

For Immediate Release

The Ecumenical Committee of the Convocation On Ministry To The Undocumented is here today to reaffirm a previous resolution passed by the Convocation that condemned the construction of the fence ("Tortilla Curtain") or any other human or electronic barriers between the U.S. and Mexico.

We also wish to use this occasion to announce a national boycott of those contractors and companies which are involved in any way with the construction of or supplying of materials and to call for public nation-wide manifestations of disapproval, especially at the three construction sites. It is this militarization of the border region that is cause of the violence which we deplore.

Telegrams have been sent by Convocation participants to President Carter, Attorney General Bell, and Secretary of State Vance urging that monies already appropriated be denied this ineffective plan and that these fences be immediately cancelled and that appropriated monies be re-allocated for the INS Outreach services rather than enforcement.

This Ecumenical Committee has been engaged in planning a follow-up meeting of the Convocation to take place in San Diego the first week of October, 1979. This meeting will enlarge the base of participation to include various regional, state, and national religious bodies as well as church people from Mexico. Last November the Convocation On Ministry To The Undocumented met in El Paso, Tx., to sensitize participants to the various human needs of the undocumented workers and present legislative policy. At that time the participants from 23 states and Mexico pledged themselves to develop "ideal legislation" and other action pertaining to the basic human rights and dignity of the undocumented persons.

Committee Members:

Rev. Richard Miller - Hispanic Community Ministry, Lutheran Church (Tucson)
 Rev. Tom Peyton, M.M. - Dir., Ministry For Justice and Peace (National Federation of
 Rev. Francis X. Riley, O.S.A., Director, Centro de Asuntos Migratorios (San Diego) (Chicago)
 Marco Antonio Rodriguez - American Friends Service Committee (San Diego)
 Rev. Frank Sierra - Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (San Diego)
 Rev. Henry Wasielewski - Catholic Ministry to Farm Workers (Phoenix)
 Rev. Cuchulain Moriarty - Social Justice Commission (San Francisco)

Junio 3, 1979

Publicacion para la Prensa
Publicacion Inmediata

El Comité Ecuménico de la Convocación está aquí ahora para reafirmar las resoluciones anteriores para condenar la construcción del cerco o "Cortina Tortilla" o alguna otra forma humana, barrera electrónica entre los E.U.A. y México.

También nosotros deseamos en esta ocasión anunciar un "boycot" nacional a los contratistas y compañías que están involucradas en cualquier forma con la construcción o con la suministración de materiales, hacemos un amplio llamado nacional, especialmente en los tres lugares para construcción. Esto es una militarización de la región en la frontera que es causa de violencia la cual deploramos.

Por medio de los participantes de la Convocación se le han enviado telegramas al Presidente Carter, al Procurador de Justicia Bell, y Secretario del Estado Vance urgiendo que ese dinero que ya ha sido apropiado sea negado para este plan ineficaz sea cancelado inmediatamente y este dinero en vez de usarse en el ya mencionado cercado sería conveniente asignarlo para servicios sociales en vez de ejecutar el plan antes mencionado.

El Comité Ecuménico se ha comprometido en planear un encuentro o reunión de Convocación que se llevara a cabo en San Diego la primera semana del mes de octubre 1979. Estas reuniones serán para aumentar la base de la participación que incluya varios sectores regionales, como del estado nacional, de grupos religiosos como representantes de la iglesia de México. En el mes de noviembre del año pasado, la Convocación en el Ministerio de los indocumentados se reunieron en El Paso, Texas para sensibilizar a los participantes de las varias necesidades humanas de los trabajadores indocumentados en la presente poliza legislativa.

En ese tiempo los participantes de 23 estados y México juraron desarrollar una "legislación más justa" y tomar otra acción que fuera basada en los derechos humanos y la dignidad hacia las personas indocumentadas.

Miembros del Comité:

Rev. Richard Miller - Hispanic Community Ministry, Lutheran Church (Tucson)
Rev. Tom Peyton, M.M. - Dir., Ministry for Justice and Peace (National Federation of Priests Councils) (Chicago)
Rev. Francis X. Riley, O.S.A., Director, Centro de Asuntos Migratorios (San Diego)
Marco Antonio Rodríguez - American Friends Service Committee (San Diego)
Rev. Frank Sierra - Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (San Diego)
Rev. Henry Wasielewski - Catholic Ministry to Farm Workers (Phoenix)
Rev. Cuchulain Moriarty - Social Justice Commission (San Francisco)

STRATEGIES

- A. Study present models, e.g. Bert Corona in L.A.
- B. Write a "how to" paper on how to establish a system similar to the one in L.A. in your own area (Responsible person - Bro. Armando, F.S.C.)
- C. Contact Jim West for production and distribution through the Ecumenical Task Force.

OBJECTIVE II

To check on facilities where detainees are held awaiting deportation, e.g. "monitoring" teams, volunteer service visiting teams, etc.

STRATEGIES

- A. Check on present models, e.g. Phoenix
- B. Prepare a "how to" paper for establishing a similar program in your area (Responsible persons: Sister Joyce Blum and Rev. Henry Wasielewski)
- C. Contact Jim West and Richard Miller for production and distribution.

GOAL II

To provide education for the Undocumented regarding their rights and options.

OBJECTIVE I

To develop an information card - in Spanish - regarding the rights of undocumented persons.

STRATEGIES

- A. Obtain a "model" card from Manzo Area Council (Margo Cowan)
- B. Develop a proposal for a card that can be used in other areas (Responsible persons: Jim West and Margo Cowan)
- C. Contact Jim West and Richard Miller for production and distribution.

OBJECTIVE II

Within 25 days to develop a position paper on 1980 Census. (Responsible persons: Bro. Armando, Dennis Berry in conjunction with Rev. John Wagner, Lutheran Social Services, L.A.). Contact Richard Miller for immediate production and distribution).

OBJECTIVE III

To publish a common ecumenical service book on the theme of the undocumented in order to help raise consciousness.

STRATEGY

The Ecumenical Task Force should consider the feasibility of such a project.

RESOLUTION

That the undocumented from countries such as Guatemala and El Salvador, where severe repression exists, be given the option of requesting asylum in the U.S.

STRATEGIES

- A. Follow strategies for Objective I,
- B. Through Center For Migration Studies, seek to have the above issues made part of their "annual labor meeting."
- C. Through the Ecumenical Network seek to have the above issues made part of local church-labor dialogue and church-community organization dialogue.

OBJECTIVE III

To eliminate the possibilities of any type of "cheap labor pool" operating in the U.S. through the establishment of a Just Federal Minimum Wage that would set the federal hourly minimum wage for adults on the basis of the "lower budget living index" for a family of four, published annually by the Dept. of Labor, the lowest government index that includes provision for adequate nutrition, rather than at the below-poverty level at which the rate is now set, so that adults working full-time would not need to seek welfare in order to decently feed and support their families.

STRATEGIES

- A. Seek to use the Ecumenical Network and national communications clearing-house as outlined in strategies for Objectives I & II.
- B. Promotion for such a just federal minimum wage should stress human rights, the U.N. Charter, the relationship of a wage to family needs, and the fact that a healthy economy does not require the existence of a lower class of workers paid poverty level wages.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. That the Ecumenical Convocation through its collaboration with Center for Migration Studies continue to promote study of the Multinational Corporations - their impact on the economic conditions of developing countries, ways of providing international control of Multinational Corporations in relation to the "new economic order".
- B. That the Ecumenical Convocation use its network to have church bodies
 - 1. support legitimate union organizing efforts among all farm workers, garment workers and other low paid workers, regardless of legal status;
 - 2. promote legislation that will facilitate collective bargaining for all workers, regardless of legal status; and
 - 3. seek to repeal the 14B ("right to work) provision of the Taft-Hartley Act.

IV. "Detainees and Deportation - Advocacy For the Undocumented"

GOAL I

To provide advocacy for the rights of undocumented workers in situations of detaining and deportation.

OBJECTIVE I

To provide "Hotline Help" - a telephone number that detainees can call.

- D. That Ecumenical Convocation participants be encouraged to organize local, regional ecumenical groups to educate and train people for ministry with the Undocumented.
- E. In cooperation with the Center For Migration Studies, to circulate a "working immigration proposal" for study and input from grass roots communities, which proposal will be presented to the Special Commission on Immigration and Refugee policy as "recommended ideal legislation." Nivita Riley-Youthment will take responsibility for this resolution.

III. "H-2 and Organizing Among the Undocumented"

GOAL

To protect all domestic workers and to prevent exploitation of workers - documented and undocumented.

OBJECTIVE I

To oppose and seek repeal of the H-2 provision of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952 on the basis that alien workers do not have the same freedom or opportunity to organize and negotiate for wages and working conditions, that the U.S. Dept. of Labor lacks adequate monitoring and enforcement of H-2 provisions, and that the availability of workers is primarily a function of decent wages and working conditions.

STRATEGIES

- A. Through the Ecumenical Network seek to have national church bodies endorse repeal of the H-2 program.
- B. Through the Ecumenical network seek to have local and regional church bodies and priests' councils endorse the repeal of the H-2 provision and contact their respective congresspersons to inform them of their opposition to H-2.
- C. Use the "national communications clearinghouse" (Center for Migration Studies) to promote broader opposition to the H-2 provision (cf. Nivita Riley-Youthment and bimonthly column).

OBJECTIVE II

Until the H-2 provisions have been repealed, the Ecumenical Convocation should call upon government to stringently protect the jobs of domestic workers in such a manner that:

1. standards for decent working and living for all workers are set;
2. adequate monitoring and enforcement of the above standards be established;
3. laws and regulations be changed to require wages commensurate with wages paid union workers in the affected industries rather than below poverty-level "adverse effect wage rate" now required;
4. H-2 workers have the right to unionize and strike for just treatment without fear or threat of deportation; and that stricter penalties and sentences be handed out to employers who violate required wages and working conditions.

4. Persons under duress should be given priority ("duress"= economic, political, natural disaster)
5. Consideration should be given to the new economic order in relation to immigration.
6. Skills and labor pools of donor and recipient nations should be protected in a balanced and just manner.
7. All residents should be subject to and protected by the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.
8. U.S. Borders should remain unmilitarized.

STRATEGIES

- A. The above principles should be promoted in the same fashion and through the same networks as listed in the strategies for Objective I.
- B. In January of 1980, Frank Riley and Aurora Schmidt of the Ecumenical Convocation will meet with the Center for Migration Studies on the above two objectives as well as investigate the possibilities for a "Conference on the Theology of Immigration."

II. "Building Ecumenical Coalitions for Human Service to the Undocumented."

RESOLUTIONS

- A. That Nivita Riley-Youthment (ACCORD, 6826 E. Kiami, Phoenix, AZ 85715) become the "editor" for the bi-monthly column in Migration Today to be assembled from materials sent her by members of the Ecumenical Network - which materials should include the "action steps" of this present Ecumenical Convocation.
- B. That the Center For Migration Studies, Staten Island, NY be designated as the recognized "national communication clearinghouse" for matters concerning the undocumented workers. All source materials and information should be sent to the Center by members of the Ecumenical Network. Moreover, this Ecumenical Convocation will promote ecumenical support and distribution of the magazine, Migration Today.
- C. That an Ecumenical Task Force be constituted by this Ecumenical Convocation to be charged with the following tasks:
 1. Plan a "third step" convocation that will be bi-national (Mexico-U.S.)
 2. Consider inclusion of the following as participants: organized labor, Black labor leaders, undocumented workers, Jewish community and Asian community members.

Task force membership will come initially from the Ecumenical Convocation but it will be expanded as the network grows. The convenor of the Task Force will be Richard Miller. If interested, please contact Richard.

2. Recognizing the ongoing need for remedial law for those undocumented aliens who work and contribute to the well-being of this nation, all aliens otherwise eligible for lawful, permanent residence, who have resided continuously in the U.S. for a minimum of seven years, will be invited to come forward and be registered as lawful permanent residents.

C. Justification for the above components.

1. The U.S. has proclaimed 1980 as the year of the family. Family reunification is proclaimed as one of the guiding principles of U.S. immigration law. Justice demands that an immediate change be made in the law to recognize that immediacy of family relationships should not be determined by the nationality status of family members already in the U.S.
2. It is in the best interests of the U.S., for the sake of equitable treatment of persons, for the elimination of the exploitation of all workers in this nation, to allow for the uncomplicated registry of all undocumented people in the U.S.

STRATEGIES

- A. The Ecumenical network members should present the above two components to the governing boards (or appropriate bodies) of their respective churches - as well as local and regional church organizations working with foreign-born communities - and seek their endorsement and support for immediate enactment into law.
- B. Seek to have local ecumenical networks and/or task forces make contact with local senators and representatives to push for the immediate enactment into law of the above two components without waiting for the report of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy.
- C. Seek to gain support for the above from all local organizations involved with foreign-born communities.
- D. Seek a "policy declaration" from all proclaimed candidates in the 1980 elections.
- E. Ecumenical Network members should report back to their contact with the national clearinghouse (Nivita Riley-Youthment, cf. report of Ecumenical Working Group)

OBJECTIVE II

Since immigration laws and policies reflect some basic principles, philosophy etc., it is important for church groups to articulate the principles they would like immigration laws and policy to be based upon along with their theological basis. This Ecumenical Convocation agrees to the following basic principles:

1. Dignity of individual should be protected.
2. Basic Family Unit should be protected.
3. Right of the individual to seek a better life should be protected.

REPORT OF ECUMENICAL CONVOCATION ON MINISTRY
WITH THE UNDOCUMENTED
San Diego, CA October 8-10, 1979 U.S. Grant Hotel

The Ecumenical Convocation was composed of five working groups who developed and accepted "action steps" in the form of "Goals and Objectives" and "Resolutions". The following are those "action steps" listed under their respective working groups.

I. "Essential Components of a Just Immigration Law and Policy."

GOAL

Whereas church groups in the U.S. have historically been deeply involved in the defense of immigrants and have played a significant role in the promotion of immigration laws that protect the right to immigrate for legitimate reasons and other concerns of immigrants - this Ecumenical Convocation, which is an outgrowth of other meetings regarding the plight of the undocumented in the U.S., feels that the present immigration laws and policies do not reflect the major concern of Church groups regarding the Undocumented and should therefore be changed.

OBJECTIVE I

Realizing that some legislative changes may be possible within the near future only if they are presented in negotiable, practical and political terms, church groups should be willing to support some legislative changes expressed in these terms:

- A. Those seeking to immigrate to the U.S.
 1. The spouses and minor, unmarried children of lawful, permanent residents should be granted the same opportunity for admission to the U.S. as is given their counterparts who are U.S. citizens, i.e., without regard to numerical limitations.
 2. Certain exclusionary sections of the law, most notably, those sections which impose restrictions based upon education, health and economic states, should not be applied to this new immediate family category of immigrants.
 3. Numerical limitations to immigration must be based on a more realistic view of actual pressures to immigrate to the U.S., including special limits for contiguous territories, recognizing the special relationship of these countries to the U.S.
- B. Toward those seeking to remain in the U.S., having already established undocumented residence in this country.
 1. Recognizing the inequities of the past law and the need to seek control without massive displacement and disruption, all aliens residing in the U.S. without benefit of proper documentation, contributing to the welfare of this nation, as of the date of this bill's enactment, shall be invited to come forward and be registered as lawful permanent residents, without regard to manner of entry or present immigration status.

V. "Demythologizing the Economic Issues Surrounding the Undocumented"

GOAL I

To influence the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy in order that the latter might produce legislative proposals that reflect an understanding of both the effects and the causes of unemployment and underemployment which makes migration necessary across the Mexican-U.S. Border, i.e. industrialization, agribusiness, multinationals, and U.S. foreign policy.

OBJECTIVE I

To facilitate a dialogue between national labor leaders and national church bodies in order that the two groups provide specific input to the Select Commission along the lines indicated in Goal I.

STRATEGIES

- A. Through the Ecumenical Network, have members identify leaders in their own church bodies who would be interested in participating in the above dialogue.
- B. Contact sympathetic national labor leaders. (cf. Center For Migration Studies, Dr. Norris Clement)
- C. Consult with Center For Migration Studies concerning the possibility of accomplishing the above meeting at their annual labor conference.
- D. Special effort should be made at any level to involve the undocumented themselves in the above dialogue. The Ecumenical Network could provide contacts or directly surface the concerns of the undocumented.

OBJECTIVE II

To demythologize the issues related to the impact of undocumented workers at the local level, especially in the areas of labor standards, job placement, wage scales, and possible use of undocumented as "strike-breakers".

STRATEGIES

- A. This demythologizing would come about through a process of dialogue involving credible representatives of the undocumented workers such as the UFW and other labor groups organizing among the undocumented, community organizations and advocacy groups (including churches). The purpose of the dialogue which would take place at the local level is to develop a common understanding of this whole complex issue (economic impact of undocumented) with a view which would lend support to immigration reform and the strengthening of the labor movement through organizing among the undocumented.

RESOLUTION

An "Economic Impact Task Force" be established to take responsibility for implementing the above or contacting those persons who are in a position to do so. The task force should also report the outcome of its efforts to the newly established communications clearinghouse (cf. Nivita Riley-Youthment). Present Task Force members:

Diane Nissen, Srs. Rose Davis and Adela, Frs. Allan Deck, (convenor), John Lamont, Henry Wasielewski.

TO: Participants of the Ecumenical Convocation On Ministry With the Undocumented

FROM: Tom Peyton

RE: Convocation Follow-Up

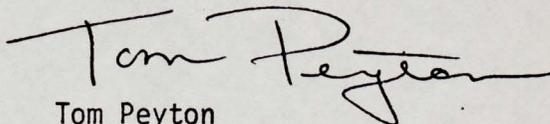
Enclosed you will find a list of participants taken from the registration forms and the action steps. On behalf of the Ecumenical Committee which worked to plan this convocation, I want to thank you for your dedication, work and ecumenism.

As you can see from the action steps, it was a working session. We've given ourselves tasks and we have structures to keep us accountable. Moreover, we are to reconvene in another year. I would urge you to complete those tasks assigned as soon as possible and report your progress as called for.

Our structure is minimal; much will depend upon our own initiative, our own willingness to report, write letters, make phone calls, etc. I believe we have a firm beginning which will grow; I hope you share my belief.

Richard Miller (Ecumenical Task Force), Nivita Riley-Youthment (bimonthly column in Migration Today), and Allan Deck (Economic Impact Task Force) have special need of our communication and assistance, and let's remember to reach out in every way possible to extend the network.

Peace,



Tom Peyton
Ministry for Justice and Peace

Priests/USA

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

TO: ECUMENICAL NETWORK - "ECUMENICAL CONVOCATION ON MINISTRY WITH THE UNDOCUMENTED"
(San Diego, Oct. 8-10, 1979)

RE: "THIRD STEP" Ecumenical Conference

FROM: W. Richard Miller, chairperson - Ecumenical Task Force, Ecumenical Convocation

Resolutions, resulting from two national conferences in Nov. '78 (sponsored respectively by the Lutheran Council In the U.S.A. and the National Federation of Priests' Councils) called for future conferences to be "ecumenical" in nature. Such an ecumenical conference was accomplished in Oct. '79 at the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego. Brothers and sisters from nine Christian denominations, a brother from the Jewish community and several brothers ministering in Mexico were present. Among the "action steps" adopted by this ecumenical gathering was a call for a "third step" conference to further develop and broaden ecumenical support for the rights and welfare of the undocumented.

Recently, Mr. Herman Baca, chairperson of the Committee on Chicano Rights in National City, CA, contacted me to inform me of C.C.R.'s "Chicano National Immigration Conference and Border Memorial March" to take place in San Diego, May 23,24 and 25th. Herman, who participated in both the Lutheran and NFPC conferences as well as the Ecumenical Convocation, considered their forthcoming conference to be a "third step" conference.

Subsequent to reading Herman's conference notice and tentative agenda, I became aware that this conference was indeed very similar in scope to any "third step" conference we would plan next fall. It then occurred to me in my role as chairperson of the Ecumenical Task Force (charged with planning a "third step" meeting) that it would be advantageous to the Ecumenical Network to come together with the Committee on Chicano Rights in the interest of conserving resources and broadening our ecumenical base. I shared these thoughts with Herman Baca, Ken Stumpf and Tom Peyton and we were of one accord that the Ecumenical Network should convene in San Diego, May 23-25 at the "Chicano National Immigration Conference and Border Memorial March".

As an Ecumenical Network we will meet in caucus at designated time periods during these three days. Tom and I and a few others (open to any who wish to come) will meet in Tucson during the week of April 27th to finalize a "caucus agenda". It would obviously include review of the previously adopted goals and action steps and reports by the Ecumenical, Communications Clearinghouse and Economic Impact Task Forces.

Enclosed is a tentative agenda of the Chicano National Immigration conference and a pre-registration form. CCR will handle all the housing, etc. If you have items for the Ecumenical Caucus, then please send them to myself, Tom or Ken. We'll look for you in San Diego!

Rev. W. Richard Miller, chairperson Ecumenical Task Force
3050 W. Mossman Road, Tucson Arizona 85706 (602) 883-7875

Rev. Kenneth J. Stumpf, Dept. of Immigration & Refugee Services, Lutheran Council USA
New York City, NY (212) 532-6350

Rev. Tom Peyton; MM, Ministry For Justice and Peace, NFPC
1307 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 427-0115



National
Federation
of Priests'
Councils

NEWS NOTES

PRESIDENT:
REVEREND JAMES RATIGAN

VOLUME I, NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER, 1979

NFPC Executive Board Meets

The Role of Priests' Councils in Ministry to the Family will be the general theme of the 1980 NFPC House of Delegates' Convocation to be held in Tucson, April 27 to May 1.

The NFPC national executive board made the decision at its recent quarterly meeting in Chicago. While recognizing that many groups within and without the Church are addressing the issue of Family the board believes the NFPC can contribute a unique perspective to the discussion on ministry to and with the family.

The tentative plans call for an in-depth analysis of the position of the family in U.S. society and a critique of local church structures to examine how those structures strengthen or perhaps militate against the family. The delegates will be asked to recommend "action steps" to be pursued by local councils to foster structures which develop family ministry. The complete agenda for the 1980 House of Delegates convocation will be finalized at the next executive board meeting in December.

The decision to choose "Ministry to the Family" as the convocation's theme was the result of suggestions submitted by presidents of NFPC member councils. After the 1979 House of Delegates meeting in Boston, the NFPC's convention planning committee, following the suggestions proposed by the 1979 delegates, designed a questionnaire to be sent to council presidents to solicit themes for the 1980 convocation. The original questionnaire proposed by the committee did not contain

"ministry to the family" as one of the options. The executive board voted to have the committee add "family ministry" as an option and the council presidents chose that theme by a two to one margin.

NFPC board members function in a dual capacity. First, as members of the executive board which meets four times a year to implement programs and directions of the NFPC as mandated by the annual NFPC House of Delegates. Second, as provincial representatives they are the first line of communication between the local priests' council and the NFPC national office. In addition to providing the necessary two-way communication they also are responsible for building a strong provincial structure which is vital to the strength of the NFPC.

The quarterly executive board meeting also provides the principal opportunity for the NFPC committees to meet and to plan their work. The Ministry and Priestly Life committee will be contacting resource persons to prepare position papers on such subjects as stress and ministry, priestly accountability, utilization of retired priests, human sexuality and the priesthood. The committee is in the process of establishing a national network of those who are responsible for issues of ministry and priestly life in the various religious congregations and dioceses.

The Research and Development committee is working on an instrument to utilize on the local level the NFPC's "Council Effectiveness Study". The present study presents

Pope John Paul II on Senates

"Priests' senates are a new structure in the church, called for by the Second Vatican Council and recent church legislation. This new structure gives a concrete expression to the unity of bishop and priests in the service of shepherding the flock of Christ, and it assists the bishop in his distinctive role of governing the diocese, by guaranteeing for him the council of representative advisors from among the presbyterium."

• •

"Your priests' senates as new structures in the church, provide a wonderful opportunity to give visible witness to the one priesthood you share with your bishops and with one another, and to demonstrate what must be at the heart of the renewal of every structure in the church: the unity for which Jesus himself prayed."

• •

At the beginning of this homily, I charged you with the task of taking responsibility for your priesthood, a task for each one of you personally, a charge to be shared with all priests, and especially to be a concern for your priests' councils. The faith of the whole church needs to have clearly in focus the proper understanding of the priesthood and of its place in the mission of the church. So the church depends on you to deepen evermore this understanding, and to put it into practice in your lives and ministry; in other words, to share the gift of your priesthood with the church by renewing the response you have already made to Christ's invitation - "Come, follow me" - by giving yourselves as totally as he did."

Ministry with Undocumented

One of the prime services of NFPC is to "amplify" or give national and regional support to the concerns of local priests' councils. Such is the case of the just recently completed "Ecumenical Convocation on Ministry With the Undocumented" which took place in San Diego, CA October 8-10. In 1977, the San Diego Priests' Senate passed a resolution to develop a "white paper" on ministry to the undocumented who come across the Mexican-U.S. border to work in the U.S.

That "white paper" became the basis for an NFPC resolution brought before the 1978 House of Delegates in Seattle, WA "to convene a Convocation on Ministry to the Undocumented." The latter was convened in El Paso, TX on Nov. 6-9 of the same year. Among the "action steps" developed at the El Paso convocation was the call for a followup convocation to be convened within a year and to be expanded to include "concerned ecumenical church bodies" along with "binational" representation from the church in Mexico.

The "ecumenical convocation" action step developed at the El Paso meeting was first taken to the "Lutheran Ministry on Undocumented Conference" held in Los Angeles which also endorsed such a convocation. At this point, the NFPC Director of Ministry for Justice and Peace made contact with the various concerned ecumenical church bodies to solicit their input and endorsement. Having received general encouragement, NFPC's justice and peace office then convened a meeting of an ecumenical task force which had arisen from the El Paso meeting and plans were made for the San Diego ecumenical convocation.

The results were a historical ecumenical convocation in which representatives from the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, American Baptist, Quaker, Episcopalian and Methodist churches gathered in San Diego to prepare "action steps" that would ensure the start of an ecumenical ministerial network and ecumenical communications clearing house devoted to serve the rights of the Undocumented workers in the U.S. This ministerial network will expand during the coming year as other conferences planned on the subject of the undocumented are contacted and the network and resources of the San Diego convocation--especially the ecumenical communications clearinghouse --are shared.



PARTICIPANTS GATHERED AT U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER PARK FOR PRAYER SERVICE



SIMULTANEOUS BI-LINGUAL TRANSLATION WAS PROVIDED FOR CONVOCATION PARTICIPANTS FROM MEXICO

The keynote speaker for this ecumenical convocation was Mr. Bert Corona of the National Immigration Coalition who stressed the importance of working "with the undocumented," i.e. helping them to organize themselves through participation in organized labor. As a result, an "Economic Impact" task force was formed that will address itself to demythologizing false impressions concerning the economic impact of the undocumented workers (who are in reality a boon to U.S. economy) and promoting a closer tie between church and labor leaders on behalf of the rights of the undocumented workers in the U.S. Other action steps were directed toward the social, economic and legal rights (and abuses) of the undocumented in the U.S.

Fr. Andrew Brizzolara, C.S., a director of the Center for Migration Studies (Staten Island, NY) addressed the issue of creating an "ecumenical communications clearing house for concerned church bodies ministering to the Undocumented." In a working session, the San Diego convocation agreed to work with C.M.S. toward that end. Its bimonthly publication "Migration Today" will be used as a national communications vehicle.

"Ministry With the Undocumented" is a reality which touches a large number of dioceses in the U.S. On Jan. 7-9, 1980, NFPC will host an east coast convocation dealing with that subject. A large proportion of the undocumented workers are Roman Catholic and therefore have a special claim upon the ministerial concerns of priests' councils. Their special claim is further established by the fact that they are among the most marginated and abused workers in our midst, i.e. the "least of the brethren". However, the issues which touch the plight of the undocumented need broad ecumenical attention and support. The action steps, the ecumenical ministerial network, and the ecumenical communications clearing house are NOW available to priests' councils and the priests they represent. Materials will be sent to all priests' councils Interested priests can write to the NFPC office to receive these materials.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

COUNCIL NOTES

Ministry Amid an Economic Crisis '79

In 1972 the NFPC called for full employment and a guaranteed annual income; in 1973, for the defense of the rights of the poor, especially those affected by the dismantling of Federal assistance programs. The above resolutions coincided with a period of recession that settled upon the U.S. Once again recession has hit the U.S. Moreover, the action of the Federal Reserve Board and the banks to raise the discount rate and consequently, the prime rate of interest will most certainly create another period of deep unemployment. Minorities and women, especially the unskilled will suffer most.

Serious ethical questions are involved when a country chooses to fight inflation by deliberately creating unemployment. During this harsh period, the voice of the church has been curiously silent. There is no "respect life" enthusiasm and strategy to restore jobs. Moreover, the church generally seems to be out of contact with labor and initially predisposed to take the side of management. Everyone is experiencing some economic belt-tightening, but is the church close enough to the poor and unskilled to become outraged at the "dismantling" of federal assistance programs such as C.E.T.A.? Is the time right for priests' councils to once again become concerned with national economic policies as well as simplified life-styles?

Why not seek to have the moral and pastoral implications of present U.S. economic policy brought before your priests' council? The present policy of fighting inflation by increasing government spending on arms while cutting back on social services, of "caving in" to the special interests of larger corporations while neglecting the survival of the small business person and farmer, of allowing multinationals to socially devastate an area by moving plants to where there is a cheap pool of labor (unorganized as well), is already in effect in third world areas such as Latin America. The result is that the rich get richer while the poor get poorer and a militaristic government keeps the unjust system in place. Present U.S. economic policy has clearly put the burden of fighting inflation on the poor and unskilled - which is sinful!

Priests' councils could distribute to their membership the statement of the U.S. Bishops, "The Economy: Human Dimensions." Sermons could be preached, action resolutions passed and published, delegations sent to congress persons, the diocese surveyed to find where people are hurting most, diocesan offices contacted to learn if programs have been designed to serve the present economic crisis, and welfare, neighborhood, and social agencies invited to inform the council of their respective programs and needs. Pope John Paul's talk at Yankee Stadium and the Battery Park in New York City made it clear that the U.S. must do more to address its own economic injustices. Try to reach your council on this economic crisis and push for action!

BROOKLYN

In view of the number of acts of "racism" that have occurred in the diocese of Brooklyn and the Greater New York area during the past few months, the Priests' Senate of the diocese of Brooklyn passed a resolution which:

-thanks Bishop Mugavero for his leadership in speaking out eloquently and succinctly against the acts of violence that were inflicted on Black couples and families in Rosedale;

-urges all priests of the diocese of Brooklyn to actively support the right of all people for freedom of movement and to publicly deplore the evil of 'racism' as violating the human freedom of individuals;

-urges all priests to support the aims and goals of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People and the Council of Black Catholics to raise the consciousness of the people of New York City to the evils of 'racism'.

JOLIET

At his first meeting with the Priests' Senate, Bishop Joseph L. Imesch, new ordinary of the Joliet Diocese, said that he "happily reestablished the Priests' Senate. A diocese functions through its priests," he stated. "The Senate is like a swinging door. Through it I can reach the priests, and through the Senators the priests can get back to the Senate. It has to be the voice of the clergy. We all have shared responsibility in it together."

PRE-PASTORAL PROGRAM

The 1976 NFPC House of Delegates recommended "that each local council develop and put into action a pre-pastorate program for pastors at the time of their first assignment as pastors which will include an emphasis on the various ministries and priests' relationships to these ministries".

Some of the dioceses which have such pre-pastorate programs are: DETROIT; HARRISBURG; HELENA; LOS ANGELES; NEW YORK; NEWARK.

SAN FRANCISCO - ST. PAUL/MINNEAPOLIS

The Archdioceses of San Francisco and St. Paul/Minneapolis have policies for "alternate residence for clergy". If your council is working on similar policies you might want to examine their programs.



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

The NFPC conducted two Leadership Conferences this past month. The difference between the two conferences point out the flexibility of the Conferences.

The first Leadership Conference took place in Ohio and was attended by about 75 priests and eleven of the fourteen bishops in the state. The other took place in Wisconsin and was attended by 16 priests representing the officers of diocesan senates and representatives of religious congregations.

The first two NFPC Leadership Conferences took place in 1975 and 1976 and were held in Chicago. The participants were council presidents from across the country. The purpose was to acquaint the presidents with Church documents regarding priests' councils and to analyze and evaluate their organization structures and styles of leadership. While the participants judged The Conferences as successful they reported they were frustrated when they returned to their councils and attempted to implement the ideas learned during the conference.

A couple of years ago it was decided, therefore, that rather than bring the presidents to Chicago the Leadership Conference team would go to the local councils. Attempts have been made to sponsor the Conferences on a regional or provincial level and bring together the full senates from each council in the province or region. Since a common understanding of the mission of local Church and the definition of consultation is essential to increased council effectiveness it became apparent that - it was necessary that the ordinary join the senate for the conference and that the majority of senators be present. During the Ohio province meeting it was the senates which had the majority of their members and the ordinary present that reported the most positive results.

The focus of the Wisconsin province Conference was different. The focus was in acquainting the leadership of the various councils with a greater understanding of the potential of the Leadership Conference for their senate. While NFPC shall continue to offer the Conferences on a regional and provincial basis it is now much more open to presenting it to a single council. The reason for this development is to increase the essential participation of the ordinary and all council members.

The Conferences continue to examine the Church documents on priests' councils and to analyze organization structures and leadership style but it has also added new issues. As councils move to accept their responsibility for the total pastoral ministry of the local church and its role in the universal church, it is necessary to look more closely at its fuller involvement of ministry and priestly life. It is also important to examine the relationship of the priests' councils to other consultative bodies, especially diocesan pastoral councils.

Priests' councils are entering a new stage of development. Participation in an NFPC Leadership Conference is allowing councils the opportunity to reflect more deeply their future direction.

Neighborhood Raids—New INS Policy

The Immigration and Naturalization Services agents have changed their policy toward apprehending undocumented workers in the U.S. In place of raiding factories they are now raiding neighborhoods. This places special pressures and hardships upon ethnic neighborhoods, especially Hispanics who constitute the largest number of undocumented workers in the U.S. Persons can be stopped, challenged, detained or simply harrassed because they are Hispanic. This is especially true of areas near the Mexican-U.S. border. Moreover, since many of the ethnic groups affected are traditionally Roman Catholic, the new policy will cut into church attendance and participation. Traditionally the neighborhood church has been the one place of refugee support amid a society seeking to exploit the Undocumented who are so vulnerable. Not to have some place of refuge is most cruel. Besides, the Undocumented are not the problem - only the visible effects of unjust and inhumane policies that force people to immigrate in order to survive. Seek to have your council voice its protest to this new policy to the INS. Contact your local INS director.

Executive Board, continued

a national picture of the effectiveness of priests' councils. It is the committee's hope to produce an instrument to assist councils in their own evaluation. The Committee is also investigating the possibility of research on the relationship between senates and diocesan pastoral councils.

The Justice and Peace committee is focusing their major attention on two resolutions which they will be proposing for the consideration of the 1980 House of Delegates. One deals with nuclear energy, the other with disarmament. Informational packets on both issues are being prepared for distribution to member councils.

Three members of the committee represented NFPC at a recent White House meeting of the Religious Committee on Salt II. The United States Catholic Conference has asked the NFPC to alert priests and priests' senates of the need to contact U.S. Senators to solicit support for Salt II.

Msgr. Colin (Scotty) MacDonald, executive director of the Bishops' Priestly Life and Ministry Committee, was present to report to the NFPC board regarding the activities of the Bishops' committee. Msgr. MacDonald emphasized that a major dimension of his position is to be a link between priests and the national body of bishops. He welcomes the opportunity to visit priests' councils or other gatherings of priests to learn of their concerns and to explain the activities of the Bishops' Priestly Life and Ministry Committee.

The board held an evening reception for Mary Louise Schneidwind who worked for the NFPC national office from its first day until her retirement this past June 30. Many of Mary's old friends - including Pat O'Malley and Reid Mayo, first and third NFPC presidents - joined the board in paying tribute to Mary's eleven years of dedicated service to the National Federation of Priests' Councils.

PRE--REGISTRATION FORM

I WILL ATTEND (Pre-registration fee is \$10.00, includes meals, immigration packet, cultural entertainment, & dance, payable by April 30, 1980. Registration fee on day of conference will be \$15.00)

I endorse the conference & march. Please add my/organization to the list of endorsers.

I will need free housing. Number of persons _____

I will need information on hotel accomendations.

I will be unable to attend. Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK FOR \$10.00 MADE PAYABLE TO:

CCR
1837 Highland Ave.
National City, Ca. 92050



**National
Federation
of Priests'
Councils**

file

1307 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605
312/427-0115

REVEREND JAMES RATIGAN, PRESIDENT

March 20, 1980

Mr. Herman Baca
Chicano Committee For Human Rights
Casa Justicia
1837 Highland Ave.
National City, Calif. 92050

Dear Herman,

Rev. Richard Miller, who is the present convenor of the "ecumenical network" which was formed as a result of the "Ecumenical Convocation On Ministry With The Undocumented" held in San Diego on Nov.'79, called to inform me of the forthcoming "Chicano National Immigration Conference and Memorial March", May 24-25.

Rev. Miller suggested that the ecumenical network could take the occasion of the Immigration Conference to have a "caucus" of its members. The network was due to have a meeting in the near future, and it would seem to be a waste of resources to have one of our own when your own focus and agenda is so close to our own.

Therefore, I would like to know if it would be permissible for our ecumenical network to come to the Chicano National Immigration Conference as participants and then at some point be able to have a "caucus". As you know there is no question that we support your agenda and wish to promote self-determination among Chicano people, especially having significant input into U.S. immigration policy. We feel that coming to your meeting would be a natural progression for the ecumenical network in its efforts to serve the interests of the undocumented.

If this is all right, we would ask our members to come and to be prepared to caucus.

Could I ask when such a caucus could best be done during the Conference? Also, what about accommodations? Thanks again for your dedicated work and congratulations on the Conference.
cc. Rev. Richard Miller

Peace,
Tom Peyton - N.F.P.C.



Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

FEBRUARY 12, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

THE COMMITTEE ON CHICANO RIGHTS (CCR) ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THEY WILL HOST A CHICANO NATIONAL IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE WHOSE THEME WILL BE A "TIME FOR RESISTANCE" AND A BORDER MEMORIAL MARCH TO CALL FOR THE END OF BORDER BRUTALITIES AND THE MILITARIZING OF THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER ON MAY 23, 24, and 25, 1980 IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE ACCORDING TO CCR SPOKESPERSON HERMAN BACA, "WILL BE TO SEEK SOLUTIONS TO THE ESCALATING VIOLENCE INVOLVING KILLINGS, RAPINGS, BEATINGS AND THE MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN, CIVIL, AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AT THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER AND IN THE CHICANO COMMUNITIES". "FURTHERMORE, THE CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE FORMULATION OF A "NEW DIRECTION" BASED ON THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF OUR PEOPLE, AND INTO TAKING A UNITED CHICANO POSITION ON THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE BEFORE THE 1980 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION".

THE BORDER MEMORIAL MARCH WHICH IS BEING CALLED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY MAY 25, 1980 AT THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER IN SAN YSIDRO, CALIFORNIA WILL COMMEMORATE THE VICTIMS THAT HAVE BEEN KILLED AND BRUTALIZED BY THE INS/BORDER PATROL.

ENDORSERS, SPEAKERS, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER INFORMATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A FUTURE DATE ACCORDING TO CCR SPOKESPERSONS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RALPH INZUNZA AT (714) 474-8195

" A TIME FOR RESISTANCE "

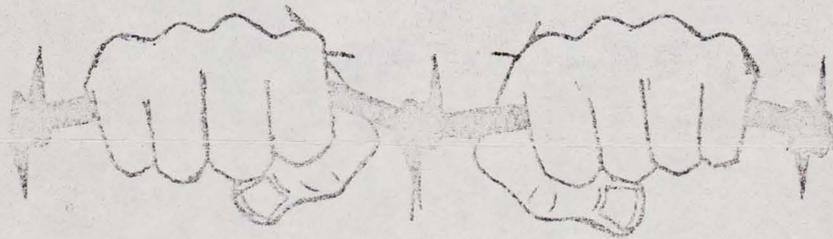
Chicano National Immigration Conference and Memorial March



TENTATIVE AGENDA

• BORDER VIOLENCE

- ECONOMICS & IMMIGRATION
- FOREIGN GUEST WORKER PROGRAM
- INCARCERATION OF THE UN-DOCUMENTED
- LEGISLATION
- MEDIA
- MEXICAN PERSPECTIVES & POLICIES
- ORGANIZED LABOR
- RESIDENTIAL SWEEPS
- SOCIAL SERVICES
- WOMEN & IMMIGRATION



MAY 23, 24, 25 1980

SAN DIEGO, CA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
COMMITTEE ON CHICANO RIGHTS
1637 Highland Ave.
National City, Calif. 92050
(714)474-8195
(714)477-3000

Endorsers & speakers will be announced at a future date.