COURIER-JOURNAL

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Diocese Joins Observance Of National Migration Week

This week diocesan institutions are joining the United States Catholic Conference in observing National Migration Week, "a special period for calling on all members of the Church and people of good faith everywhere to respond to the special problems of refugees, migrants, all the stateless and homeless people of our world," an announcement of the week from Washington said.

In a letter to Bishop

Anthony J. Bevilacqua. chairman of the bishops' ad hoc committee on migration and tourism, stated: "The needs of migrants and refugees in our world continue to be a matter of urgent priority for the United States and the Church. The social unrest that resulted in the first large wave of Indochinese immigration to this country in 1975 still has not resolved itself. "Families from Laos,

Matthew H. Clark, Bishop Vietnam and Cambodia are still seeking to become reunited. Large numbers of people from Central and Latin America are forced to flee their homelands as a result of continuing political violence.

"Seeking a haven and an opportunity to create a normal life for themselves, such people cross our borders adding to the large numbers of undocumented aliens and migrants currently living unlawfully in this country.

"Immigrants, refugees and migrants find themselves facing an increasingly cold welcome from an American public which itself is carrying an enormous burden caused by rising unemployment and a harsh economy. While Congress and the current administration continue to discuss appropriate responses to these enormous needs, the Church and her people are summoned to immediate action.

"The Church in the United States is called by God to this work: 'When an alien settles with you in your land, you shall not oppress him. He shall be treated as a native born among you and you shall love him as a man like yourself.' (Lev. 19:33-34) This Old Testament pastoral attitude was elevated to a yet more lofty plane when Christ identified Himself with the alien among us in the New Testament: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' (Mt. 25:351

"As Americans, and the children of earlier immigrant families, we are the heirs of a rich legacy of extending welcome, sustenance and the open hand of friendship to newcomers to this country. As the recipients of this proud legacy, we are bound to open our hearts and homes to those arriving today.

Through a number of its agencies, the Diocese of Rochester serves migrants, refugees and immigrants.

Most notable at this time is the advocacy and resettlement work done on behalf of the Haitian refugees by

MIGRA 798 REFUGEES

Catholic Charities and communities.* Catholic Family Center, both working with the national bishops' office of Migration and Refugee Services.

In addition, Catholic Relief Services' and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, whose local outlet is the Diocesan Missions Office, aid migrants and refugees in other countries.

Spanish-speaking migrants and immigrants are served here by the diocesan Spanish Apostolate.

According to the national bishops' office, "Through Migration and Refugee Services, American Catholics have joined hands to resettle annually nearly as many refugees as all other voluntary agencies combined - 57,984 individuals in 1981 alone. This great task is accomplished through a network of 151 diocesan offices which coordinate the talents of hundreds of staff members and thousands of religious and lay volunteers, and through parish groups of community organizations which band together to sponsor individuals and families arriving in their

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The week-long observance.

which began last Sunday, has several aims, among them, to:

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• Ask all appropriate diocesan and parish organizations, including the Priests Council and parish councils, to generate community support for local refugee programs.

• Ask all Catholics to join with the bishops to welcome refugees to their communities, to volunteer their time and energy in helping to resettle those refugees who do arrive, and to share their views of tefugee issues with their legislators.





· · · After Cuba's prisons, a frightening sea crossing and detention by the U.S. Immigration Service, a Cuban exile is finally free to join his family in Miami. His story is symbolic of the Church's observance of National Migration Week.

Pope Gives Holy Year Dates, New Canon Law Due Jan. 25

By Nancy Frazier

Vatican City (NC) - The special 1983 Holy Year of Redemption will begin March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, and end April 22, 1984, Easter Sunday, announced Pope John Paul II on Dec. 23.

The pope also said that he plans to promulgate the new . ode of Canon Law Jan. 25, the 24th anniversary of Pope John XXIII's announcement of the convocation of the Second Vatican Council.

Christ's redemption of man through his death and resurrection. Holy Years are normally held every 25 years. The last one was in 1975.

The aim of the 1983 Holy Year, he said, is to bring about "a deepened consideration of the event of the redemption and its concrete application in the sacrament of Penance

Pope John Paul said he hoped the 13-month celebration would further enrich the world's sense of the "solidarity of suffering."

Among the groups suffering in today's world he listed the sick, anxious parents, the unemployed, alienated young people and "those who suffer for the violation of their rights, through sometimes refined

DEATHS Sr. Ethelreda

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Ethelreda O'Bierne of the Sisters of St. Joseph Dec. 20 in her congregation's motherhouse chapel.

Msgr. William Shannon, and Fathers Frederick Bush and Thomas Mull concelebrated the rites for the Sister who died Dec. 18, 1982, at the age of 81.

Sister Ethelreda had taught in diocesan schools

The new code was drafted to update Canon Law in the spirit of Vatican II.

Pope John Paul II made the announcements in his traditional pre-Christmas speech to cardinals present in Rome and members of the Roman Curia, the church's central administration.

The bulk of the 4,000word speech focused on the special Holy Year of Redemption. The pope said the year will be celebrated worldwide and he hoped it would bring greater world "solidarity in suffering" and Paul added. a "mentality of peace."

Pope John Paul first announced the special Holy Year Nov. 26 but at that time did not give the specific dates encompassing the year. The purpose of the Holy Year is to mark the 1,950th anniversary of

"For the man who seeks truth, justice, happiness, beauty, goodness, without being able to find them through his own efforts, and remains unsatisfied by the proposals that immanentistic materialistic ideologies offer him, and withers away because of the abyss of desperation and boredom or is paralyzed by the sterile and self-destructive enjoyment of the senses, the only answer is Christ," the pope said.

"For the man who carries impressed on himself, in mind and heart, the image of God and feels this hunger for the absolute, the only answer is Christ," Pope John

The pope mentioned his first and third encyclicals, "Redemptor Hominis" (Redeemer of Man) and "Divers in Misericordia" (The Mercy of God) as guides "for the appropriate celebration" of the Holy Year.

forms of persecution."

The pope said the year's theme of redemption and reconciliation "is closely linked to that of peace, of the victory over sin which must be reflected in the victory of love over estrangements, over rivalries, over hostilities among peoples."

"The jubilee will contribute to consolidating in the world a mentality of peace," he added. "That fis the hope that comes from the heart."

Pope John Paul said the dates of the Holy Year were chosen to mark "all the steps in the life of the Savior," from the announcement of his birth to Mary by an angel to his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Unlike other such jubilees, the special Holy Year will be celebrated in all the local churches, as well as in Rome, the Pope said.

for 53 years

A Rochester native, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Corpus Christi Parish in 1921. She was a graduate of Nazareth Normal School.

Recognized for her gifts with primary school children, her skills and attitude have often been cited by those with whom she had dealings.

Among the schools in which she taught are Corpus Christi, Holy Apostles, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Nazareth Hall St. Augustine, St. Ambrose and St. Paul's in Oswego.

She retired from active classroom work in 1976 and resided at St. Joseph Convent Infirmary from that time on.

Sister Ethelreda is survived by a sister. Marie O'Bierne of Rochester, and several nieces and nephews.

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