

John Walker Resigns From Haitian Panel

By John Dash

It was both a tense and disheartening week for the Cuban/Haitian Refugee Committee.

The group, largely made up of Catholics and diocesan officials, lost through resignation one of its strongest workers.

At a meeting last week, Maurice Tierney, executive director of Catholic Charities and a member of the committee, announced the resignation of John Walker, executive secretary of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries. According to Kati Machi, a member of the group, Dr. Walker cited frustration with alleviating the plight of Haitians detained in federal prisons as a chief motive for his move.

Dr. Walker had been in the forefront of committee efforts to clarify the Haitian refugees' status in this country, and to provide those detained, especially at Ray Brook near Saranac Lake, with legal, religious and material assistance.

Ms. Machi described her reaction to Dr. Walker's departure from the committee as "terribly shocked."

Meanwhile, on the same issue, a bitter anniversary passed. Last Thursday marked the first anniversary of the order issued by Attorney General William French Smith to detain any Haitians seeking refuge in this country.

All those at Ray Brook

arrived after that order was given.

An ecumenical prayer service took place May 20 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City to mark the anniversary. The service was sponsored by the National Emergency Coalition for Haitian Refugees, an organization promoted and partially developed by personnel from the Diocese of Rochester.

The coalition is asking member organizations to write to the attorney general supporting an extension of the Cuban-Haitian entrant date from Oct. 10, 1980 to Oct. 10, 1981.

The group is also pressing for ameliorating amendments to the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Reform Bill, which contains provisions for summary exclusion of aliens, and does not provide for judicial review of asylum denials.

A coalition release stated, "Despite the efforts of many organizations, including the Coalition and its membership, no amendments on these issues were gained in the recent Senate mark-up of the legislation. Additional pressure must be placed upon legislators to include changes in the (bill) as it critically affects the detained Haitians and other asylum seekers..."

"We urge that the proposed legislation be amended to include a provision to safeguard against the summary exclusion of aliens with bonafide asylum claims. At a

minimum, the legislation should provide that aliens seeking entry should (be) given adequate opportunity to establish their claims with the assistance of legal counsel and an understanding of our laws."

And, in Miami, last Tuesday, a two-month long Federal District Court trial of a class-action suit pressed on behalf of detained Haitian refugees against the Department of Justice began to wind down with department attorneys presenting their summations of the case.

The case has gone to Judge Eugene Spellman who has said he expects two weeks to make his decision. He has been quoted as saying that "certainly this court has not had a more complex, more difficult matter presented to it" during his tenure.

During that trial, Maurice Tierney testified on behalf of the Haitians.



Speaker

Congressman John J. LaFace (D-36, NY) will deliver the commencement address to graduating students of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, Friday, May 21. He will speak at a 3 p.m. awards ceremony and commencement held in the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's Academic Building Front Entrance Plaza, one Lomb Memorial Drive.

Scholarship Started For Divinity School

Five black women seminarians have established the Sister to Sister Scholarship Fund for Colgate Rochester-Bexley Hall-Crozer Divinity School. The scholarship is designated for black female seminarians who show a serious intention to maintain high academic performance.

Each year, the Sister to Sister Scholarship will be given in the names of people the founders want to recognize. For the first year, 1982, the scholarship is given for the mothers of the five founders.

Four of the founders — Barbara Austin-Lucas, Deborah Flemister Mullen, Lynnette Stallworth-Bracy, and Cecelia Williams-Young, received their Masters of Divinity degrees this May from the Divinity School. The fifth woman, Shirley Louise Harrington of Buffalo, is working towards her M.Div. from the school.

The founders have described the scholarship as a "visible way to acknowledge those who gave of themselves to get us here, a practical way to encourage others, and a real way to keep us in touch with our passage."

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Bishop Spears To Head GEM

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, after 18 months as president of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, will turn over the reins to Bishop Robert R. Spears Jr., bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. The Rev. Carrol A. Turner, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of Monroe Association, is first vice president.



BISHOP SPEARS arms race. Specifically, they should adopt a mutual freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons. This is an essential, verifiable step toward lessening the risk of nuclear war and reducing the nuclear arsenals."

The new officers will be installed during the Pentecost Convocation on Peace Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m., tonight, Wednesday, May 26, at Third Presbyterian Church, Meigs Street and East Avenue. Bishop Spears will speak on "Choosing Life So That You and Your Children Might Live."

Seven workshops are offered, centering on the peace issue at various levels of concern: Peace Liturgies, Peace in the Middle East, Nuclear Disarmament, Christian Faith and Peace-Making, Peace in Central America, Poverty and Alienation in Rochester, and Peace-Making as a Lifestyle.

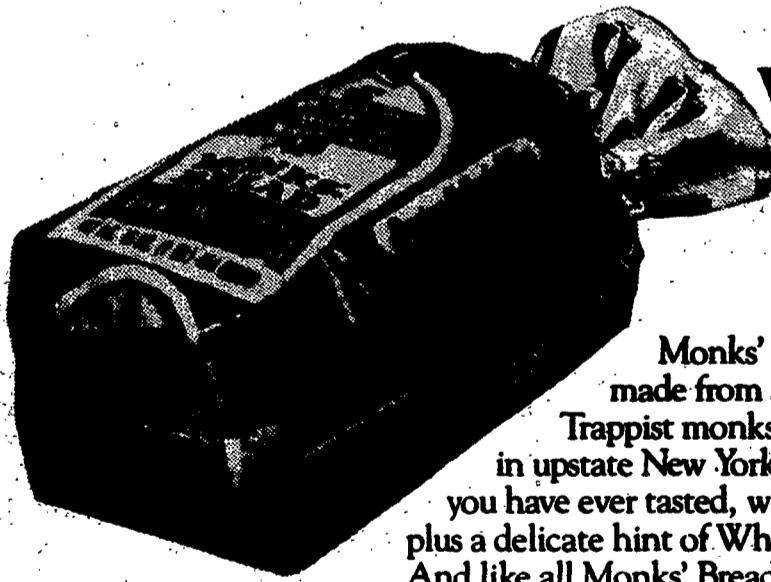
Recently the GEM Council of Communions adopted the following statement with a call for contemplation by the churches and response to representatives in Congress: "To improve national and international security, the United States and the Soviet Union should stop the nuclear

Single Parents

A single-parent family workshop has been slated by the Youth Concerns Committee of the Mental Health Chapter, 9 a.m.-noon, June 12, at the Health Association's Annex. The program will include the films "Single Parent," and "Yours Truly, Andrea G. Stren." Further information is available by calling Patricia DePrez, assistant program coordinator, 271-3540.

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