

THE POPE

Migrants Need Special Care of the Church

(Following is excerpted from the NC News translation of Pope John Paul II's Spanish-language homily on the social and religious needs of migrants at a liturgy of the word in the plaza of the Basilica of Our Lady in Guadalupe Nov. 4.)

The worker has the right to leave his own country in search of better living conditions, and the right to return to it. But emigration has painful aspects, and that is why I called it "a necessary evil," since it means a loss to a country that sees its men and women go away in the fullness of their lives.



They abandon their cultural community and find themselves transplanted into an environment which is new to them, with different traditions and sometimes a different language. They perhaps leave behind them places condemned to rapid aging of the population, as happens in some Spanish provinces. It would be

so much more humane if those responsible for the economic order saw to it — as my predecessor Pope John XXIII pointed out — that capital came to the worker, and not vice versa, "to offer many people the concrete chance to create a better future for themselves, without being obliged to pass from their own environment to a different one, through a transplantation which it is almost impossible to effect without painful ruptures and without difficult periods of human adjustment and social integration."

Such an objective represents a real challenge to the intelligence and effectiveness of governments to avoid grave sacrifices by so many families. These are obliged to undergo "forced separations which sometimes endanger the cohesion and stability of the family and often confront them with situations of injustice." It is a

challenge to those responsible for the national and international order, who have to draw up programs to attain a balance between rich and poor regions.

It must also be borne in mind that the sacrifice made by emigrants is a positive contribution to the places receiving them and to peaceful international coexistence as well, since this opens up economic possibilities to deprived social groups and relieves the social pressure that unemployment produces when it reaches high levels.

Unfortunately, relocations of workforces are rarely conducted with nobly human objectives in mind, nor are they aimed at the good of the national and international community: They are frequently set in motion only by uncontrolled shifts according to the law of supply and demand.

The receiving regions and countries too often forget that immigrant workers are human beings who have been uprooted from their native soil. They have moved out of need, not just by the right to migrate but by the operation of economic factors that are alien to the emigrant himself.

In many cases those involved are culturally weak people who have to go through grave difficulties before adjusting to the new environment, where perhaps they do not even know the language. If they are subjected to discrimination or difficulties, they will fall victims to dangerous moral situations.

On the other hand, political authorities and business have the obligation not to set immigrants on a level of human or work conditions below that of workers already in the receiving place or country. And the population as a whole must avoid demonstrations of hostility or rejection and must respect the cultural and religious peculiarities of the immigrant. He is often forced to live in unfit housing, to accept discriminatory wages, and to put up with painful social and mental

emotional segregation which makes him feel that he is a second-rate citizen. In this way, months, even years pass before the new society shows him a truly human face. This existential crisis has a strong effect on the religious practice of emigrants, for perhaps their Christian faith was provided with supports based only on sentiment, which easily falls away in an adverse atmosphere.

In the face of these dangers and threats, the church must try to collaborate in finding an effective answer.

Solutions do not depend mainly on her. But she can and must help through coordinated work by the church community of the place of immigration.

Then the emigrant himself has to make a genuine effort on his part to promote social living in his new environment, where he is offered the chance for steady and justly rewarded work. Whether suspicions will fade and bridges of dialogue and sympathy will be built often depends on his behavior.

It is up to the immigrant to accept his real circumstance genuinely, to express his will to remain and to seek to share in the cultural modes of the place or region receiving him. It is up to the authorities, on their part, not to force the rate of integration of such families but to offer them chances to enter gradually and calmly into the new atmosphere. They should show a public will not to discriminate on grounds of language and to provide proper schooling facilities so that children will not feel overlooked or humiliated in schools but will be provided with bilingual education, free of impositions. Such authorities should support initiatives permitting immigrants to preserve the cultural flavor of their regions of origin. In this way, instead of painful and useless sufferings, the receiving area will find that its cultural state, to the degree that it itself gives, will receive silent enrichment from characteristics brought in from other parts.

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Christopher

"Assignment Life," the current pro-life film being sponsored around the diocese by the Human Life Commission, was shown Dec. 5 at St. Christopher's Church. An open discussion, a question and answer session, a liturgy and a social were included in the event.

St. Joseph

Penfield — Disc jockey Dave Olsen will provide the music for a New Year's Eve dance 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. at St. Joseph's School gymnasium. Those who wish to attend are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres and a bottle. A catered champagne breakfast will be served and mixers will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person, and reservations are made by calling Corinne Butera, 586-2697, or Bobbi Berns, 381-1490, before Dec. 19.

St. Andrew

The Rosary Society of St. Andrew's Parish will hold a Christmas party, 8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 14, in the school cafeteria. Members are asked to bring dishes of holiday cookies. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided.

Old St. Mary

A Festival of Lessons and Carols in the old English tradition will be held 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12, at Old



Holy Spirit

The Senior Choir of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Penfield presented two Advent/Christmas concerts last week as a service to the senior citizen community at St. John's Nursing Home and Hill Haven Nursing Home. Above are some of the members of the 26-voice group under the direction of Vincent Parks III. Mrs. Patricia Kelly accompanied the group on organ and piano.

St. Mary's Church. According to Scott C. Smith, spokesperson for the parish council, the event should prove "an exciting program of chorus, brass and handbells." The event is open to the public free of charge.

Sacred Heart

The Sacred Heart Rosary Guild will meet 7:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 13. The in-

duction of new members will take place after devotions in the church. The event also includes a Craft Night and a Christmas Party, for which members are asked to bring scissors and cookies respectively. Gifts for migrant children one to five years old will also be accepted. Donors are asked to label gifts by age and sex.

St. Bernard

Scipio Center — Rev. Don

Ashley, pastor of Scipio Community Church, and Father Paul Cloonan, pastor of St. Bernard's Church here, sang two duets accompanied on the guitar by Rev. Ashley, during a well attended ecumenical service on Thanksgiving eve. The songs were "How Great Thou Art" and "The Song of Good News." The service will be held at St. Bernard's next year.

St. Thomas Apostle

The Rosary and Altar Society of St. Thomas the Apostle Church will sing Christmas carols at Lakeshore Nursing Home and entertain priests and Sisters of the parish at a party following in the school hall, Wednesday, Dec. 15. Society members

have invited all women of the parish to the event which begins 6:15 p.m., in the parish parking lot. The party proper will begin at 8 p.m. A \$2 donation is asked to cover costs. Those wishing may bring small gifts for nursing home residents.

St. Thomas More

Frank and Sue Staropoli of the diocesan Office of Family Life will speak at the last in the St. Thomas More Advent

lecture series, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 16, in the school.

St. Anne

Volunteers at St. Anne's Church on Mt. Hope Avenue will be honored by the parish staff with a Mass of ap-

preciation, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, followed by refreshments in the school hall.

CCGEB Walk-a-Thon Raised \$8,400

Elmira — The 1982 Walk-a-Thon benefiting the Chemung County Catholic schools raised \$8,400, more than the annual event had ever before raised.

Thomas Klotz, Long Range Planning Committee chairman, reported on the results of the October 23rd event at the November meeting of the Chemung County General Education Board.

Klotz expressed thanks to Fran and Mary Fiore who chaired the committee running the event.

Father Paul McCabe, Our Lady of Lourdes pastor, described the use of the

Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal for a piggy-back parish appeal. He recommended that beginning in 1983, all the participating parishes in the CCGEB use the piggy-back approach to support the consolidated school system.

The concept will be reviewed by Klotz and his committee.

The board also is considering the use of micro-computers in the classrooms. The principals have prepared a proposal which currently is being examined by the board's Finance Committee.

The board is continuing its study of the busing it provides to students.