

Southern Africa On Agenda for U.S. Bishops

Washington (RNS) — Roman Catholic bishops of the U.S. are scheduled to debate for the first time a proposed statement on southern Africa at their annual spring meeting May 24 in Chicago.

The document calls for increased economic and diplomatic pressures by the U.S. and the United Nations on South Africa, Namibia and Rhodesia "to promote change there, leaving it to the people of those nations to define new systems in accordance with generally accepted principles of law, order and justice."

Other topics expected to come up include a six-point program responding to the 1976 Detroit "Call to Action" conference, a Pastoral Plan for Family Ministry and an extensive revamping of the Church's present pattern of national collections.

The preliminary agenda for the meeting was issued here by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference, the program arm of the NCCB.

On the "Call to Action" conference, the bishops will receive recommendations from a special ad hoc committee headed by Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis. The Detroit meeting called for far-reaching changes in Church viewpoints climaxing two years of grassroots consultations and regional hearings.

Archbishop Roach's committee will present a six-point plan under the headings: education for justice, family life, human rights, economic rights, world hunger, and community renewal.

The Pastoral Plan for Family Ministry, if approved by the bishops, will develop a "process directed to awareness that understands, caring that enables, ministry that serves and structures that truly facilitate." It proposes six areas of family ministry: for pre-marrieds, which does not exclude those who have a vocation to the single life; for "developing" families; for "hurting" families; for leadership couples and families; for married couples, and for parents.

On collections, it is proposed that "a new model of national collections" be set up "based on those areas of contemporary ministry where there is actually or potentially a strong catechetical basis."

The model would consolidate some collections and propose a new one for communications. These would encompass the following four areas:

- Mission Collection (Propogation of the Faith, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, American Board of Catholic Missions, Church in Latin America).

- Human Development Collection (Campaign for Human Development and National Office of Black Catholics).

- Overseas Relief and Development Collection (Bishops' Welfare and Emergency Relief which currently funds Holy Father's Charities, USCC Migration and Refugee Services, Apostleship of the Sea and Catholic Relief Services).

- Communications and Evangelization Collection (Communications and Catholic University of America).

Catholic Principals To Gather at Statewide Meeting

The principals of elementary and secondary Catholic schools of the state will meet in Albany April 17-18 in a convocation sponsored by the Catholic School Administrators of New York State.

Rep. Thomas Railsback of Illinois will deliver the keynote address on April 17 on the topic of Tuition Tax Credit legislation. Railsback, a constitutional lawyer, was an original sponsor of the tuition tax credit legislation with Reps. William Frenzel and James Burke.

On April 18, state educational and legislative leaders will address the meeting. Brother Bernard H. Flood, executive director of the state school administrators group, said, "It is an opportunity for the exchange of information, statement of positions and manifestation of concerns between state officials and Catholic administrators."

Among the speakers will

be Regent Harold E. Newcomb, State Education Commissioner Gordon M. Ambach, Sen. Warren Anderson, Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut, and Robert D. Stone, deputy commissioner for legal affairs.

This is the first time such a statewide convocation of Catholic principals has been scheduled.

CDA Convention

A bus has been chartered to carry local members of the Catholic Daughters of America to their state convention at Lake Placid May 15-19. Mrs. William E. Crosby announced last week. Court Our Lady of the Cenacle has chosen Mrs. Carl Hendrickson as delegate, with Mrs. Thomas Crews as alternate. Mrs. Nelson Schum will have charge of the convention mission display.

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