



Task Force representative Paul MacAuley makes a point during press conference as, from left, George Parker, Father Marvin Mottet, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and Francine Patella look on.

Migrant Labor Task Force Given CHD \$60,000 Grant

By Michael Groden

The Farmworker Abuse Task Force, a combination of several legal advocacy groups that works to protect and educate migrant farm laborers, was awarded \$60,000 from the national Campaign for Human Development in Rochester last week. Father Marvin Mottet, executive director of the national campaign, presented the grant to task force representatives Paul MacAuley and George Parker.

The funds will be used "to facilitate the continual availability of legal assistance to migrants as they move from Florida up the coast, following the harvest," according to CHD.

MacAuley, an attorney who works for the Western New York Rural Legal Services, a task force agency, explained that although several laws designed to protect the migrant farmers exist, they are very hard to enforce. The main reason for this, he said, is because of the worker's mobility. They move regularly, following the harvest, and live in very remote labor camps, making it very difficult to keep track of them.

Aquinas Reunion

The 1955 graduating class of Aquinas Institute has planned its 25th reunion for Saturday night, Oct. 4, at Logan's Party House, 1420 Scottsville Road.

About a third of the 350-member class is expected to attend. A social hour at 6:30 p.m. and a buffet dinner at 8 are scheduled.

Deadline for reservations is Sept. 29. Planners are Lawrence Palvino, Milo Tomanovich, Michael Tomaino, Patrick Reddy and Father Thomas Miller, CSB, director of alumni.

Seton

The 80th Seton Branch members and their husbands will hold a party for Betty and Ray Mura at Morgan Lodge, Sunday, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m.

The CHD grant will be used to "employ a lawyer and para-legals" to follow the workers during the year, MacAuley said, hopefully to make it easier to protect the workers' rights. MacAuley added that the education of the workers is also very important because the vast majority of the migrant workers are powerless to help themselves. They are kept in isolated labor camps and are given little opportunity to improve their lives, he said.

MacAuley said that the workers are controlled by growers and crew leaders and violence, often murder, is used to keep the laborers in line.

The average salary for the migrants is \$2,500, MacAuley said. The task force plans to visit the labor camps, after working hours, to educate workers about their legal rights.

The grant will also enable similar labor organizations up and down the "East Coast Stream" to communicate with each other on a regular basis and thereby coordinate legal aid for the migrant workers.

It will also keep an eye on labor crew leaders who are "known to violate the labor laws." A crew leader hires the migrant workers and moves with them from harvest to harvest.

In giving the \$60,000 grant, Father Mottet reported that it is the 22nd national grant the Rochester diocese has received. He thanked Bishop Matthew H. Clark and the people of the diocese for the "enthusiastic support of the Campaign for Human Development" over the years.

Bishop Clark said that he was "very grateful" to CHD for the grant. He said that the presence of the Labor Task Force in the diocese and the fact that the grant was awarded to them "shows that the diocese's generous contributions are being used well."

Bishop Clark congratulated the task force for receiving the grant and offered the diocese's help in the future.

The Campaign for Human Development is celebrating its

10th anniversary. The organization raises funds and grants money to self-help groups that work for "long-range solutions to poverty in the critical areas of social and economic development."

Father Mottet said that \$80 million has been given to these groups in the 10 years of CHD's existence. The Rochester diocese has been granted some \$600,000 of those funds.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Cremation

What do you think of cremation?

With a great deal of sympathy. Take the pros and cons. The Church severely forbade cremation as a general practice up until recently. The reasons for the prohibition were these:

1. Tradition: Jews always were buried. Christians followed the tradition, and considered cremation a pagan practice. Third century Minucius Felix warned Christians against imitating the pagans in this respect. Saint Bernard's Seminary historian Father McNamara told me that the Church in Rome in the early centuries regarded the burial of the dead, which is a corporal work of mercy, so meticulously that in the fourth century St. Jerome referred to the "Fossores" as part of the clergy in Minor Orders. Fossores dug the graves and cared for them. They were not just grave diggers, but they formed a corporation in charge of graves, including artistic ornamentation and perpetual care. I suppose Mr. Bob Vogt, superintendent of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester, and his employees, would be the modern counterparts of the early century fossiores.

2. Atheists, especially of the Latin vintage (South Americans, Cubans, French,

Spanish), reintroduced cremation more than 100 years ago. Why? To show their contempt for the doctrine of the resurrection of the body and to impress in an imaginative way that at death, all is over. I fail to see how that is more impressive than gradual disintegration, but that was the idea.

3. The funeral liturgy of the Church was adapted to earth burial; and the Church, up until recently, has been slow to make liturgical changes.

On the contrary: 1. Although earth burial has been our custom, cremation is not against the natural law. It is the common method of disposing of the body in many countries, e.g. India.

2. The Church has always permitted cremation in certain circumstances, as in the case of an epidemic or in time of war.

3. Cremation actually has nothing to do with the doctrine of the resurrection of the body. Whether through earth burial or cremation, our bodies return to the chemicals of the earth as we are reminded on Ash Wednesday. "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return."

I once saw a TV program on burial customs in different countries, and thought the best was in a Scandinavian country. After the church service the minister accompanied the

funeral cortege to the burial place. The casket was placed over the grave. The minister took a bit of soil, dropped it on the casket and said: "Dust you are, and unto dust you must return." Then everyone went home. I think it cruel to have a lot of dragged-out prayers at the cemetery. In fact, it is common now to have the final prayers in the church, after the funeral Mass.

4. Cemeteries take up a lot of land, and to use the land for raising food or homes for the living seems a good thing. A burial urn takes little space, and satisfies the human longing to visit the place of burial.

A friend of mine who was on a Courier-Journal Holy Land Tour with us left instructions that if she died there, she should be buried in the Holy Land. Another tour member left instructions to be cremated and have the ashes mailed back home; but this requires the permission of the next kin. The distance from Israel to the States is more than 6,000 miles. The shipping of the body would cost about \$5,000, plus a lot of red tape. \$5,000 could give a lot of help to the poor through CRS (Catholic Relief Services) which is one of the best distributors to the poor in devastated countries. Or it could scatter a lot of religious cassette tapes, catechisms, rosary beads, medals and religious books. It could help educate a religious Sister or catechist or seminarian in the missions. Anyway, whether people plan to be buried or cremated, everyone should have an up-dated will to make the difficulties surrounding death less burdensome and less complicated.

USED OFFICE FURNITURE SALE

We are moving and everything listed below must be sold! All items must be moved out by Oct. 1.

2	electric adding machines	15.00 ea.	1	black swivel chair	20.00
1	Royal manual typewriter	75.00	1	green swivel chair	20.00
1	coat storage rack	25.00	3	metal tables 30"x60"	25.00 ea.
1	light table 30"x40"	150.00	3	venetian blinds, 2 blue, 1 brown	50.00 ea.
1	Compugraphic Computape Keyboard	1,000.00	3	secretary chairs	20.00 ea.
1	Metal typewriter table	10.00	1	Wood grain table 30"x96"	7.00
3	upholstered metal chairs	10.00 ea.	1	Wood grain desk	125.00
1	brown leather swivel chair	25.00	2	storage cabinets 18x36x72	55.00 ea.
1	small storage cabinet	25.00	1	small metal cabinet 13x19	10.00
1	wooden storage shelf	5.00	2	metal desks 30x60	75.00 ea.
1	6' metal storage shelf	10.00	1	metal storage shelf	5.00
3	wood grain tables tables 30x72	50.00 ea.			

Everything listed can be seen between 8:30 and 4:30, Monday-Friday at The Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St.

Questions? Call Bonnie at 454-7050.