

Bandits kill Catholic priest in Onitsha

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A Catholic priest, Mr. Anthony Nnabuife, has been shot dead in Onitsha, Anambra State by suspected bandits.

The bandits allegedly shot him in central Onitsha on Tuesday while distributing invitation cards for his ordination.

It was gathered that the suspects asked him for money but he told them that he was going round distributing cards for the ceremony, which had been scheduled to hold on August 2, 2006.

A source said after a few minutes of argument, they

fired several shots at him and fled.

He added that the priest died while being rushed by sympathisers to a nearby hospital.

Until his death, Nnabuife, who hailed from Ubuluizor, Ihiala Local Government Area of the state, was a deacon at the Blessed Iwene Tansi Seminary, Onitsha.

Investigations revealed that when the news of his killing was broken to his father, Mr. Pius Chukwudebelu-Nnabuife, he said, "If it is the wish of God, let it be. We have accepted it in good faith."

The spokesman for the

Anambra State Police Command, Mr. Fidelis Agbo, however, said he had not received any official report on the killing.

The Catholic Archdiocese under which the late priest served was yet to react to the incident as at press time on Wednesday.

Our correspondent observed that there had been a rise in crime in the city, especially armed robbery, since the February 2006 jailbreak in Onitsha Prisons.

The situation worsened in June when most of the inmates of the prison were freed by bandits, who set the place ablaze.