

Pope Rebukes Duvalier over 'Misery'

By Nancy Frazier

Port-au-Prince, Haiti (NC) — Pope John Paul II closed his eight-nation tour of Central America and Haiti March 9 by rebuking the regime of Haitian president-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier and telling the Latin American bishops to begin a program of "new evangelization" throughout the continent.

The pope spent nearly 10 hours in the Haitian capital of

Port-au-Prince, en route to Rome from Central America.

Addressing an estimated 100,000 people at the Port-au-Prince airport, the pontiff was strongly critical of conditions in Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, which has been led by the Duvalier dynasty since 1957.

He noted that Haiti, independent since 1804, was the first Latin American nation to proclaim its independence.

"It is therefore called upon

in a special way to develop in a climate of freedom, within the means and with the efforts of all, a work of true human and social promotion so that its sons and daughters may work without constraints, without having to seek elsewhere — and often in pitiful conditions — what they ought to find at home," the pope said.

"It is certainly necessary for things to change," the pontiff said.

He specifically criticized "divisions, injustices, excessive inequality, the degradation of the quality of life, misery, hunger, the fear of many people" but said that the church wished "not to

accuse but to contribute to an improvement by getting through to the conscience of those who bear responsibility, in the villages, in the cities, and at the national level, to act according to the gospel and to the social doctrine of the church."

He insisted that change must take place "without violence, without murder, without internal struggles."

Duvalier, who succeeded his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, as president-for-life in April 1971, greeted the pontiff with an address in which he described Haiti as a "haven of peace in an agitated region, a model of stability in a world of chaos."

INS Reconsidering Refusal to Assist Haitians' Helpers

Miami — Immigration and Naturalization Service officials are reconsidering their refusals to assist private social service agencies pay for the needs of about 1,700 Haitians released last year from detention centers.

At a March 4 hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Kellner told Miami U.S. District Judge Eugene Spellman, who ordered the release of the Haitian refugees, that the government was reconsidering its decision.

Justice department spokesman Robert Bombaugh had said in February that it would be fruitless to continue discussing any INS aid to charitable agencies.

The charities, including the U.S. Catholic Conference, had agreed to care for the Haitians so they would not go on welfare, but did so with the expectation that assistance would be forthcoming from the federal government.

Judge Spellman asked agencies to provide a detailed plan of their financing needs

so that he could determine whether he had the legal authority to order INS to provide money.

Spellman also scheduled a hearing for June 10, when he will consider if there is a need for him to lift the injunction which prevents INS from holding hearings for Haitians without legal counsel. U.S. Immigration Chief Judge William Robie agreed to limit hearings for the next four months to those Haitians already represented by counsel. He also agreed to have INS jurists conduct hearings in Naples, Tampa and West Palm Beach, Fla., and in Rochester, N.Y.

(As of Courier-Journal press time, a date had not yet been set for the Haitian refugees to appear in the INS courtroom. All of the local refugees have volunteer attorneys; and it is the understanding of the Cuban-Haitian Emergency Refugee Committee that notice of the Rochester hearings may be delivered in as short a time as seven days prior to the date set.)

Sister Mansour OK with State, 27-9

Lansing, Mich. (NC) — Mercy Sister Agnes Mary Mansour's appointment as director of the Michigan Department of Social Services was confirmed March 9 by the State Senate, 27-9.

She had been told Feb. 23 by Archbishop Edmund C. Szoka of Detroit to resign because she had not opposed government funding of abortion handled by her department. Since her appointment in December, the archbishop "had waited patiently" for her to "declare her active opposition to Medicaid payments for abortion" but she had offered no such declaration even after meetings with him.

Sister Mansour told a Senate hearing that she personally opposes abortion but that she also thinks that as long as abortion is legal, "it would be unfair to permit it only for women who can afford it."

Correction

An editing error in last week's Courier-Journal confused the date for Bishop Matthew H. Clark's diocesan hearing on the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on nuclear disarmament. That hearing will be held April 20, at a place yet to be determined.

Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:

Father Robert Werth, from associate pastor, St. Ambrose Church; to pastor, St. Bridget's Church.

Father Daniel O'Shea, from pastor, St. Bridget's Church; to full-time chaplain, State Agricultural and Industrial School, Industry.

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