

Spanish Apostolate

National Encuentro Coming Up, But Busy on Other Projects Also

While preparations for the second national pastoral meeting (encuentro) of U.S. Spanish-speaking Catholics has been occupying much of the time for the Spanish Apostolate, the diocesan office has also been busy with other projects of a local nature.

The national meeting will take place Aug. 18-21 in Washington, D.C. About 16 delegates from Rochester will attend. Maria Sanchez, head of the diocesan consejo (council), and Carlos Vargas will be the official delegates and Italo Rodriguez, director of the Spanish Apostolate, will be the ex-officio delegate. In addition, 13 observers will represent the diocese.

At a meeting June 11 at St. Francis Xavier in Rochester, representatives of the Spanish communities in Ogdensburg, Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester met to map a common strategy for the encuentro.

"We feel that upstate issues for the Spanish-speaking are different from, say New York City,"

Rodriguez said. "Therefore we hope to form a bloc to express our ideas as a unit."

Each diocese will have two official delegates and a number of observers proportionate to their Spanish-speaking population. Rochester has the largest number of Spanish-speaking diocesans upstate and therefore more observers than the rest.

At local meetings in the Rochester diocese, upstate representatives heard Father Cassiano Floristan, a professor at the University of Salamanca in Spain presently attached to the Northeast Region of the U.S. for the Spanish-speaking, and Father Anthony Stephen Arroyo, who works for the Human Rights Commission of the Northeast Region.

A further meeting took place in New York City last week where the upstate representatives were to mesh their ideas with other delegates from throughout the Northeast Region.

But the Apostolate also has been engaged in other

community activities, on the home front. Along with representatives of the consejo and the San Juan Bautista committee, it helped plan the recent fiesta.

The Apostolate brought in Rosa Correa, coordinator of the organization in Bridgeport, Conn., who, along with Rodriguez, is one of only two lay directors of Spanish diocesan offices in the Northeast.

"We are doing a lot of work at the grass roots level," said Rodriguez who will be marking one year as director on July 26. "It is a difficult job for we are trying to reach both the church and the un-churched which naturally means a lot of work on diverse levels."

Rodriguez seemed



Spanish-speaking diocesans have been getting more active in Ss. Peter and Paul parish as in the San Bautista parade.

pleased that the office had managed to work closely with many at that grass-roots level to garner ideas to bring to the encuentro. At the same time he hopes to bring back some ideas from the encuentro to help in the work at home.



Diega Torres, Julio Grosas and Father David Heinsler of St. Bridget's meet to plan the San Juan Bautista Fiesta.



Consejo President Maria Sanchez.



Rosa Correa, coordinator of the Spanish Apostolate in Bridgeport, Conn., delivers the homily at St. Bridget's Church during the San Juan Bautista Festival.

'Must Keep Moral Strength,' Pope

Vatican City (RNS) — Lamenting criminal acts, the decadence of public morality and the weakness of modern norms of conduct, Pope Paul told some 7,000 visitors and pilgrims at a general audience here that there is a "great need today

to strengthen our moral conscience regarding the duty of being human and Christian."

The Pope said he felt about correct living "and to draw attention to people's

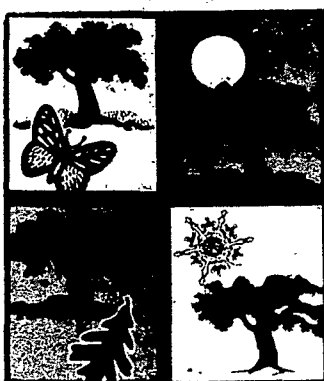
conduct, to the dignity of personal behavior."

He added that "permissiveness is attacking the principles of civilization and there is a great need to preserve one's personal dignity and to strengthen

our conscience concerning the duty of being human and Christian."

"Moral conscience is the conscience of man as man and as a Christian," he said, "let us try to experience this."

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