

# POPE

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lem is that Israel does not appear to accept the underlying premise of the "road map": namely, that "the Palestinian territories are occupied territories ... and a peace treaty means a withdrawal of the occupying power."

"In their view, these are territories to which Israel has a right," he told Vatican Radio May 13. That means Israel views the concept of concessions very differently, he said.

After a series of suicide car bombings May 13 left 34 people dead and scores injured at Western housing complexes in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the Vatican newspaper said the international community must find effective methods to deal with terrorism.

In Morocco May 16, suicide attacks against international and Jewish targets killed 41 people. In a telegram, the pope condemned "the blind violence that strikes innocent people" and prayed that God enlighten consciences and aid peace-making efforts.

## PUSHING FOR PEACE

On June 2, the pope and top Vatican officials met U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell for talks on ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In another meeting the same morning, the pope detailed the Vatican's vision of lasting regional peace — including independent and sovereign Israeli and Palestinian states — to Israel's new ambassador to the Vatican.

After meeting with the pope, Powell then met for an hour with Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's equivalent of foreign minister.

U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Jim Nicholson said the meetings, which he attended, offered a chance "to have a real, thorough wringing out" on many issues of Vatican and



Reuters/CNS

Relatives of Nellie Perov mourn during her funeral in Jerusalem May 20. She was among the victims of a suicide bomb attack on an Israeli shopping mall.

U.S. concern.

Nicholson said Powell thanked Vatican officials for their support for Middle East peace and "implored them to continue to help in all the ways they can."

Nicholson said there was "real substantive discussion" on new prospects for Israeli-Palestinian peace based on the U.S.-backed "road map" plan.

In an effort to get regional support for the plan, which envisions a Palestinian state by 2005, U.S. President George W. Bush planned a summit in Egypt with Arab leaders and a later meeting with Israel's prime minister. The meetings were to be Bush's first personal Middle East peace mission.

The Vatican sees solving the conflict as the top priority in achieving regional peace and has pushed the United States to play a stronger role.

"Thanks to (the new plan)," papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a statement after the Powell meetings, "It is hoped that the two states, Israeli and Palestinian, can

finally enjoy the same security and the same sovereignty."

The pope, in a meeting the same day with newly appointed Israeli Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur, spelled out his vision of Middle East peace, saying it was essential for Israeli and Palestinian leadership to "give clear signs of their determined commitment to bring this peaceful co-existence about." He said Israel's recent government vote in support of the new peace process was "a positive sign of hope and encouragement."

The pope urged both sides not to be discouraged by "real or apparent failures" in negotiations but to persevere ceaselessly toward building a lasting peace, "with all its demands and conditions."

Ben-Hur assured the pope of his government's commitment to resume political negotiations "pending the willingness and success of the Palestinian (National) Authority to curb terrorism and begin reforms." He said Israel was ready to "make painful compromises for the sake of peace."

# CODE

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draft of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." Like all U.S. dioceses, the Rochester Diocese will be audited by the bishops' National Review Board to ensure compliance with the charter that was adopted last year.

Since June of last year, the diocese has also implemented other changes, the bishop said. For example, diocesan employees were removed from the bishop's advisory panel, which reviews cases of sexual misconduct and counsels the bishop on those matters. Exceptions to the removal were the diocesan chancellor, Father Daniel J. Condon, who acts in his capacity as the Promoter of Justice, and Father Alexander Bradshaw, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Greece. The U.S. bishops' charter requires the inclusion of an "experienced and respected pastor," according to Michael J. Tedesco, diocesan spokesman, who added that Father Bradshaw was recommended to the bishop by members of the Diocesan Priests' Council.

Added to the panel were three individuals with a background in law enforcement and investigative procedures: former Monroe County Sheriff Andrew Meloni, who chairs the panel; former FBI Special Agent Bill Dillon; and Gates Police Chief Thomas Roche.

The diocese has also removed from diocesan staff the responsibility of investigating sexual abuse, and has hired private investigators to gather information on abuse allegations, Bishop Clark said.

"We'll cooperate fully with any investigations of allegations of sexual abuse," the bishop noted.

He also encouraged anyone who has ever been abused by church personnel to contact the diocese's victim advocates, Barbara Pedeville at 585/328-3210, ext. 1215, and Father Robert Ring at 315/730-0882.

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## GENERAL

### Announcements

**ADOPTIONS:** The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 585-529-9530. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

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