

Private Mass for Paul

Bishop preaches forgiveness on S.I.

By RUBEN ROSARIO and MURRAY WEISS

Daily News Staff Writers

A Catholic bishop who celebrated a private Mass for slain mob godfather Paul Castellano counseled his mourning family and friends not to seek revenge and to forgive the hitmen who gunned Castellano down.

Bishop Patrick Ahern, the cardinal's vicar of Staten Island, offered the advice at a Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church on Staten Island only hours after Castellano was buried Thursday.

"I said I hoped there was no spirit of revenge ... that we follow Jesus dying on the cross saying: 'Forgive them, they know not what they do,'" said Ahern.

Cardinal O'Connor ruled there could be no funeral Mass for Castellano because he was a top mobster and because of the manner in which he died. However, O'Connor gave permission for a priest to conduct graveside prayers and a Mass after burial.

It was at that Mass that Ahern counseled forgiveness.

"I didn't know what I was going to say," he said last night. "But toward the end, I found the words coming to my mouth."

Ahern also said that Castellano's 19-year-old grandson, Paul 3d, came to him Tuesday evening, a day after

Castellano was killed outside an East Side steakhouse, to "plead" for a funeral Mass.

Tears for grandfather

"The boy was crying," Ahern said. "I almost wanted to cry too ... but I told him the decision had been made."

Ahern said the youth taught catechism before graduating from Msgr. Farrell High School.

"He called me up (Tuesday) aware of the decision

and was very upset. He came to plead with me to intervene," Ahern said. "I never met the boy before but I can say he was completely sincere, a very fine boy who was fond of his grandfather."

"The boy said, 'My grandfather was always good to me and I don't believe all the things they are alleging,'" Ahern continued.

The bishop said he responded, "Paul, I concur in the decision—that's the

church's decision, and I agree with it 100%."

Ahern also said that after the Mass, Castellano's tearful widow, oldest son, daughter and grandson spoke with O'Connor by telephone from the dining room of the church rectory.

"His widow expressed her deepest appreciation to him. 'You'll never know how grateful we are,'" Ahern quoted her as telling the cardinal.



Bishop Patrick Ahern

Battle of the bribe

By PATRICE O'SHAUGHNESSY and PATRICK CLARK

Daily News Staff Writers

An internal dispute among mob chieftains over a \$55,000 payoff in a construction industry shakedown conspiracy was revealed in an FBI tape admitted in evidence yesterday at the Colombo crime family labor-racketeering trial.

The tape secretly was recorded April 12, 1983, in a Brooklyn restaurant—the Casa Storta, which is no longer in business—used as a hangout by accused Colombo underboss Gennaro Langella.

The taped discussion was played for the Manhattan Federal Court jury and for the first time linked Langella

directly to the alleged extortion scheme.

The tape also revealed details of how the city's five crime families shared payoffs from contractors.

Others named

Other mob leaders named on the tape were Paul Castellano, Aniello Dellacroce and Anthony (Tony Ducks) Corallo.

Castellano led the Gambino family until he was slain in Manhattan last Monday. Dellacroce, his underboss, died earlier this month of cancer. Corallo is the reputed boss of the Luchese family.

In a discussion with reputed Colombo soldier Ralph Scopo, the alleged collector who will be tried later for extortion, Langella discloses that he suspected Dellacroce of withholding a \$55,000 payoff meant for the Colombo family.

"He's — wise," Langella said, according to the tape transcript. "I'll tell you the truth, I don't believe this. I, I can't believe this."

Later in the tape it was revealed that Langella accepted a \$25,000 settlement in a negotiation with Corallo, who apparently had acted as mediator in the dispute.

And further along, another Colombo mob figure, Dominic Montemarano, told

of a discussion with a building contractor. "I need money for Paulie," he said the contractor told him, an apparent reference to Castellano.

Later, ex-builder James Vozzi, 42, testified under immunity that his former business partner told him in December 1982 that they had to make a large payoff "to maintain labor peace" at a Manhattan condominium apartment construction site at 303 E. 43d St.

Vozzi said his ex-partner, Peter DeGaetano, an indicted co-conspirator in the case, told him the money—"\$50,000 to \$75,000"—was for Scopo.

Gets life in daughter's death



DEFENDANT Charles Griffith bows his head as he and lawyer, Mark Krasnow (left), hear jury's verdict of guilty of first degree murder in June 28 death of his daughter, Joy. Griffith, who claimed he was insane when he fatally shot his comatose 3-year-old daughter in her hospital crib to end her suffering, was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years. Youngster had been comatose since an accident the previous year.

He gives up in gas scam

By DANIEL HAYS

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The stepson of reputed Colombo crime family underboss John (Sonny) Franzese surrendered in Florida yesterday to face charges he headed a \$40 million gasoline scam that bilked corporations and federal and state governments.

Michael Franzese, 34, of Brookville, L.I., gave up a day after a federal grand jury in Brooklyn indicted him on charges of heading a rackets group that stole \$5 million in the scam. Authorities were searching for him at the time of his surrender.

Franzese, a movie producer, turned himself in near the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale. He and 26 others are accused of setting up a series of dummy corporations to hide the ownership of gasoline and avoid Florida sales taxes.

Franzese, who faces up to

30 years on Florida racketeering charges, was ordered to post \$125,000 bail on the state charges.

Franzese and eight others were named in a 99-page, 28-count federal indictment handed up Thursday accusing the "Franzese group" of extortion, mail fraud, obstruction of justice and embezzlement in 21 separate schemes, including one that defrauded New Jersey out of \$3 million in gasoline taxes.

He draws 4 years

CAMDEN, N.J.—Salvatore Profaci, 49, a reputed lieutenant in the Colombo organized crime family, was sentenced yesterday to four years in prison for defrauding the A&P supermarket chain of about \$500,000 while working as a consultant in waste disposal.

Profaci, 49, of Holmdel, N.J., was also fined \$2,000 and placed on five years' probation by U.S. District Judge John Gerry.