



Papal Look-Alike

Policeman Bill Bird, 50, of Liverpool, England, was told by friends that he had a remarkable resemblance to Pope John Paul II so he sent a photo, right, of himself dressed like the pope to the Vatican requesting permission to impersonate the pontiff at charitable events. Bird, a Catholic, received a reply from the Vatican which he interpreted as granting the permission. The Vatican, however, said it was a courtesy response and did not grant approval. (NC Photo)

Urban Chicanos Seen Challenge To the Church in California

By Al Antczak
 Los Angeles (NC) — Urban Chicanos constitute one of the greatest challenges to the Church in California and the U.S. bishops' proposed pastoral on Hispanic ministry should help meet that challenge, said Father Ricardo Chavez, director of the California Catholic Conference's Hispanic Division.

Father Chavez, a priest of the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., travels statewide and is responsible to California's two archbishops and 10 bishops.

The U.S. Catholic bishops will consider the first draft of "The Hispanic Presence:

Challenge and Commitment" at their Nov. 14-17 general meeting, which Father Chavez said could "become the agenda for the Church in the immediate future."

The bishops called for the pastoral at their November 1982 general meeting and the first draft released in July cites problems affecting ministry to Hispanics as well as giving suggestions on making the Church more fully "catholic."

Working with the Spanish-speaking is a great challenge, Father Chavez told The Tidings, Los Angeles archdiocesan newspaper, "but the greater challenge is to deal with those who have moved beyond that -- but not so far that they are fully English-speaking and part of the American culture."

Father Chavez said that there is a large group of people who are not Hispanic, but also not American. They do not speak Spanish well, or at all, and they have some difficulty with English.

"This is a group we classify as Chicanos," he said. "They are caught in between. That is why they develop a separate culture -- the way they talk, their low-rider cars, their style of dress."

Father Chavez said that "the traditional society, from the Hispanic point of view, doesn't catch them or reach them. The traditional expression of American life doesn't capture them."

The same problem exists in the Church's ministry to them, he said. "Neither the Hispanic, Spanish-speaking Church captures them, nor does the English-speaking Church capture them."

Father Chavez acknowledged that not all Hispanics describe themselves as Chicanos; Chicanos by self-definition place themselves in a culture of their own, a culture which he said needs to be addressed.

"As Church we have to respond to their culture and

values and do what the Gospel asks us to do with any culture, that is to penetrate it. Ultimately it may require peer ministry," he said.

Father Chavez said that his office has been "experimenting with different ministerial forms to reach people we have not been able to reach through older traditional forms. As a result we'll see things like mobile evangelization teams, a greater emphasis on use of media, whether radio or television."

The first draft of the pastoral urges dioceses to use similar forms of ministry and criticizes the Catholic press and electronic media because they "lag behind in the area of Hispanic ministry."

"The bishops of Alta and Baja California hope to get a radio program on the air by the end of the summer," Father Chavez said. Baja California is in Mexico and

Franciscan Communications in Los Angeles is developing the program for bishops of both Californias.

"We are looking for a more up-to-date form of ecumenism where people respect one another in their groups and are not trying to proselytize," Father Chavez said in the pastoral is the anti-Catholic proselytizing among Hispanics by Protestant fundamentalist-type sects.

Another major step in developing ministry to Hispanics is the preparation of the third national Encuentro, Father Chavez said. The bishops' pastoral calls for the Encuentro -- encounter -- to be held in August 1985. Previous Encuentros were held in 1972 and 1977 and involved dialogue on the vision of what participants hope the Church to be in the lives of Hispanics.



Signs of Love

T-shirts worn by Irene and Ed Murphy of Horsham, Pa. proclaim their love for each other, and Ed's love for golf at the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Convention in Philadelphia. (NC Photo)

Promote Peace, Pontiff Asks Scientists

Erice, Sicily (NC) — Pope John Paul II asked 50 prominent scientists to become architects of a "culture of peace."

The plea came in an Aug. 22 telegram sent on the pope's behalf by Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, papal secretary of state, to an international group of scientists holding a seminar on nuclear war.

The pope said he was making a "strong appeal" to the scholars "that as leaders of a generation marked by the persistent anxiety resulting from the threat of nuclear holocaust they will direct all their scientific efforts toward a culture of peace."

Such a culture, the pope said, would be one that "assists mankind in an awareness of our unity, and thus promotes respect for the dignity of peoples and fosters the conditions necessary for the establishment of lasting harmony and peace."

The pope said that he was "aware of the role played by the members of the scientific community in the development of nuclear arms and new systems of security, as well as the grave responsibility that they bear in pursuing

a viable defence for man and for contemporary civilization so threatened by the dreadful consequences of a nuclear conflict."

The pontiff called nuclear war "one of the most urgent and vexing problems facing humanity today."

Among participants at the seminar were Edward Teller, the U.S. physicist regarded as the father of the hydrogen bomb, and Eugene Velikjov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The meeting was held in Erice, a city on the Italian island of Sicily.

Speaking to the group on Aug. 20, Teller said that in regard to defense systems, "scientists would have to have fewer secrets and speak more freely among themselves to lay the basis for an era of peace." He added that "war in space is a journalistic invention" and that "satellites are not an efficient means of defense."

The purpose of the seminar, the third annual meeting of the group, was to discuss the consequences of a nuclear conflict between the world's superpowers.

Three Fast To Protest Training

Columbus, Ga. (NC) — Three Catholics protesting U.S. training of Salvadoran cadets at Fort Benning will not eat until the cadets leave the fort, their supporters say.

The 487 Salvadoran officer candidates will finish training at Fort Benning Sept. 21, according to Maj. Donald Maple of Army public affairs.

Linda Ventimiglia, 32, an Army Reserve warrant officer from Salem, Ala.; Oblate Father Larry Rosebaugh, 48, of Chicago; and Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, 44, of Litcher, La., began the hunger strike Aug. 13 in the Muscogee County Jail, Columbus.

They had been arrested by federal marshals and FBI agents Aug. 12 at Casa El Salvador in Columbus.

During arraignment the same day before a federal magistrate in Columbus, the three were charged with violating a federal order banning them from Fort Benning, said Bob Scott of Concerned Citizens for Latin America, a Columbus group.

"They hope they will not eat until the last Salvadorans leave the fort," Oblate Father Carl Kabat of Baltimore, who visited the two priests Aug. 16, told NC News.

Holy Cross

The recent Red Cross Community Blood Drive at Holy Cross Parish realized 76 units of blood, 16 units over its goal. In addition, there were 6 first time donors, according to spokesperson Joanne E. Fisher.

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Scotto Gets Mercy PR Job

Joseph Scotto has been named publicity coordinator at Our Lady of Mercy High School, replacing Cheryl Gillen who resigned July 1. A Webster resident, Scotto assumes responsibility for all media communications including administrative, scholastic, organizational and sporting. He is a 1980 graduate of St. Bonaventure University and is enrolled in a master's English program at SUNY Brockport.

GRAND OPENING

We are happy to announce the opening of a brand new Christian bookstore in Irondequoit, (Next to Muxworthy's). This beautiful new store will feature bibles, books, reference works, music, records as well as greeting cards, gifts and church supplies.

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