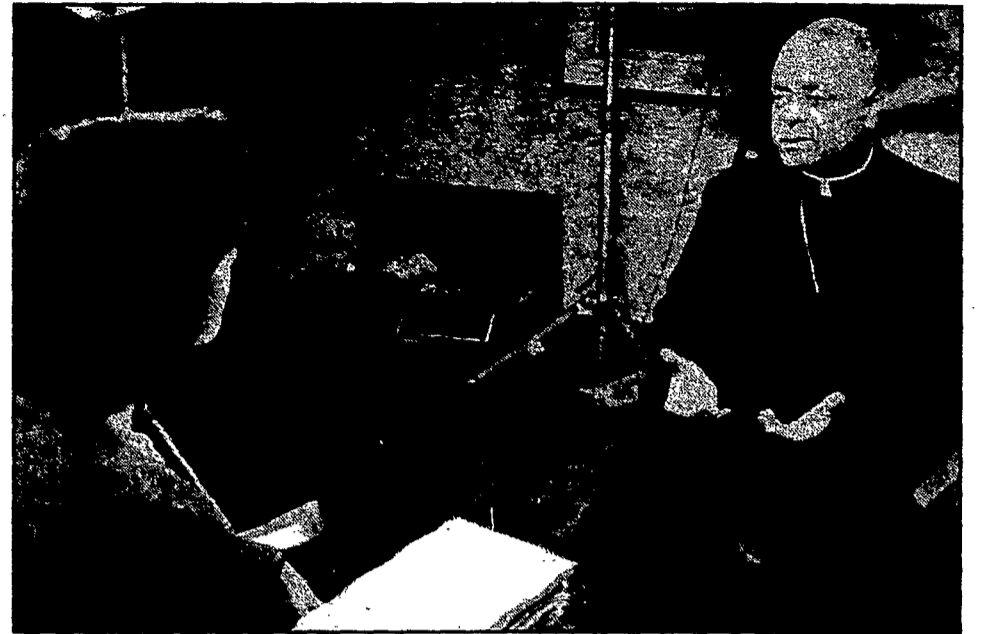
The Vatican statement did not mention Pope John Paul II or the level of his participation in the summit.

In Washington, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said April 15 that he and the USCCB vice president, Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., would attend the Vatican summit.

Sources in Rome said all active U.S. cardinals were expected to attend.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles welcomed the meeting.

"A healthy dialogue with officials in the Vatican is essential to repairing the past damage and to create a more open and honest way of dealing with any type of mis-



Bob Roller/CNS

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, tapes an interview with Ellen McCloskey April 15 at the bishops' conference headquarters in Washington. During the interview, to be posted on the USCCB Web site, Bishop Gregory discussed the growing sex abuse scandal in the U.S. church.

conduct within the Catholic Church for the future," he said.

Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit said that "bringing together this level of church leadership in Rome on this most serious issue is the right move at the right time."

In addition to Cardinals Mahony and Maida, the cardinals who currently head U.S. archdioceses are:

- Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia.
- Edward M. Egan of New York.
- Francis E. George of Chicago.
- William H. Keeler of Baltimore.
- Bernard F. Law of Boston.
- Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington.

It was not immediately clear April 15 if American cardinals holding Vatican offices also would be invited to the summit, al-

though a spokesman for Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, former archbishop of Detroit and current president of the commission that governs Vatican City State, said he would attend.

A spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Washington said Cardinal James A. Hickey, retired archbishop of Washington, was invited but would not attend because the trip would be too hard for him.

Cardinal Avery Dulles, professor at Fordham University, New York, said April 16 that he had not yet been told whether he was expected to attend the meeting.

Contributing to this story were Jerry Filteau and Patricia Zapor in Washington and Tracy Early in New York.

## Diocese

Continued from page 1

haustive psychological testing at the request of the Diocese of Rochester, and "the consensus was he was fit for ministry," Tedesco said.

Tedesco pointed out that Father Brodnick's case is not one of pedophilia.

According to an October 1997 fact sheet by the American Psychiatric Association, pedophilia is a mental disorder in which the subject has a preference for sexual activity with pre-pubescent children. The APA reports that "the outlook for successful treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with pedophilia is guarded," and that "the disorder usually is chronic and lifelong." Pedophilia differs from ephebophilia, an often-treatable condition in which an adult is sexually attracted to teenagers.

"It was more of an exercise in poor judgment, certainly inappropriate," Tedesco said of Father Brodnick's case. "These types of behaviors are treatable. Pedophilia is not treatable. There is a high occurrence of relapse."

Father Hart agreed. "No one affected with (pedophilia) can be returned to ministry under any circumstances," he said.

Father Brodnick's resignation has devastated the St. Joseph's Hospital community, according to Denis Sweeney, the hospital's director of marketing/community development.

"When this happened to Father Joe, it was like a member of the family had been affected," he said.

Father Brodnick was one of two chaplains in the hospital's Pastoral Care Department, which Sweeney oversees. When asked whether Father Brodnick had been involved in any incidents of sexual misconduct during his chaplaincy, Sweeney emphatically replied "none whatsoever."

"He was an exemplary employee," Sweeney added. "He really embodied the mission of our hospital, being caring and compassionate. He was a tremendous asset here."

And that is the dilemma, Father Hart said. The diocese needs to understand the ongoing pain of victims who were abused by priests decades ago, while at the same time recognizing that some priests who once committed abuse since have gotten well and done exemplary work for 25 to 30 years. It is something that the diocese plans to discuss at length.

"We're taking the question very seriously," Father Hart said.

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