

Police, Puerto Ricans: A 2-Way Street

"Understanding differences leads to mutual respect."

That's the theme underlying "Police Workshops" being conducted in Rochester one night every three weeks between inner city Puerto Ricans and members of the Rochester Police Department.

Held from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Spanish Center, Clifford and Hudson Avenues, they include supper, a movie, group "bull sessions" and an evaluation.

Participants describe them as an effective means of establishing "dialogue" between law enforcement officials and the relatively new arrivals to the city.

Praising the workshop technique, City Manager Seymour Scher told some 80 police and Puerto Ricans at a recent workshop supper:

"Our aim is to dissolve superficial differences, to open the doors of opportunity. What needs to be done to build constructive progress between city officials and minority groups we will attempt to do."

Police officers, Scher noted, are in the "front line" as representatives of the city. Their job, he continued, "is to serve the community fairly, honestly, decently, and without prejudice."

Policemen "have to bear the brunt of emergency situations," he said. "They are sworn to uphold the law, and cannot question the good or bad of the law — their job is to make it effective."

"They must apply the good sense of the law, they must use judgment — and much depends on how they understand the problems and the people involved."

Declaring that policemen "must know something about many types of national, racial and economic backgrounds," Scher added:

"At times we feel it is an impos-



City Manager Seymour Scher was principal speaker at recent "Police Workshop" supper in Rochester's Spanish Center. Held every three weeks, four-hour workshop features discussions between inner city Puerto Ricans and members of Rochester Police Department "to get to know each other better." At left is Father Anthony Calimeri, director of diocesan Spanish Apostolate, and at right Jorge Colon, Spanish Center director.

ing, impossible, job. That is why we feel that workshops such as you are conducting are of very great benefit to the community."

Following the supper and a movie,

workshop participants — about 20 police officers and detectives and more than twice as many Puerto Rican adults and teenagers — gather in groups of eight or ten in various

rooms at the Center "to get to know each other."

Dialogue is a two-way street; the Puerto Ricans hear about the laws and how necessary they are; the po-

licemen get some understanding about Puerto Rican culture and customs. Some of the officers are learning to speak Spanish.

Topics are down-to-earth: inner city delinquency, narcotics, employment, racial prejudices and misunderstandings, myths and misconceptions about Puerto Ricans and their family backgrounds and customs, police arrest procedures.

Jorge Colon, director of the Spanish Center and former representative of the Puerto Rican government in the community, declared:

"We feel the workshops are helping to better develop the relations needed as a community in which we are all responsible."

"During the past we have often been misinformed and have suffered unjustifiable consequences. It is the hope that we can bring about peace of mind in the community where law enforcement is most important to maintain law with justice to all concerned."

Colon heads a Puerto Rican Committee for Better Police Relations which includes Emilio Serrano, Jose Torres, Domingo Martinez, Mrs. Edwin Rivera, Mrs. Isabel Rivera, Luis Encarnacion, Domingo Carbonel and Victor Rivera.

Members of the committee have volunteered to assist police when requested in cases of problems or need for language translations.

Organizations and agencies cooperating in the hispanics police workshops include: the diocesan Spanish Apostolate; Iberio - American Action League; Puerto Rican Community Council; Latin American Organization; Spanish Center Recreational Community; Knights of St. John Caballeros; 65th Infantry Regiment; Inter-American Unity Council; Cursillo Movement; Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Rochester Office of Community Services; Monroe County Human Relations Commission.

Holy Days Subject of Diocese Poll

People of the diocese are being polled on several questions proposed by the Vatican through the U.S. Bishops concerning future church legislation on the observance of holy days.

Following a pulpit instruction on the background of why the various holy days might be transferred to other dates and what current thinking is on the obligation of attending Mass and avoiding work on those days, parishioners are asked to indicate their opinion.

The manner of distributing a questionnaire or making the parish survey has been left to the individual pastors.

No change is contemplated in the date or obligation of the feast of Christmas. But five other present holy days are up for discussion: Jan. 1 (the Solemnity of the Mother of God), feast of the Ascension (7 weeks after Easter), feast of the Assumption (Aug. 15), feast of All Saints (Nov. 1), and feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8).

Collegians Lack Proper Guidelines, Priest Declares

Although college students of today are "more mature" than their counterparts of several years ago, they are experiencing a lack of guidelines and values which tends to make them somewhat insecure.

So declared Father William Graf, chaplain at Ithaca College, in a talk last week at a seminar on family life for high school teachers, at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

The "namby-pamby" types of school philosophy, the mixed-up teaching in some homes, the waning influence of the church and the image building by mass media reflect values of society which the college student is not quite certain about and often feels insecure within, the priest said.

The sexual activity of today's college student can be traced to the society which has produced him, Father Graf commented. They often come from homes where there is a serious lack of communication with parents.

"One of the worst things we've done in this country is to sell college as the be-all and end-all for making money," he said.

Rochesterian to Assume Syracuse Spanish Position

A Rochester layman has been appointed director of ministry to the Spanish-speaking people of the Syracuse Diocese.

Milton Valladares, 33, will be assisted by Father Theodore L. Schmitz of Utica, and Father Robert D. Chryst of Syracuse, it was announced by Bishop Walter A. Foery of Syracuse.

Valladares, a native of Puerto Rico, has been assistant director of the Ibero-American Action League in Rochester and diocesan director of the Migrant Ministry and Cursillo Movement. In Syracuse, he will be responsible for the initiation and maintenance of services for the Spanish-speaking in the areas of health, housing, education and employment.

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Fisher Issues Rules of Order In Case of Campus Disruption

Nine rules for maintaining order on campus and handling disturbances were adopted by the board of trustees of St. John Fisher College and filed in Albany July 18 in accordance with provisions of a recently-adopted state law.

As with the majority of such reports filed with the State Education Department in compliance with the state's campus demonstration control law, the St. John Fisher rules state that if an "incident is beyond the power of the ordinary college forces, to contain, a court injunction or assistance from law enforcement agencies may be undertaken.

Preceding the list of rules is a statement of principles which says in part:

"As members of the college com-

munity, students should be free, individually and collectively, to express their views on issues of college policy and, on matters of general interest to the student body. They should always be free to support causes by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the college.

"Members of the college community, however, have a responsibility, commensurate with their opportunity to criticize, to respect the views, desires and general well-being of others. . . . When they abandon this basic premise of the educational process and deny others the intellectual medium which the college seeks to provide, it is incumbent upon responsible officers of the college to take action to restore an environment in

which reason and understanding may again prevail."

The rules for maintaining order include:

- Access to campus buildings and grounds shall be preserved at all times.
- No disruption or interference with classes or events is permitted without "appropriate and lawful authority."
- No occupation of classrooms, offices, etc.
- No force or physical harassment "upon any person lawfully conducting himself."
- No destruction or removal of property.
- "No person shall, without appropriate and lawful authority, examine, disturb, remove, mutilate or destroy any college records, papers or documents which are the property or in the possession of another person."
- No possession or use of "any rifle, shotgun, firearm, ammunition or other dangerous weapon or instrument."

"Anyone on college property shall identify himself promptly, adequately, and correctly" upon request.

"Though not specifically prescribed above, any person, whether a member of the college community or any other person present on college premises, shall at all times conduct himself in a manner which does not disrupt the community, infringe upon the rights of others or prejudice the maintenance of public order."

A section on disbursement provides for "summary suspension and ejection" of any student or faculty member who does not disperse or desist when ordered. Likewise, a staff member would be liable to termination of employment, any others "shall be deemed trespassers."

Former Area Educator Wins Honors in Ireland

Dr. Eoin (John) McKiernan, widely known educator who formerly taught in the Rochester Diocese, was honored in Dublin July 17 by the National University of Ireland with an honorary doctoral degree.

Ireland's president, Eamon de Valera, conferred the honorary doctor of letters degree on McKiernan and on Irish Prime Minister Jack Lynch "for unprecedented efforts on behalf of the Irish arts, history and science."

Dr. McKiernan, now professor at the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn., formerly was chairman of the department of English and foreign languages at the State University of New York at Geneseo.

The Irish honored him for his founding and continuing service as president of the Irish-American Cultural Institute. Now the leading Irish organization in the world, the IACI awards \$10,000 yearly in literary prizes, the highest awards ever made for the arts in Ireland.

Dr. McKiernan is editor of a quarterly journal of Irish studies published by the institute, titled "Eire-Ireland." It has subscribers in 24 countries.

The institute sponsors pilgrimages to Ireland, as well as television pro-



DR. MCKIERNAN

grams on Irish history, literature and life. A recent TV series was broadcast in 36 United States cities.

Dr. McKiernan is a member of the national council of the Experiment in International Living. He is married and has six children and three grandchildren.

School Board Elected by Auburn Parish

Auburn — Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church last Sunday elected seven persons to a school board for their 230-pupil elementary school.

Elected were Carroll Caffrey, Mrs. M. Eileen Crane, Harvey Hodson, Lloyd Hughes, William Keeley, Mrs. Russell Lyon and James Pitcher.

Nearly 500 parishioners chose them from a slate of 20 candidates, whom they expressed concern for the continuance of Catholic education.

Father Raymond J. Wahl, pastor, cited the election as an indication of interest in quality Catholic education, and as a "sign of hope" for the future.

Sunday TV Mass

Father Richard Toomey will be the celebrant and preach the homily at the Sunday television Mass, 8:30 a.m., on "Channel 10" sponsored by Aquinas Institute.

Art Exhibit Entrants Sought for County Fair

The Home Arts Committee of the Monroe County Fair announced that entrants are being sought for the annual exhibit Aug. 11-16 at the Fairgrounds in Henrietta.

The exhibit has 11 handiwork sections; each section is divided into more "specific" classes with first, second and third prize money awarded in each class. Prize money has been increased this year to \$765; and

a best of show award has been donated by Sibley's.

The Fair welcomes the handiwork of any Monroe or adjoining county resident 12 or older.

Further information and entry blanks may be obtained at fabric and needle work centers or by calling or writing the Monroe County Fair, Home Arts Dept., P.O. Box 83, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467.

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