

Grovas Declines Comment

By HAROLD J. LIDIN

Msgr. Rafael Grovas, chancellor of the San Juan Catholic Archdiocese and the author of a circular letter describing possible ecclesiastical penalties for Catholics who publicly defy the bishops' order against voting Popular, refused yesterday to comment on Archbishop James P. Davis's statement that the controversial letter was not authorized by him.

"Better to wait until the Archbishop returns," Grovas said. Archbishop Davis is expected on a flight scheduled to arrive in San Juan tonight.

Msgr. Grovas, an energetic Christian Action Party backer, explained he was reluctant to comment on "a newspaper account" of Archbishop Davis's remarks.

Msgr. Grovas seemed unperturbed over Archbishop Davis's statement that the mandate against voting Popular carried no canonical reprisals, although the Archbishop's statement has been interpreted by some as contradicting Grovas's circular letter.

However, the pastor of San Juan Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Rev. Thomas Maisonet, said yes. (See GROVAS, Page 21)

terday that "no contradiction exists" between his stand and a statement of San Juan Archbishop James P. Davis that the clergy is not to deny the sacraments to Catholics who voted Popular in the last election.

"No one has been denied communion—at least in this cathedral," added Father Maisonet.

To date, he said, he had done nothing more than warn the faithful "that if they sinned—they should go to confession." Father Maisonet insisted.

Doña Fela In The Center

The eligibility of Mayor Felisa Rincon de Gautier for the sacrament of communion, and the possible use of sanctions including excommunication against publicly defiant Populares, has been the focus of the running battle between the Catholic Church and the Popular Democratic Party.

Meanwhile, the Jesuit priest who reportedly heard the confession of the Mayor last Friday flatly refused comment on the supposed absolution.

Asked if in his opinion Catholics who voted Popular did in fact commit sin and therefore must "repent" Father Jose Ballesteres replied that the "Pastoral letters speak for themselves."

The Mayor's reported confession, which was not confirmed nor denied by Father Ballesteres, allegedly took place at the



ARCHBISHOP DAVIS
... vote not punishable



FATHER MAISONET
... sees no conflict