

Latin Bishops

From I

and people, culminating in the perfect communion of heaven."

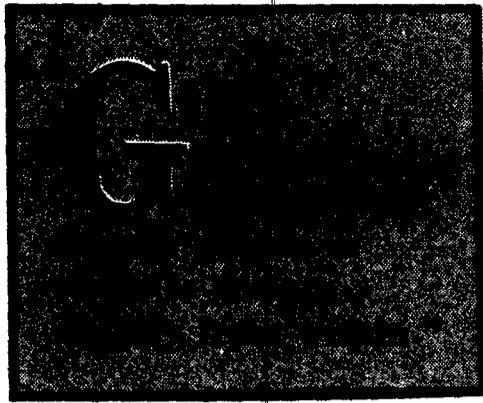
Underlining the theme emphasized by Pope John Paul, the CELAM document said that "such liberation, effected in history, embraces the social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of man's existence. Through it all should circulate the transforming riches of the Gospel which must be safeguarded. Otherwise, the Church would lose its most profound significance. Its message would have no originality, and it would allow itself to be manipulated by ideological systems and political parties."

On the final day, the 187 participants (of a total of 339 at the conference) with the right to vote approved a 220-page document on "Evangelization in the Present and Future in Latin America," and an 11-page general statement addressed "To the People of God in Latin America."

In the chapter on human dignity, the document on evangelization based the Church's defense of human rights on the doctrine of the Incarnation. "In the mystery of Christ," it said, "God descends to the depths of the human person in order to restore dignity from within, and today he even descends to the abased level of so many of our brothers and sisters. Faith in this Christ offers us the fundamental criteria to obtain an integral vision of the human person."

The bishops rejected several visions of man, including, from the economic viewpoint, the visions of consumerism, economic liberalism, and Marxism. The document also rejected the vision of the state and man embodied in the doctrine of national security, the philosophy of government adopted by the rightist military governments in Latin America.

Such a philosophy, the bishops said, "places the individual completely at the service of the supposed total warfare against cultural, social, political and economic



conflicts and ultimately against the threat of communism." The national security doctrine limits all individual freedoms, and "economic development and potential for war are placed above the basic needs of the abandoned masses," the bishops stated.

"It is our grave duty to proclaim before our brothers and sisters of Latin America the dignity of all persons without distinction," the Puebla document declared. "We profess, therefore, that every man and every woman, though they may appear to be the most insignificant, enjoy an inviolable nobility which they, and which others, must respect and must demand to be respected unconditionally."

The document also expressed support for the grass-roots communities, small-group, basic Christian communities numbering about 100,000 throughout Latin America, most of which are in Brazil. Many have used biblical themes to demand reform and have been made the targets of government persecution.

The bishops also declared, "Confronted by the deplorable logic of violence in Latin America, we wish to declare ourselves clearly here. Physical and psychological torture, constraint, kidnappings, the persecution of political dissidents or suspects, and the exclusion from public life for one's ideas — and if these crimes proceed from the authority that ought to protect the common good — cheapen those who practice them, no matter what the reasons alleged."

Hospital

From I

agreement was first announced, Sister Martha Gersbach said that the corporation includes doctors in the local community. Further information would have to come from the corporation, she stated at that time.

The corporation's existence is made more credible by Arnot Ogden Administrator Robert T. Jones' statement in a hospital publication. He reported that "in 1977 and early 1978, Arnot Ogden was approached by three separate corporations who offered to provide CT scanner service to our hospital."

Mott reported that the FLHSA executive committee voted in November 1978 to encourage legal efforts by the state against St. Joseph's, and on Jan. 23, voted to bring suit itself "if the state failed" to begin legal action "within ten working days."

Mott stated that the FLHSA is contending that "it is the hospital" doing the construction necessary for the scanner, and as the project requires "spending hospital dollars," planning approval is necessary.

"It is our contention, and that of our lawyers, that they are violating the law in this," Mott stated.

Other conflicts involving health planning have not resulted in lawsuits; the continued operation of an obstetrics unit by Clifton Springs Hospital after it was ordered to close it is an

example. Asked why legal action is being pursued in this case, Mott hesitated and then called it "a matter of timing," noting that an effort to "prevent something," such as a scanner purchase, has more immediacy than closing a service which "exists already and is in place." The "certificate of need is clear in the law," he said, more clear than the state's right to close existing hospital units.

The FLHSA recently approved a plan calling for one scanner to be placed in Elmira; approval of the Arnot Ogden application could mean two. Mott noted that he has "to admit quite frankly that our staff is split" on the Arnot Ogden application for that reason. Among those who favor approval, some feel that Arnot Ogden should get a scanner because it followed the planning process, he stated; others favor the application and hope that court action will prevent operation of any other scanner in Elmira.

The Arnot Ogden application received approval from the state Hospital Review and Planning Council Feb. 1, before it was reviewed by FLHSA local and regional councils. Mott noted that although normally the state review group would get the HSA recommendation before acting, the group is supposed to act within 120 days. Noting that many requests take much longer, Mott agreed that "very possibly" the state review has been pushed along by someone seeking speedy results.

There is "no question that

Arnot Ogden wanted fast action" and was supported by "many people in the local community," Mott reported. "Without being specific" about the persons involved, he commented, those "in support of Arnot Ogden were in support of fast action." He added that the agency also has received notice of community support for St. Joseph's leasing plans.

The Arnot Ogden application, yet to be approved by the state Office of Health Systems Management, which actually issues permission for such purchases, received approval from the Southern Tier Subarea Council Feb. 5, and the FLHSA Regional Review Council Feb. 13.

Meanwhile construction is continuing in St. Joseph's Medical Arts Building where the scanner will be housed, and operation is expected soon. The initial announcement stated that the corporation planned to begin operations in early 1979.

Widowed Club

The Catholic Widowed Club has scheduled its monthly meeting for Friday, March 2 at 8:30 p.m. at St. Theodore's Hall.

The club meets the first Friday every month and usually schedules a speaker. The club welcomes new members and anyone desiring information should call Joe Giardino at 254-1267.

Pope's Wish: Justice in Latin America

Rome (RNS) — A day after the crucial third assembly of Latin American Bishops ended at Puebla, Pope John Paul II voiced his hope that the Church in Latin America will become "strong" in its commitment to social justice.

The Puebla meeting ended Feb. 13, with a message urging Catholics to press for the rights of the poor, Latin American nations to resolve their own problem peacefully, and affluent nations "not to put obstacles in our way to progress."

Speaking at his midweekly audience on Feb. 14, Pope John Paul said that he hoped that the Latin American Church "strong in the tradition of its first evangelization, will become strong once again with the conscience of all the People of God, with the force of its priestly and religious vocations, with the profound sense of responsibility for a social order based on justice, peace, respect for human rights, on the adequate distribution of goods, and on the progress of public education and culture."

Solar Eclipse Feb. 26

Monday, Feb. 26, two days before Ash Wednesday, may be a sunny day in Rochester. It may be — who knows? If it is, area people will be deprived of 70 per cent of this bonanza by 12 minutes after noon. The Rochester Museum and Science Center, in response to telephone 271-4320, will give free advice about how to look at this phenomenon.

The solar eclipse will be the last one visible over the continental United States until the year 2017. It will begin about 10:55 a.m. and end by 1:28 p.m., the museum says. Downtowners are invited to stop in at the Strasenburgh Planetarium observatory during lunch hour to take a look through telescopes.

Dinner to Benefit Children from Villa

The fifth annual fund-raising for the children at St. Joseph's Villa, sponsored by Lawrence Murphy and George Nally, owners of the restaurant, will take place on Saturday, March 3.

A spaghetti dinner will be served from 5 to 9 p.m. at the restaurant, 564 Chili Ave., Music and entertainment will begin at 8 p.m. with several

local disc jockeys donating their time for the event.

Lawrence Murphy and George Nally, owners of the restaurant are hosts for the party, which will aid the programs for the children at the Villa which provides residential care and treatment for neglected, dependent and emotionally handicapped youngsters.

Buffalo Diocese Collaborates on TV Drama

Buffalo — On Friday, March 4, WIVB-TV will unveil a first for television in this area, and quite possibly for the nation, when it airs Skeleton Key, a full-length feature film produced, directed, financed and performed by local talent.

The suspense drama is scheduled from 8:30 p.m. to 11, pre-empting the CBS network schedule.

Skeleton Key is the result of two years of hard work by director Fred Keller and 125 area actors and actresses, on

more than 50 locations throughout Western New York. Featured is an original musical score by Ray Leslee, musical director for the University of Buffalo Theater.

The Office of Communications for the Buffalo Roman Catholic Diocese, Msgr. Robert Nesslin, director, funded the project out of concern for the issues raised by the movie's major theme which is a conflict between journalistic ethics and personal feelings concerning a newsmen's coverage of a tragedy.

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