

'Let Us Hope in Lay People'

Following is excerpted from an address given by Pope John Paul II to the Fifth Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the laity.

This is an urgent matter: the Catholic laity must be equal to the requirements which the renewal of the various fields of human life and work demands, through its original presence.



At the heart of the situations and problems on which man's future depends, the laity must, in particular, be the witness of a new humanity, create new spaces in which brotherhood may be experienced, nourish its creative imagination on the dynamism of the Gospel and set the example of the generous sacrifice — involving the difficult balance between prudence and courage — of those who struggle to open to

Christ, the Lord of History, the doors of man's heart, of the culture, of the peoples, of the future of nations and of a new international order. The Church needs lay people who will be heralds of the Gospel, so that it may penetrate the whole tissue of social life, constituting its fabric, the basis of the "civilization" of love, itself a sign which is a precursor of the coming of the Lord and therefore of the fullness of the Kingdom.

So, let us hope in lay people, let us encourage them to commit themselves, so that there may be left behind that certain distorted view of the priesthood which dims the sense of the pastoral ministry, when the priest succumbs to the temptation of becoming a leader on the political, trade union or social plane.

Among the vast fields of action of the Christian laity, your assembly has selected three fundamental ones: the family, work and culture.

Once more I thank you for your choice; it expresses your desire to make certain of the major concerns of my pontificate your own, to take them into consideration and seek concrete solutions.

The family, work and culture are three essential centers around which man's life is woven, his humanity is realized and his Christian personality as a child of God, the brother of his fellow man and master of creation, is constructed. They are universal aspects, determinant for man's complete development and for the original contribution of the Gospel to social life: they are aspects that represent a challenge.

You will understand that it is not possible for me here to speak in detail of their immense possibilities or of the problems and challenges that they pose.

But I would like to remind you of the importance, of which you are certainly aware, of the preferential option made by the pontifical magisterium and the episcopal magisterium in favor of the family, man's original place, the basic cell of society, the cradle of civilization, the community called to be the domestic Church. And I would also like to recommend that you draw abundantly on the rich heritage which the recent Synod of Bishops has left us. It was, you know, in consideration of the priority of character of the family apostolate that I felt the need to create the Pontifical Council of the Family, which will certainly be able to rely on the active collaboration of your council.

I call you also to contribute with all your might to the renewal of culture which, as an expression of the complete man, must be in his service, rooted in the best traditions of peoples and nations, open to transcendence and based on popular customs as well as on the most noble scientific and technical accomplishments. Only this renewal will be capable of bringing forth new projects and new hopes on the personal and collective planes, and of leading towards a future more worthy of man.

Church Support Divided In El Salvador Warring

By John Dash

The Church in El Salvador presents no clear support for any of the sides now at war for control of that nation. Ramon Cordoba said last week Cordoba, a spokesman for the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), said he believes weight of support from that nation's hierarchy, however, falls with the military rulers, and that the sentiment, if not the commitment, of the laity is on the side of such alliances as the FDR.

And wherever the battle lines are drawn or not drawn, he said, "the situation is worsening instead of calming down."

Cordoba, a 27-year-old Salvadoran who has lived in the U.S. since February this year, spoke in Rochester at the invitation of the Rochester Committee on Latin America, a sub-group of the Peace and Justice Education Center.

Interviewed during his stay, Cordoba said that of the nation's four bishops, three

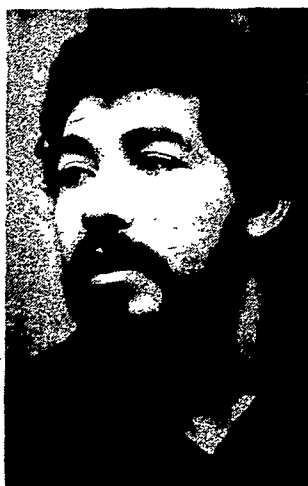
have stated their alliance with the present regime, and only Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas has spoken with vigor against both the military rulers, and the crimes committed by the opposition.

The archbishop has also vehemently spoken against U.S. military aid to El Salvador's rulers. Cordoba said that such aid is "only contributing to the massive violations of human rights and terrorism against the campesinos."

Support for the FDR is mixed among El Salvador's clergy, Cordoba said, but "many priests support the 'popular project of the people,' and are engaged with the FDR."

The laity, he said, support the FDR inasmuch as they are members of Christian Base Communities and are proponents of liberation theology.

The FDR enjoys wide support in other aspects of



RAMON CORDOBA

Salvadoran life, however. Cordoba said that the birth of the FDR, reckoned to April 18, 1980, was the result of an alliance which cut across all social and economic strata from the peasantry to the academy.

Cordoba anticipates that pressure from both the U.S. (in the form of amendments to aid bills) and the United Nations will get the present Salvadoran government and the FDR into negotiations, and it is to that end that he is now working, he said.

In his public speaking engagements Cordoba asks his audiences to write letters to their representatives supporting all initiatives to halt U.S. military aid to El Salvador, he said.

In addition, he asks his audience to press for reforms in his nation and the return of freedom of expression there as a condition of any U.S. aid whatsoever.

Guadalupe Slates Banquet

The Queen of the Americas Guild, Tepeyac 1, will sponsor a banquet in honor of the GUADALUPE GROUP

Queen of the Americas Guild, Tepeyac 1, will meet at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 30, at Guardian Angles Church. Literature, prayer pamphlets, books and pictures are available. The public is invited.

450th anniversary of the start of devotions to Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, at Guardian Angles Church. Tickets at \$6 per person are available until Dec. 1.

Stella Masuzzo is chairperson of the event. Ticket information is obtained by calling Philomena Drexler, 334-2794.

PILGRIMAGE

Mrs. Mary Kelly, local spokesperson for the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, is organizing a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico for the celebration of the 450th anniversary of the appearances there, Dec. 9-15. Further information is available by contacting Mrs. Kelly, (716) 586-1664.

Camp Good Days Gets an Office

Camp Good Days and Special Times, the non-profit volunteer organization that gives children suffering from cancer a chance to go to summer camp, has been given an office.

For two years the program was run from the home of Gary Mervis, the founder. Now, through an in-kind gift from the American Cancer Society, the organization may be reached at society headquarters, 1400 Winton Road N. 14609.

Mervis said, "This gift by the American Cancer Society enables the camp to adhere to its objective — every cent raised is spent entirely on the

boys and girls with cancer."

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