

# Hispanics Press for Permanent U.S. Office

**New York (KNS) —** Forty-eight U.S. and Latin American Catholic bishops, meeting here to explore the pastoral needs of Hispanics in the northeast United States, issued a strong mandate for the establishment of a permanent pastoral institute to develop educational, ministerial and leadership programs for Hispanics.

The unprecedented meeting, called by two lay organizations of the U.S. Catholic Church, also brought commitments from the bishops to work for amnesty for illegal aliens; to promote programs aimed at eradicating discrimination in parish life, and to listen more closely to the "deep needs of the Hispanic people in this country."

Co-sponsored by the Northeast Pastoral Center for Hispanics, New York, and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Spanish-speaking of the U.S. bishops' conference, Washington, the conference included four cardinals, the ordinaries of 20 dioceses and bishops from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico and Spain.

On Hispanics in the Northeast by a team of sociologists headed by Father Joseph Fitzpatrick, SJ, of Fordham University. At the same time, 11 bishops from Puerto Rico and Latin America, including Cardinal Luis Aponte of San Juan, offered an up-to-date perspective on massive immigration from Latin America and problems attendant to the influx of Hispanics in the U.S.

tradition, special liturgies and pastoral programs for Hispanics, development of Hispanic leadership, more reliance on Hispanics for responsibility in ministry, and programs for the social, cultural, political and economic advancement of Hispanics.

mation to serve this Hispanic community in the Church.

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He urged the bishops to utilize the Church's greatest resource, its people, particularly the Hispanic populations, through the sponsorship of leadership training and pastoral for-

The New York priest also noted that the bishops were appraised of the crucial need for the "recruitment and formation" of Hispanic candidates for the priesthood, and warned of "institutional prejudice" toward Hispanics found in many church structures — from parishes to seminaries.

Other special problems addressed by the bishops were the increasing breakdowns in family life among Hispanics, the need for bi-cultural and bi-lingual education in both Catholic and public schools, and the Church's lack of contact with Hispanic youth.

Paredes stressed that the bishops gave a "tremendous endorsement" to the expansion of the current Northeast Pastoral Center for Hispanics as an "alternative" form of educational outreach to Hispanics. He said the bishops want a "physical center" with a Hispanic atmosphere that will include pastoral formation and a wide variety of programs for priests, religious and laity.

Paredes pointed out that Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, one of four U.S. cardinals taking part, called establishment of a new pastoral institute an "inevitable and necessary step" in a revitalized pastoral outreach by the bishops of the Northeast to the Hispanic community.

Bishop Garmendia observed that all the bishops attending are "now aware" of the unmet and growing needs of Hispanics. He added that it was "encouraging to see the bishops listen and respond to appeals for new initiatives and programs."

The New York prelate described the conference as "a push from the Holy Spirit" and said that as a result "we can see a ray of hope."

Father Stern noted that one major trend exemplified by the conference was that the bishops, the leaders in the Church, have accepted Hispanic lay leaders as "sharing responsibility with them" for new outreaches to the Hispanic community.

"The bishops want to maximize leadership training among Hispanics and their commitment to a new regional pastoral institute applies this new consensus," he said.

In his earlier remarks to the bishops' assembly, Paredes called for "evangelization, catechesis and education in the faith" of Hispanics who are already rich in Catholic

Besides being informed that the immigration of Hispanics to the U.S. continues to increase significantly and that the Church's pastoral responsibility for Hispanic Catholics is of vital concern, the bishops heard a strong challenge from Mario Paredes, executive director of the one-and-a-half-year-old Northeast Pastoral Center for Hispanics.

Calling on the bishops to use the Hispanic people as a major "resource" to build the Church community, he urged them to support the pastoral center as a "viable tool for encouraging, developing and supporting the Hispanic apostolate" and to create "a permanent pastoral institute to train Hispanic lay people for ministry in your local churches."

"Native Hispanic lay ministry must be sought and welcomed and their training as well as that of others in partnership in ministry with already established non-Hispanic personnel must be developed," he said.

During a press conference, following the three-day gathering at Cardinal Spellman Retreat House, three bishop participants and the convenors of the conference stressed that the bishops of the northeast U.S. have come to realize more strongly than ever the urgent need to address the problems of Hispanics, who have become majority groups in many areas of the Church.

They also said the bishops clearly recognized that the Hispanic community must be encouraged and helped to develop programs that will allow Hispanics to take control of their own lives, in society and in the Church.

Among those taking part in the Press conference were Bishop Juan Gerardi of Santa Cruz del Quiche, Guatemala; Auxiliary Bishop Francisco Garmendia of New York; Auxiliary Bishop Priamo Tejada of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Father Kenneth Smith, pastoral coordinator of the Northeast Pastoral Center for Hispanics, New York; Father Robert Stern, conference coordinator, and Paredes.

In outlining the conference, Father Stern noted that the meeting was not aimed at producing decisions but at raising the consciousness of bishops of the northeast U.S. to the various challenges facing the Hispanic community. He said one major purpose was to reflect on the reality that over three million Hispanics have been born in or have come to this area in the last generation, providing an "incredible challenge" to the Church in the Northeast.

Father Stern said the bishops were exposed to an extensive study and review

repeatedly invited by Catholic schools to lecture presumably on the "advantages" of artificial contraception. In at least one Pre-Cana course, the PP physician used a three dimensional model of the male genitalia for demonstration purposes. Often the advocates of this cooperation with PP explain, "It's a pluralistic world and we must present both sides." I personally embrace the pluralistic concept, but I know that honest pluralism demands equal stress for "both sides". When a Catholic school presents PP and or SIECUS/AASECT professionals, they are morally obligated to present the Vatican position WITH EQUAL FERVOR AND EMPHASIS. It is not pluralism to present Planned Parenthood. It is not pluralism to omit the Vatican.

I respectfully suggest that we return to the basics of Roman Catholicism. It might be wise to eliminate the Dutch catechism altogether and replace it with either The Catholic Catechism, by John Hardon (Doubleday 1975), or The Teaching of Christ, by Ronald Lawler OFM, Cap. (Our Sunday Visitor 1976). Both of these are recommended by the Vatican, and neither of them reflects the Situation Ethics - Planned Parenthood - AASECT - SIECUS mentality. In addition, if Catholic schools feel compelled to teach contraception, why rely on Planned Parenthood physicians? We can teach the total truths about the pill, the IUDs and the ICDs without the aid of an international abortionist organization. In addition, I urge the Catholic schools to teach the truths surrounding Natural Family Planning.

(Next: Natural Family Planning...)

## WNIA Back On Air In Buffalo

WNIA of Buffalo, one of the radio stations which broadcast The Family Rosary for Peace, has returned to the airwaves after an absence of a year over a FCC dispute concerning hiring practices.


WNIA, 1230 on the dial, will be on the air 18 hours daily, according to a report in the Buffalo Evening News. The WNIA day will begin at 6 a.m. with signoff at 1 a.m.

The Family Rosary for Peace with Msgr. Joseph Ciccirincione of Rochester is heard at 7 p.m.

### TUTORING

The Sisters of St. Joseph are introducing a tutorial program at 4095 East Avenue in which they will teach basic skills in mathematics, reading and English. The program is not designed to meet the needs of learning disabled children, the announcement says, but is geared to help those who function below grade level. Details may be obtained through 586-6128.

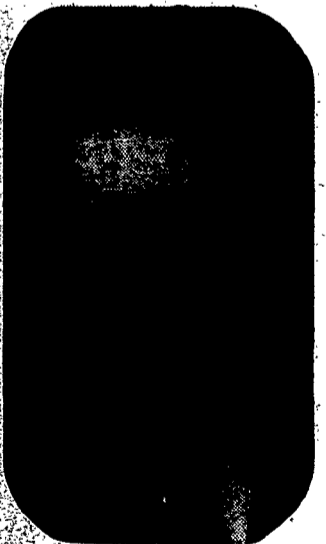
Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

I regret that many Catholic schools have taught a Planned Parenthood-AASECT-SIECUS oriented sex education course built on a questionable catechism. This situation exists from the elementary grades through the high schools and into Pre-Cana. The teachers are well-meaning. But as a parent, a writer and a former teacher (art and religion) I express my very deep concern.

The "Dutch" catechism (A New Catechism: Catholic Faith for Adults, Herder & Herder 1967) as recommended in Education In Love (Paulist Press 1971) is not acceptable to the Vatican which ordered numerous changes and corrections. The corrections were added in a later edition (not the 1967 copy) but unfortunately the publisher placed them at the back of the book where readers are inclined to ignore them. In addition EIL, recommending SIECUS and SIECUS authors reflects the mentality of SIECUS, an offshoot of Planned Parenthood almost identical to AASECT. Planned Parenthood, amply funded through the Community Chest, the federal government, the United Nations (including UNICEF), Ortho Pharmaceuticals, the Rockefeller foundations and many others, has been



## New Director

Paul L. Kane, former director of University Publications Services for the State University Center at Buffalo, has been named director of Development and Community Relations at St. Mary's Hospital. He has served various colleges and businesses in related activities and is an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America. Holder of bachelor's and master's degrees from Fordham University, he is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Higher Education at SUNY Buffalo.



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