

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Ray Brook

# Where Haitians Exist Behind Barbed Wire

By John Dash

Saranac Lake is near to being an improbably charming village, so redolent of wood smoke in early autumn that one is led to wonder whether oil or gas has ever been brought to heat its houses.

In the cluster of shops along its main arteries are signs here and there of major conflagrations: windows blackened, roofs collapsed and charred stumps of uprights against the sky. One wag noted, "It gets so cold here they light a blaze in the parlor whether they have a fireplace or not."

Town conversation is as likely to turn to an impending marriage as to the rivalries between the two schools at nearby Paul Smith's College.

And occasionally, Ray Brook crops up, "Over there," as it is designated locally. A shopkeeper said last week, "You hear talk over here, but you really wonder what's going on over there."

Over there, past the Arctic Cream store, on the road into the woods, behind the fence, through the gate, in detention block "E," Elisnord Bernavil says, "I would rather die here than live again in Haiti."

Last Wednesday, as we arrived at Ray Brook, a snow-mist drifted through the brilliant Fall foliage here high in the Adirondacks the morning after President Reagan issued his executive order to the Coast Guard to stop certain boats on the high seas, and to keep from U.S. waters any persons fleeing Haiti for other than political reasons. Included in that order is permission to shoot.

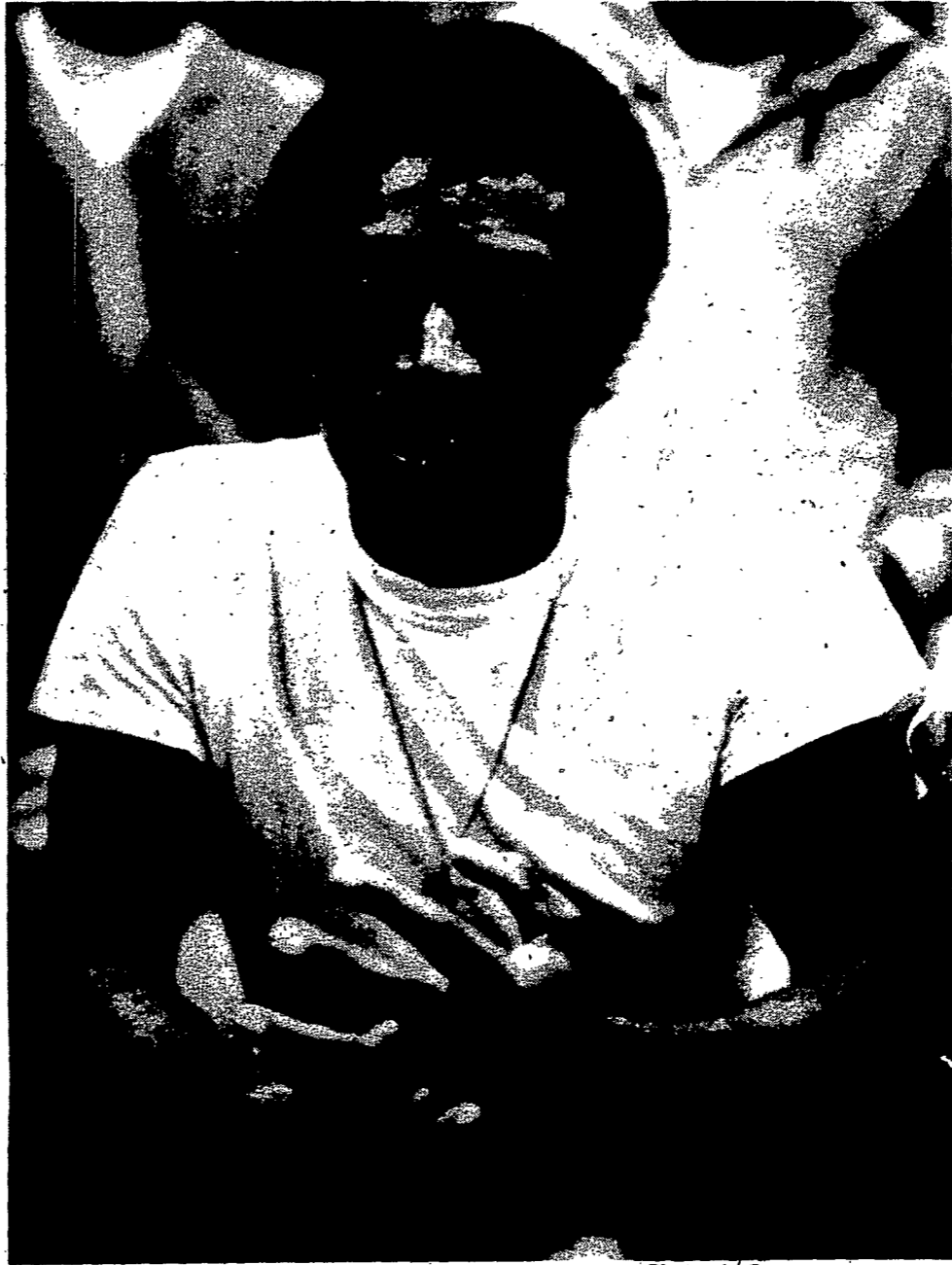
Even the inspector from the Immigration and Naturalization Service on duty at the Federal Correctional Institution here cannot remember when a similar order may have been issued in the past.

Frederick J. Sprickman, a Tonawanda native, also cannot remember a precedent for the "flotilla of the magnitude," bearing Haitians in recent months to U.S. shores.

And with the exception of the unauthorized immigration of Mexicans in the Southwest, he cannot remember such a blanket attitude taken toward persons fleeing a single nation.

Sprickman is on a 30-day tour of duty here at Ray Brook, the medium-security

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Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Bernavil is generally acknowledged to be a leader among the 40 Haitians detained at Ray Brook.



LEFEBVRE



RODGERS

Announces  
A Series Surveying the History Of Our Church  
and the People Who Shaped It

## Our Catholic Heritage

The Courier-Journal this week begins a 34-part series, "Our Catholic Heritage," which will trace the history of the Roman Catholic Church and the people who helped shape it.

We believe that the series, which will run through May, will not only serve as an aid to those involved in teaching or studying Church history in school, but also to the general readership as well.

Its authors are Msgr. James F. Connelly and Father Thomas McManus. Msgr. Connelly has been professor of Church history at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary since 1970 and the author of histories of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and of St. Charles Seminary. He has a doctorate in Church History from the Pontifical Gregorian University. Father McManus also is an alumnus of the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Illustrating the series will be Robert F. McNamara who teaches drawing, design and anatomy at Philadelphia College of Art.

The series begins with "The Establishment of the Church" and a look at St. Peter. Both are on Page 2.

We suggest that readers clip and save each segment, thus collecting a comparative and readable history of the Church.

The Courier-Journal will continue the series next school year with the history of the Catholic Church in the New World in general and in the United States in particular.

## The Church a Complex Structure

### Canon Lawyer Advises Consultative Bodies

The Church is a far more complex body than any other institution we may compare to it, Father James Provost told the three diocesan consultative groups last Sunday.

And one must be careful not to approach the Church as if it were a business, a club, or a structure akin to civil government.

The priest, a canon lawyer now at Catholic University who had served as chancellor of the diocese of Helena, Mont., addressed 58 persons representing the Priests Council, the Diocesan Sisters Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council gathered at Nazareth College for a special convocation.

In addition to Father Provost's talk, the agenda also included an address by Bishop Matthew H. Clark and discussions by each council's president on the role of the respective consultative body.

Father Provost said that an underlying question, "How do the three bodies work together?" is answered in the practical experience and in "politics in the good sense — the art of the possible," of the bodies.



Above, Father Provost speaks to the assembly. Below, Sisters Roberta Tierney, diocesan director of education; Muriel Curran, vicar for religious; and Barbara Moore, president of the Sisters Council, among the crowd.



He also said that the answers are suggested by a fuller view of the Church.

He described the Church as a communion of persons with a mission.

As a communion, he said, there is a sense of "being at  
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