The same at the control

# Ray Brook Haitian Refugee Returned to Haiti

returned to Haiti from Ray

whether he ever learned that his daughter had been found

Brook, and it is uncertain living in Florida and that the so that he could join her. machinerý was rolling to release him from incarceration

John Walker, executive secretary of the Office of Black Ministries and a principal figure in the Haitian Refugee Committee, said last

week that the Immigration and Naturalization Service confirmed Joseph had been returned to Haiti in mid-December.

Joseph had been among the original group of Haitian refugees jailed last summer at Ray Brook federal penitentiary outside Lake Placid.

diocesan group Α discovered last Fall that Joseph had become separated from his daughter, 12-year-old Marie Nicole, shortly after his arrival in Miami and that he had not had communication with or about her from July to October.

investigation im-An mediately begun by the diocesan group revealed that the child had slipped through the INS net and she had gone to live with an uncle.

Meanwhile, Joseph had been removed to Ray Brook.

When the child was discovered. Walker said. assurances were given that Joseph would be released to be with her. At that time, however, the diocesan group

agreed to keep a watchful eye on the situation. Less than three weeks later. Walker said last week, Joseph

had acquiesced in the matter

of being shipped back to the

nation from which he fled.

Walker said that the Haitian committee is investigating the occurrence to learn if any unusual pressure was brought to bear in the

In addition, the committee has learned that the Haitian population at Ray Brook has nearly quadrupled.

At first the facility housed 40 refugees. Walker said that last week that number had swelled to 159, of whom 12 are under the age of 17.

Walker recently led a group from the diocese to Ray

winter clothing to the refugees from tropical Haiti.

He said that during a 40minute meeting with 75 of the men, 10 identified themselves as under the age of 17.

Diocesan agents' have contended that minors are incarcerated at Ray Brook for a number of months. In the past, however, Ray Brook officials denied the assertion.

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Brook, delivering donated

with Jesus Christ, High Priest and Victim of Salvation." Sister Marie

Suzanne Hoffman

Near the Top



Father William Amann of Rochester recently finished the Renewal Program at the

Institute for Continuing Theological Education Theological at the North American

College in Rome. He was among 36 priests from all over the United States who studied for three months courses in philosophy, theology and spirituality. The study was climaxed by a meeting with Pope John Paul II; that's Father Amann just to the

right of the pontiff in the photo. He reported that the Holy Father urged the priests

to remember how much the people look to you in order to receive God's Holy

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Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

## **Following** A Blessed Journey

We all make our singular. journeys through life. We define our lives by the various roads we choose to walk. For a Christian, the journey is shaped by the paschal journey of Jesus Christ. For some, the path chosen by Jesus is so compelling that they set their heart upon it with the same intensity He showed when He set His face toward Jerusalem. For those who set their heart on such a iourney, there is a burning conviction that no other path can be followed, that no other journey makes sense. That is the journey of the blessed, of those whose efforts are precious in the Lord's eyes.

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Franz Jaegerstaetter's life did not always have that kind of intensity. Those who grew up with him in a small. Austrian town described him as a somewhat "wild" young man who partied with the best of them, enjoyed the company of pretty girls, and found the village tavern an amiable place to spend a winter's evening. He had a typical peasant's education, enough to read the Bible, handle his own financial affairs, and join in the life of the town. He started on the typical journey of people of his time and place. He married, had children, paid his bills, attended church regularly.

Even a small Austrian village could not escape the unrest of Europe forever Franz watched some of his friends go off to war and a conviction began to form in a his heart that fighting was contrary to the message of the Gospel Eventually his own turn came and he was called up to serve in Hitler's army.

That was the crossroads of Franz Jaegerstaetter's life. He refused to serve in the Nazi army even though he was told he could serve as a non-combatant medic. He believed that such service only restored the wounded so that they could return to the battlefields to kill once again. He was warned that if he refused that option he would be charged with treason. The penalty was

Franz conferred with his government.

Hoffman, SSJ, is a compus minister at the university of Rochester.

parish priest and even went to the bishop for guidance. Was he wrong in following his conscience? If he really believed that contributing in any way to the death of other people was immoral. could he put on an army uniform to save his life and be with his family? Part of the agony of his decision lay in the fact that he did not consider himself a real "pacifist," one who tried to persuade others about the evil of war. He saw himself as a Christian who had a moral obligation to love rather than kill his neighbor: he saw himself as a Christian who could let neither his own life nor the need of his family come before the demands of the Gospel as he saw them. He could take no other path. In 1943, he was beheaded by the German

To some he is an embarrassment; to some he is a puzzle, to some he is, utter foolishness. But no one can deny the powerful statement his death made about a person's willingness to sacrifice all for the demands of the Gospel. His death makes me ask whether the same burning conviction is found in my own life. What paths do I choose? How is my journey shaped by the paschal journey of Christ?

Sister Marie Suzanne

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