

Cultural Identity Urged For Northeast Hispanics

New York (RNS) - A prominent Jesuit sociologist urged Roman Catholic bishops from the northeastern United States to join in the task of providing the "circumstances of cultural identity" for some 4.5 million Hispanics who come under their pastoral care.

He suggested that if the Church can create an atmosphere for Hispanic culture to thrive, both the Church and the country will reap the tremendous benefit of a "genuinely American and viable" culture for years to come.

"We have been given the task of ministry to the treasure God has given us in the Hispanic peoples," said Father Joseph P. Fitzpatrick SJ, of Fordham University, "all the while charged with preserving their culture."

He addressed some 40

bishops taking part in a four-day special conference to discuss the concerns of Hispanic Americans and to consider creative approaches to ministry. It was the first time the bishops of 35 dioceses in the northeast met to expressly discuss the needs of the Hispanic community in the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Terence Cooke presided at the opening session, which also attracted bishops from Spain, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Honduras, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

During the past 30 years, the Hispanic American population of the northeast has increased to more than four million, most of them Catholic by tradition and background. In some urban areas, Hispanics make up

the majority of the Catholic population.

Because the U.S. and the world are suffering through a cultural upheaval, Father Fitzpatrick said, the situation for the newcomer to this country is decidedly not the same as for the Irish of the 1840s. He claimed that it is much less clear what are the dominant cultural features to which today's immigrant must relate.

"What is obvious, however, is that the one group coming to the U.S. with a clear identity, not only as a people, but as Catholics, are Hispanics," the Jesuit said.

Father Fitzpatrick called this moment of history "providential" since the Hispanics' dedication, vigor, zeal and vitality seem to be God's gifts to a Church and a nation of new cultural influences.



The reception in St. Mary's School after the Mass drew many of the divorced and separated persons and their families.

Divorced

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who have "worked so diligently in the past year."

Bishop Hogan noted that at his first bishops meeting eight years ago, the number of cases handled by each diocese's tribunal was charted, and they went from a low of no cases, to a high of 40 cases considered for annulment; the Rochester diocesan tribunal was doing 12 cases a year. He is pleased, he said, that the annulment process "is a much more simple procedure" now. Currently there are probably "very few unsuccessful marriages" that can't be nullified, he said.

The national bishop's "vote to remove the penalty" of excommunication for those in irregular marriages "was a big step," he pointed out.

Bishop Hogan noted that the diocese is "fortunate to have an efficient tribunal." As a result of the changes that have occurred, he

noted, there is hope for many persons, "where before there had been nothing but sadness and despair."

Man, 73, Arrested In 1963 Bombing

Birmingham, Ala. (RNS) - A 73-year-old Birmingham man was indicted here on four counts of first-degree murder in connection with a 1963 church bombing that killed four young black girls, Jefferson County authorities announced.

The bomb blast that killed the young girls on Sept. 15, 1963, at the 16th Street Baptist Church touched off nationwide outrage and calls from civil rights and religious leaders for an end to racial violence.

The four children who died in the blast were Carol Robertson, 14; Carol Denise McNair, 11; Addie Mae Collins, 14; and Cynthia Diane Wesley, 14. Twenty other people were injured in the blast.

Robert Edward Chambliss, a retired auto parts worker, offered no resistance as he was arrested by Jefferson County sheriff's deputies.

Educational Workshop In Peace and Justice

Brother van Merrienboer, OP, will be the speaker at the Diocesan Principals' Workshop Friday, Oct. 14 at the Trenholm East in Canandaigua.

Brother Edward, consultant of the National Catholic Educational Association, is in the area giving workshops to principals, teachers and clergy on Peace and Social Justice Education. He cooperated in the development of a curriculum for Justice Education which is currently being used in eleven

elementary and secondary schools in the diocese.

In preparation for the introduction of this program throughout all of the diocesan schools next year, Brother Edward will address the administrators on the following subjects: To explore the implications of the Scriptural Teachings about Justice and its relation to the faith community; The administrator's responsibility in making the school an experience of Peace and Justice; How the administrators can develop social awareness outside the school - extending to the total parish.



Named to Board

Alan C. Hasselwander, vice president-marketing and network at Rochester Telephone Company has been appointed to the Board of Directors at St. Mary's Hospital. The announcement was made by Sister DeChantal, chairman of the board. Hasselwander holds a degree from St. Bernard's Seminary and attended Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. He also holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Rochester.

MEMORIAL FUND

The family of the late Clara Cerretto has established a scholarship fund at Aquinas Institute in her memory. Her son Michael, of Hinchey Road, last week offered the family's thanks for the many contributions already received.

Kearney Band Slated At Sibley's Fall Fair

As part of the opening day of the Sibley fall fair, "Galaxy," the Bishop Kearney High School marching band will parade 150 strong, through downtown Rochester to mark the opening of the fair, just before noon, Monday, Oct. 17.

The band and its color guard will escort a white Rolls Royce convertible carrying the popular British actress, Jean Marsh, star of

"Upstairs, Downstairs," and Sibley chairman, William E. Lee. As Miss Marsh, Lee and Mayor Thomas Ryan officially open the fair in front of Sibley's, the Kearney band will play a medley of movie themes.

The annual fall fair at Sibley's runs for two weeks and includes many other events and personal appearances and demonstrations throughout the store.

Barbershop Singing Set Oct. 29

"Steamin' Down the River," a musical show in barbershop harmony will be performed by the Chorus of the Erie Canal at Spencerport High School, at 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29.

Under the direction of Rudy Reger, the chorus offers a nostalgic look at life 100 years ago, to the days when the paddleboats plied the Mississippi.

Quartets that will per-

form include the Sunnysides, Rag-a-Muffins of Warren, Pa., Harmony Heroes of Buffalo and The Chord 4 Nations of Rochester. The Chorus of the Erie Canal also will perform in concert.

GEM

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denomination staff when program and/or administrative support is required to undergird an action plan.

It has been further decided that each communion will have a single vote on GEM matters. Prior to this agreement on unit vote, the GEM constitution

called for delegate vote

Msgr. Cocuzzi noted some structural changes which have been agreed upon, namely that a program development committee be discontinued and its function turned over to the ESB, and that GEM's executive committee be delegated authority to care for all routine administrative

matters pertaining to GEM.

Work remaining to be done includes agreement on budgeting and funding processes and some matters of ESB style of action. Once this has been done, a revised GEM constitution will be returned to the member communions for ratification. Msgr. Cocuzzi anticipates this will be completed by Thanksgiving.

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