

M E M O R A N D U M

September 27, 1978

TO: NFPC Council Presidents, Justice and Peace Committee Chairpersons
FROM: Rev. Thomas Peyton, MM, Director, NFPC Ministry for Justice and Peace
SUBJECT: NFPC Convocation on Ministry to the Undocumented - Nov. 6-9, 1978

The Convocation on Ministry to the Undocumented called for by the 1978 House of Delegates is set and ready to go.

Place: El Paso, Texas, Plaza Hotel. Date: November 6-9, 1978.

The House of Delegates' directives have been followed in the preparation of this convocation. Due to the urgency of the issue, the earliest possible date has been set to allow for the contacting of participants. The agenda was designed after consultation with priests' councils along the border. Invitations are being sent, however, to councils throughout the United States.

Bishop Flores, our host, USCC Migration and Refugee Services and the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, and other key resource groups and persons are most eager to work with priests' councils on this issue. The input of all concerned will both develop greater insight and enable the formation of "Action Steps" that can assist priests' councils and their priest constituents to contribute to the solution of the problems that surround the undocumented.

Would you please take action now to do the following:

1. Appoint a representative of the priests' council to attend the convocation.
2. Alert other interested persons or groups to the convocation. Those ministering to the undocumented are especially welcome.
3. Arrange for council or diocesan funding to cover expenses.

Total expenses in El Paso should not exceed \$100 per person. Hotel Plaza rooms are \$15 single and \$19 double/twin. Those persons coming alone to the convocation who would wish to share a double room for economic reasons with another attendee are asked to make that indication when making reservations with the hotel. The hotel reservations personnel will arrange for these accommodations. Reasonable meals are available in the hotel cafe and at nearby restaurants.

There is limousine service from the airport to downtown (hotel location). The fare is \$2.50.

Enclosures: Registration Form
Program Description*

*A finalized agenda and study materials will be sent to all registrants upon receipt of their registrations in this office.

Priests/USA

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRIESTS' COUNCILS
1307 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605
TELEPHONE 312 / 427-0115
REVEREND JAMES RATIGAN, PRESIDENT

P R O G R A M

Monday - November 6

8:00 PM

Keynote Address - Bishop Patrick Flores, El Paso, Texas
Surfacing further agenda; followed by a "get-acquainted"
period

Tuesday - November 7

9:00 AM

Input this day will cover the following areas:

Pastoral Theology for Ministry to the Undocumented
Rev. Allan Deck, S.J., Santa Ana, CA

Grass-roots Organizing for Advocacy

Mr. Herman Boca, Committee on Chicano Rights,
San Diego, CA

12:00 Noon

Lunch

1:30 PM

Continuation of morning program:

Border Economics

Dr. Oscar J. Martinez, University of Texas, El Paso

Dr. Jorge Bustamente, University of Mexico
Mexico City, D.F. (tentative)

Legislation

USCC Migration Refugee Services, Washington, D.C.
(Speaker to be announced)

6:00 PM

Dinner

8:00 PM

The evening will feature dialogue with Bishops from the
United States and Mexico (participants to be announced)

Wednesday - November 9

9:00 AM

Much of this day will be devoted to learning what kind
of "models of ministry" exist in the U.S. on behalf of
the undocumented

Mr. L. A. Velarde, Jr., Director, Southwest Regional
Office of USCC Migration and Refugee Services

Models of Community Outreach

Models of Ministry (from various sections of the
country)

(See other side)

Wednesday - NOVEMBER 8 (cont'd.)

12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:30 PM	Small Group Process will begin to evaluate input in terms of "Action Steps" for priests' councils
4:30 PM	Liturgy
6:00 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM	"Labor Issues" will be the subject of the evening session. Input from: United Farmworkers, Texas Farmworkers, Labor for Latin American Advancement, U.S. Immigration Department

Thursday - November 9

9:00 AM	Small Groups will complete process of developing "Action Steps" and strategies for their implementation
	Ratification of "Action Steps" by participants
12:00 Noon	Adjournment

REGISTRATION FORM

CONVOCATION ON MINISTRY TO THE UNDOCUMENTED

PLAZA HOTEL
OREGON AND MILLS STREETS
EL PASO, TEXAS 79949
(915) 532-5661

NOVEMBER 6-9, 1978

COUNCIL NAME _____
REPRESENTATIVE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please register the following person(s) who will attend the Convocation from our area in addition to our council representative:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Registration Fee: \$25 per person. Check for \$ _____ enclosed.

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM TO: National Federation of Priests' Councils
1307 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605

* * * * *

Room reservations for the Plaza Hotel should be made directly with the hotel.
Single: \$15.00 Double/Twin: \$19.00 (See address above.)

CONVOCAATION ON MINISTRY TO THE UNDOCUMENTED

EL PASO, TEXAS

AGENDA*

Monday, November 6th

- 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. -- Review of Agenda - Rev. Tom Peyton, MM
NFPC Dir. of Ministry
For Justice and Peace
- 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. -- "Problems of Two Cities" (El Paso, TX and
Juarez, MX) - Slide presentation by Mr.
Nestor Valencia, Office of Federal Grants
For El Paso.
- 9:30 p.m. -- "Get Acquainted Social"

Tuesday, November 7th

- 8:45 a.m. -- Opening Prayer and Overview
Rev. James Ratigan, President N.F.P.C.
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. -- Keynote Address - Most Rev. Patrick Flores, D.
Bishop of El Paso
- 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. -- "Pastoral Theology For Ministry to the
Undocumented" - Rev. Allan Deck, S.J.
Centro Pastoral Guadalupe, Santa Ana, CA
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. -- *BREAK*
- 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. -- "Grass Roots Organizing For Advocacy" -
Mr. Herman Baca, Committee on Chicano Rights
National City California
- 11:45 - 1:30 p.m. -- *LUNCH*
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. -- "Border Economics" - Dr. Oscar J. Martinez
University of Texas, El Paso.
- 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. -- "Legislation" - Mr. Donald G. Hohl Assoc. Dir.
Office of Migration and Regugee Services,
USCC, Washington, D.C.
- 3:45 - 4:00 p.m. -- *BREAK*
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. -- "I.N.S. Outreach Services" - Mr. E.B. Duarte
Dir. For Outreach, I.N.S. Washington, D.C.
- 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. -- *SUPPER*
- 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. -- "Official Church Policies - Discussion to
to be led by Most Rev. Rene H. Gracida, D.D.
Bishop of Tallahassee - Pensacola, Chairman
of NCCB Committee on Tourism and Migration
- 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. -- "Legal Justice Toward The Undocumented"
Mexican Council General & U.S. Immigration
Judge.

(OVER)

*ALL SESSIONS ARE DESIGNED TO ALLOW FOR QUESTIONS AND PARTICIPATION. TIME LINES ARE FLEXIBLE TO MEET NEEDS OF GROUPS...

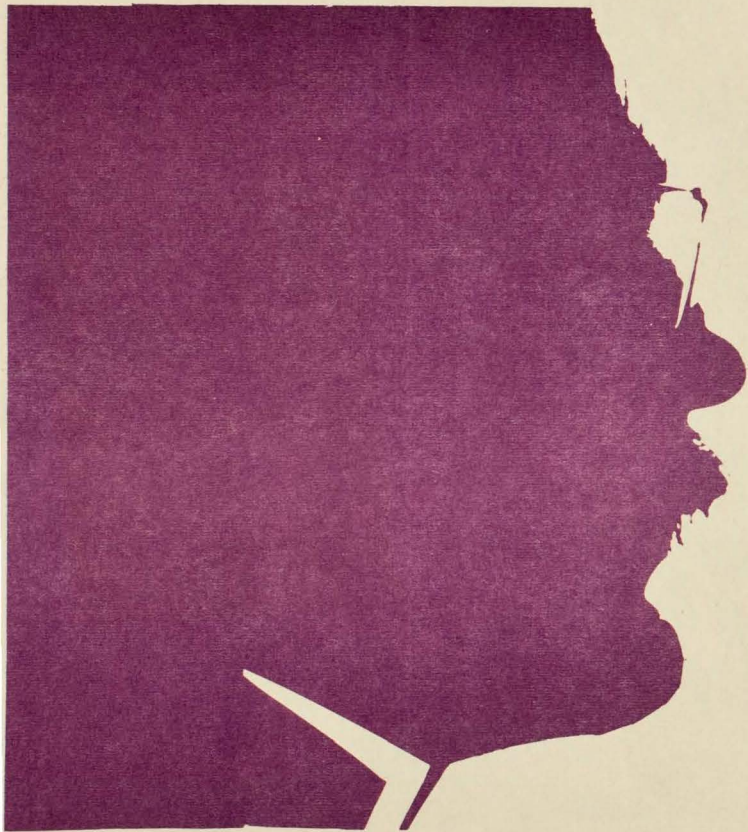
Wednesday, November 8th

- 8:45 a.m. -- Opening Prayer and Overview
- 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. -- "Parish Outreach To The Undocumented - Movie and presentation by Mr. L.A. Velarde, J Director, USCC Southwest Regional Office For Migration and Refugee Services
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. -- BREAK
- 10:30 - 12:00 noon -- "Models of Ministry"
- a. Ecumenical Team-Rev. Frank Riley, OSA San Ysidro, CA.
 - b. Local Counseling and Advocacy Center Margo Cowan, Tucson, AZ
 - c. "Undocumented Parish" Rev. Alphonse Gallegos, OAR, Los Angeles
 - d. "Special School For Undocumented" Rev. Ed. Salazar, S.J. Houston, TX
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. -- LUNCH
- 1:00 p.m. -- BOARD BUSES
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. -- A special tour to include viewing: The Rio Grande River, the "black bridge", the "new" border fence, immigration port of entry, the border highway, and the facilities for those awaiting hearings. Detention
- 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. -- BREAK
- 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. -- "Labor Issues - Labor organizers will be present to discuss points of view.(UFW, TFW)
- 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. -- SUPPER
- 8:00 p.m. -- Convocation Liturgy - arranged by Rev. Robert Calles, President of the Priests' Council of El Paso, TX
- 9:30 - 10:00 p.m. -- Small Group Meetings to "brain storm" action steps.

Thursday, November 9th

- 8:30 a.m. -- Opening Prayer and Overview
- 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. -- Reports from different areas of U.S. Northwest, West Coast, Midwest, Northeast.
- 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. -- Reports of small groups
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. -- BREAK
- 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. -- Consensus process to prioritize and accept action steps.
- NOON -- DISMISSAL OF CONVOCATION

NFPC RESOURCE TOOLS

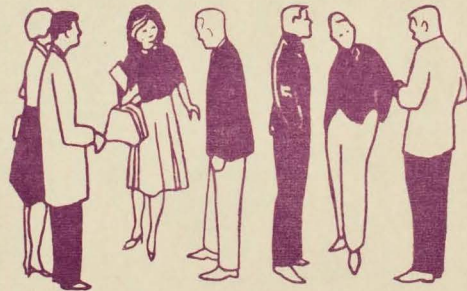


PRIESTS/USA

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THE NATIONAL FEDERATION
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Priests/USA

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1307 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605

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Members of affiliated councils may deduct a 20% discount.

Name your council _____

The official tabloid of the federation, **Priests/USA**, appears monthly presenting models of effective ministry, council notes, and creative articles focusing on the outstanding work of priests and priests' councils throughout the nation. No other newspaper has been so specifically designed to keep priests informed and alerted to trends and events in the ministerial processes in the U.S. While maintaining its character as a communicator among priests, the paper has extended its scope to include a variety of ministries as each relates to the role of the presbyter. Each issue includes:

- news which is specifically related to priests.
- articles and reports related to current work and issues of priests' councils.
- special focus on j/p ministries and models of service.
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- presentations from ParishEvaluation Project regarding parochial renewal.
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summary report of Local Council Effectiveness Study compiled from results of a survey of attitudes on how council presidents, NFPC House of Delegates, and priest constituents feel about their local council.

GAME

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card game for parish councils. Enables parish to set priorities for pastor or team. One game accommodates 10 persons.

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prepared by the NFPC Ministry for Justice and Peace, with grassroots input from urban ministers throughout the U.S.

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A. Shared Responsibility in the Local Church
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all of the above listings; a complete set.
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a variety of ministers speak of their role and service to the Church; presentations from a bishop, permanent deacon, Brother, Sister and layman.

Priest denies smuggling *10/19/78*

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A parish priest accused of flying three illegal aliens into the United States for \$300 has pleaded innocent to smuggling charges.

The Rev. Luis Tomich, a citizen of Columbia who became a U.S. citizen last month, is an assistant pastor at St. Linus Roman Catholic Church in suburban Norwalk. He was arrested Oct. 4 by federal agents at Fullerton Airport.

Tribune

priests usa

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRIESTS' COUNCILS MAGAZINE

VOL. IX NO. 2

SEPTEMBER 1978

U.S. - A Mission Territory

RETURNED MISSIONARIES DESCRIBE THE UNITED STATES AS MISSION TERRITORY

KANSAS CITY, KS—Thirty diocesan priests who have served part of their priestly ministry outside the United States began a meeting the past August 22 to discuss their common ideas and experiences with a general consensus that the United States was a mission territory in need of evangelization. The meeting, convened by the National Federal of Priests' Councils, took place at Savior of the World Seminary, Kansas City, KS.

The former missionaries from twenty-two dioceses in the United States, have served in various dioceses of Central and South America as well as Africa and the Philippines. Their length of missionary ministry ranged from one year to twelve. All have returned to the United States for reassignment in their home dioceses. They were invited by the NFPC to come together to share their experiences as missionaries, their vision of the future, and the problems they confronted upon reentry to ministry in the United States.

In his welcoming remarks, Archbishop Ignatius Strecker of Kansas City, KS, invited the priests to "speak to us of justice and make us aware of injustice" in our relations with mission countries. He reminded the priests of the unique gift that their experience afforded them—a gift of vision. He added,

One Church: Urban & Rural

A complaint which one hears from time to time is that the Church is more interested in urban areas and urban people than about rural areas and farm people. In a recent issue of *Our Sunday Visitor*, author Catherine M. Anthony focuses on the problem in an enlightening article entitled "Problems and Promises for the Rural Church." She quotes Father Gerald Foley of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference as commenting: "I would say that we've neglected the rural Church to the extent that we see ourselves almost exclusively as an urban Church." In her article Anthony focuses primarily in the current priest-personnel problems facing the rural Church.

however, that gift carries with it its own responsibility—the responsibility to raise the awareness level of American Catholics of the need for justice and the reality of injustice.

In his keynote address, Father Davignon, a priest of the Diocese of Burlington, VT. a former missionary in Peru, reminded the priests of a need for "reverse mission", a process by which they return to the United States to communicate their missionary experiences to the American people with a special emphasis on the need for justice. Stressing the fact that human development and evangelization go together, Father Davignon called for a bridging of the gulf between rich and poor nations, prophetic and critical activity on the part of the American Church, and an evangelical priority toward the poor of the world.

To facilitate their pastoral reflections for the duration of their meeting, Father Davignon offered the following theological and missiological implications:

1) The need of a discernment of the saving action of the God of history in the events and struggles and growths and revolutions implied in the creation of the New Faith.

2) A critique of the social fabric of all the traditions, institutions, practices, attitudes, values and ideologies in the light of the Gospel and in the searchlight of Jesus' understanding of human existence.

3) The centrality of the person, created by God and spirited by Christ, and the person-in-community as the norm and criterion by which things and events are weighed, judged, and valued.

4) The rights of the common man are an essential part of the gospel mission since each person is a source of creative thought made to the Image of God as well as a responsible subject and co-author of history.

5) A prophetic stance amidst the global quest for a meaningful life and fraternal world as a proclamation and sign of the New Humanity and everyone's responsibility to shoulder the task of building the earth.

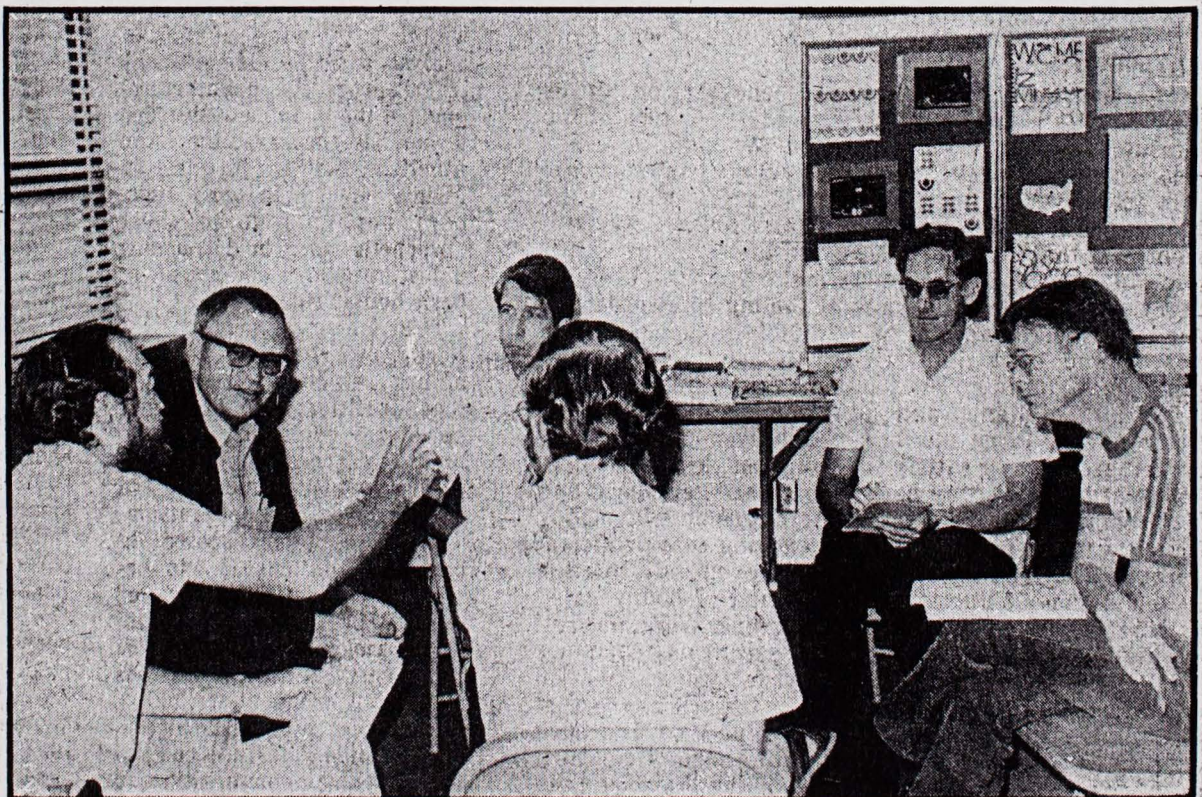
6) An integration of the social justice and peace dimensions of our ministry which may require a confrontation with the social, political, economic and dominating forces of our times in order not only to express a bias for the poor but also to live poorly and act accordingly.

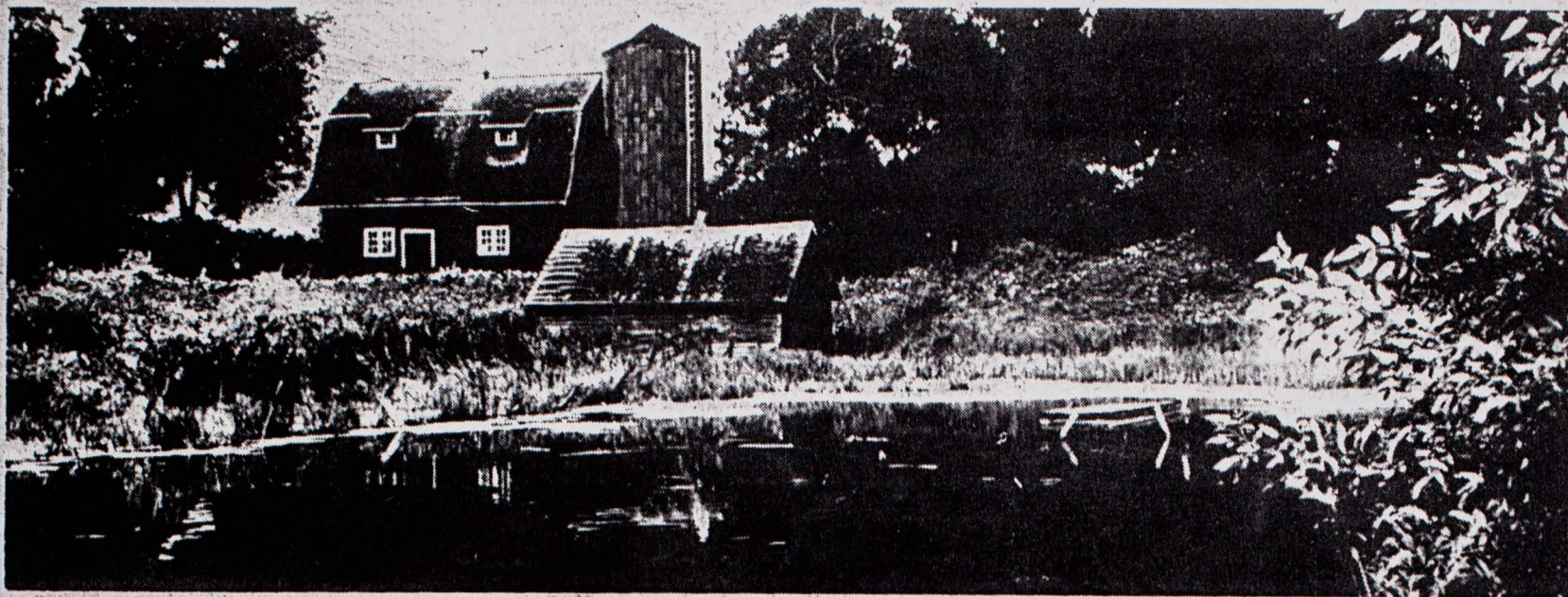
7) A search to consolidate and align our collective, life-giving experiences, a gift of God from the underside of history, to seek out the causes of poverty, oppression, exploitation and domination and then address the institutional and structural problems which continue them.

8) A renewed dedication to the contemplative forms of missionary presence in all areas of the world based upon the reality of Christ's saving grace which transforms the whole person, the whole of society and the whole of creation.

9) The development of small basic Christian communities for a shared faith experience, deeper interpersonal relations, and the formation of a dynamic, gospel-oriented concern for the needs of others and the world.

In comments afterward, the former missionaries echoed Father Davignon's emphasis upon the need for human development. Church, government and corporate structure have to be changed to prevent the manipulating and dehumanization of the poor of the world. To do this, they recommended a concerted mission approach to the United States.





"The city is a mentality and image, for it casts its stamp upon contemporary life wherever it is found, and it holds dominance in everyone's life, even the most remote farmer. For his crop, his sustenance, his market and his very land will be more determined by urban decisions than by the impersonal elements of weather."

From "Hear The Cry of Jerusalem",
NFPC Urban Pastoral Statement

One Church: Urban and Rural

(Continued from page 1)

Priest distribution and clerical rural ministry is only one of many problems facing rural Catholics, however. The National Catholic Rural Life Conference was founded in 1923 as a service agency for the Catholic Church in rural America. Over the years it has sponsored a variety of programs to assist the Church in its ministry to rural people, as well as to bring rural and natural resource problems to the attention of national leaders in Church and government.

A basic problem facing farmers and rural people, generally, is the current economic plight. In a letter to other bishops the past March, Des Moines Ordinary, Bishop Maurice Dingman stated: "While our producers are being driven from the land because of the so-called surplus, people throughout the world starve." The president of NCRLC continued: "We hope that by prayer and education we can move people to question the systems of land ownership and food production and distribution within the U.S.A. and around the world. Systems that have caused hunger in other parts of the world threaten to bring that kind of oppression to our own country . . . The injustice to our producers as well as to many consumers including the starving are obvious."

Family farming is generally considered one of the few sectors of the American economy which is still highly competitive. The industries from which farmers buy their inputs and to which farmers sell their crops are much less competitive. Tractors, fertilizers and seeds tend to be produced and sold by a few major firms which can manage their prices in order to keep pace with their costs. Food processors and distributors are also comparatively few in number and can keep the prices they pay for farm produce low enough to protect their profits. The consequence of this structure has not been good for the farmer. While the prices farmers' pay have gone up 203% since

1967, the prices they receive have gone up only 182%. Whereas food producers and retailers have enjoyed an average return to equity over the past 25 years of more than 20%, farmers' return to equity has barely averaged 4.

Pope John XXIII, in his encyclical *MATER ET MAGISTRA*, urged farmers to "join together in fellowship, especially when the family itself works the farm." "Indeed," he said, "it is proper for rural workers to have a sense of solidarity. They should strive jointly to set up mutual-aid societies and professional associations."

Another basic problem facing rural persons is that of ecology. The traditional stewards of natural resources have been the farmers and other rural people who make their living from the land. In today's world, great demands on our resources are coming from cities. Urban expansion annually absorbs around 750,000 acres of land, usually good farm land. Highways annually require more than 100,000 acres of land. Water for household and industrial uses is competing with irrigation for limited surface and underground water supplies.

Preserving top soil and stewarding land and water can be costly. The essential terraces and water catchments are expensive to install. It is not reasonable or just to expect farmers alone to bear those costs. Preserving our resources is a social responsibility and so the costs must be borne by all of society.

Because of all of these difficulties farm folks are moving into the city. One of the greatest migrations in human history has been the movement of rural people off the land and into the cities of America. Our farm land is moving into the hands of a few people. Today in the U.S. more than half of our farmland is owned by only 5.5% of our farmers. Millions of acres of productive land is held and managed by a handful of energy companies, timber companies and railroads.

The dramatic strike of the farmers conducted the past Spring did help to get the attention of legislators, USDA officials and traditional farm organization leaders. It also created a consumer awareness of the farmers plight, and provided the farmer a forum to air his grievances. Much more has to be done.

(Continued on page 7)

Convocation Regarding Undocumented

The past March 1978 House of Delegates convocation passed a resolution calling for "a meeting of priests' councils along the U.S.-Mexican border along with other interested priests' councils to discuss . . . and to make recommendations (concerning) the problems of undocumented aliens."

This "Convocation on the Undocumented" has been set for the coming Nov. 6-9 in El Paso, TX. Bishop Patrick Flores will present the keynote address at the meeting site, the Plaza Hotel. The Southwest Regional Office for Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Catholic Conference, along with the National Secretariat for the Spanish Speaking will also participate and share insights during the convocation program.

A committee of the Priests' Senate of San Diego (the NFPC affiliated council which originated the resolution) has been developing the agenda after consultation with other border councils. This consultation has taken place by mail, first of all, and through visitations conducted the past July by the NFPC Director of Ministry for Justice and Peace, Maryknoll Father Thomas Peyton. The consultation process has centered on this question: "What can be done by priests' councils and parishes to address the issue of undocumented migration, especially as it relates to the situation of the U.S.-Mexican border?"

So-called "input sessions" of the November meeting will focus on pastoral/theological perspectives, grassroots organizing, and legal/legislative aspects of the situation. Official Church positions and programs for both the U.S. and Mexico will also be presented. A special session will include pastoral models of ministry that are currently meeting the needs of the Undocumented. Small group sessions will develop "action steps" to be ratified by the entire assembly.

In the near future, invitations and registration materials will be sent to all NFPC councils. It is hoped by the conveners that all interested councils will plan to send representatives along with other interested persons who could profit from the experience and planning of the convocation. Expenses for the meeting . . . room, board, and registration . . . will not exceed one hundred dollars.

priests usa

'Priests-USA' is a monthly news publication of the National Federation of Priests' Councils. Editorial correspondence should be directed to the Office of the Publisher: 'Priests-USA,' 1307 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60605

Rev. James Rutigan
Mr. Thomas Hull

Publisher
Editor

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...then new children. The pastor and
people retreated from each other.
But at the same time both were
becoming aware of each other's
needs and expectations. This time
of frustration and confusion had
within it the seeds of new hope and
promise of life. There followed the
year of renaissance.

THE RENAISSANCE. One rea-
son for the change was what was
happening to the pastor himself.
He had been attending classes at
Loyola University's Pastoral Insti-
tute and McCormick Theological
Seminary in Chicago. He acquired
skill in how to do effective parish
palnning, how to deal with conflict,
and how to be more sensitive to

Rural Church.....

(Continued from page 4)

In order for councils of priests
to "get a handle" on the situation
the Seattle House of Delegates
convocation of the NFPC resolved
the past March to convene a
meeting of representatives of
priests' councils whose dioceses
share the problem of the small,
family operated farms in the U.S.

The constituency of the federa-
tion, which has a history of con-
cern for rural people, has worked
with the NCRLC over the years
and conducted Rural Life Minis-
try workshops throughout the
U.S. In 1977 the federation con-

ducted a seminar to assist with
the implementation of the Bish-
ops' Pastoral, "This Land is
Home to Me", a ministerial re-
sponse to the needs of Appalachi-
an persons. Now because of such
factors as the concern over world
hunger, the important and unique
role of the farmer in society, the
suffering and depression which
farmers are experiencing, and in
order to support cooperative
movements among farmers, the
federation is attempting to dem-
onstrate both concern and action.
The rural Church is an important
part of the whole Church.