



PEREDES

Hispanics Need New Self-Image, Spokesman Says

By John Dash

The nation's fastest growing ethnic minority has to face up to a major internal problem during the 1980s, disunity in itself, a spokesman for Spanish apostolates said last week.

Mario Paredes, director of the Northeast Regional Pastoral Committee for Hispanics, a federation of diocesan Spanish apostolates in this part of the country, stated, "We are disunited, not united. We share the same language, spirituality, homeland, but there are significant differences in our heritages, and the dominant culture also divides us in the social struggle for jobs and education."

Paredes, in Rochester to gather data for an assessment of the last five years of ministry to Hispanics, said in an interview that Hispanics must discover their "Hispanicity" and project that as the dominant image of the minority.

Hispanic disunity, he said, stems from Hispanics' identification of themselves as Puerto Rican, Argentinian, Cuban, Mexican, Chicano. Overcoming that self-discrimination, Paredes stated, will involve a long "phase of introspection" on the part of Hispanics and a concerted effort on the part of the Church.

"The Church is the best institution to do this," he said. "Hispanic culture is at the same time Catholic culture. Therefore the Church has a great force to use to pull us all together."

And, "The Catholic Church today is much more sensitive to the problems of the Hispanic peoples than it was ten years ago or even five years ago."

To bolster that assessment, he cited such facts as the increase in Hispanic bishops from one in 1970 to a dozen today, evidence that seminaries are showing a "serious concern to attract Hispanic youth," parishes developing intercultural communications systems, and "a greater Hispanic presence in diocesan structures."

"The North American Church," he said, "has done a remarkable job welcoming and assisting the Hispanic poor and oppressed."

Also on the plus side, "The Catholic Church remained in the cities," despite population trends to the suburbs. "The Church remains in the cities as an institution and as a presence," he said. "The work the priests have done there has been remarkable."

The function of Spanish apostolates, as Paredes sees it, is to "challenge Hispanic communities to sweat, to develop our own institutions. We must make our own history. The mission of the Church is to see Hispanics as real persons and as agents of our own history and destiny."

Hispanics must contribute to the Church, in turn, he said, helping the Church "rediscover our popular religiosity, our popular Catholicism — the Hispanic expression of faith."

In the past, he said, some "have misinterpreted, seen as inferior," aspects of Hispanic devotion and worship. "But there are vital values there. Mary, Jesus and the Cross, the fiesta, and the sense of freedom and liberation, are all in the piety of the Hispanic community."

That piety, he said, is best exemplified in devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Hispanic community, Paredes asserts, is in the position "to see clearly the problems of communion and participation in the Church," and from that perspective will have its greatest impact in helping develop the catholicity of the Catholic Church, "the authentic communion."

Pastor

Continued from Page 1

ained in 1966. He served as associate pastor at St. Monica's Church for four years before being named director of the Office of Family Life, a post he held for seven years.

Deadline Notice

Because of the holidays, the Courier-Journal will be moving up its deadlines for both the Dec. 31 and Jan. 7 editions. Deadline for the Dec. 31 issue will be noon, Tuesday, Dec. 23. Deadline for the Jan. 7 issue will be noon, Tuesday, Dec. 30.

New Address

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey is moving this week. Bishop Hickey's new address will be Holy Family Rectory, 415 Ames St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611.

Father Hctor Elected to State Post

Father Thomas D. Hctor, Catholic chaplain at the Rochester Psychiatric Center, has been elected president of the State Chaplain Association.

The association represents 133 chaplains of all faiths, serving all State Psychiatric and Development Centers. Father Hctor will serve a two-year term.



Jubilarian

Sister Elaine Ryan, SSJ, pastoral assistant at Sacred Heart Cathedral, is celebrating her 50th anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph this year. Technical difficulties prevented Sister Elaine's picture from appearing in last week's edition.

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Courier-Journal

Encyclical Available

The Courier-Journal has a limited number of copies of Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Dives in Misericordia" in stock. Any individual desiring a copy should send 50 cents for postage, and name and address to Encyclical, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.



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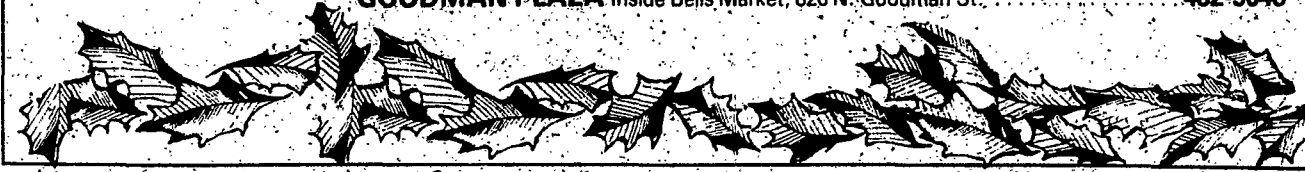
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GOODMAN PLAZA, Inside Bells Market, 826 N. Goodman St.	482-9048



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