

Archbishop Criticizes U.S. Ruling on Haitians

Miami (NC) -- A federal appeals court ruling that Haitians seeking political asylum have no constitutional right to challenge U.S. immigration decisions drew criticism from Miami church leaders, including Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy of Miami.

Archbishop McCarthy said the Feb. 28 decision may run "counter to a higher law of humanity."

The decision, by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, reversed an earlier ruling that the Immigration and Naturalization Service unlawfully discrimi-

nated against Haitians. The court ordered U.S. District Judge Eugene Spellman to vacate his June 1982 decision that the government failed to comply with regulations in enacting its detention policy for Haitians.

While admitting not to be an expert in constitutional law, Archbishop McCarthy said he was "concerned that our United States Constitution may have been interpreted as running counter to a higher law of humanity and to the rights to which all men are endowed by their creator."

He also said he wondered whether the decision adequately recognized U.S. obligations under a United Nations' covenant to refugees in a country of first asylum.

"And I am concerned lest the decision seems to give carte blanche to ignoring all rights of undocumented people," the archbishop said.

Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh, Miami archdiocesan director of Migration and Refugee Services, said that while he had not had time to review the more than 140 pages of the decision, it was his understanding that "under the U.S. Constitution, every person, regardless of his or her immigration status, has some basic constitutional rights as a human being."

"These would include, I would think, the right to life, the right to due process and the right to equal treatment under the law," he said.

Neal Sonnett, president of the Dade County Bar Association, predicted that the case would eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court. He said he hoped that the new decision will not mean reincarceration of the approximately 1,800 refugees released from Miami's Krome Detention Center by order of Spellman.

In its decision the appeals court said:

-- That administration officials have a right to discriminate on the basis of national origin in deciding immigration issues;

-- That the INS is not required to notify arriving aliens of their right to seek political asylum; and

-- That INS officials have the right to detain aliens indefinitely to prevent the United States from "losing control of our borders."

Retreat Begins On March 25

Apalachin -- St. Margaret Mary Church in Apalachin is having its first Renewal Mission starting 7 p.m., Sunday March 18 through Sunday, March 25. A 4 p.m. dinner will precede the closing of the mission on March 25. During the week speakers will include Father Dan Muscalino, "Analyzing Personal Life Goals"; Father Tom Reddington, "Who is Church?"; and Andy and Betty Bonetti with Angie Gallo, "Christian Family," and "Single Parenting."

Pre-registration will be held at church following the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Babysitting will be available upon request.

Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Reflecting On Two Weeks In Elmira

To Father Paul McCabe, Elmira:

A great thanks to you for inviting me to give the Novena in honor of Our Lady, Feb. 12-20. The fine turnout of people and their devotion was edifying.

On Monday, Margaret O'Connor, who went to Ireland with us in 1975, phoned. "Friends told me they could not hear you very well." I corrected the situation, and it gave me a spring board to tell a hilarious story at Sunday Masses. Explaining the telephone call, I said: "The pastor of a liturgically oriented parish was about to preach, when he thought, mistakenly, that the microphone was not working. He tapped it and muttered: 'I think there's something wrong with this thing.' The liturgical congregation replied with one voice: 'And also with you.'"

Your people were immediately responsive to the instruction on prayer. After this instruction I always sell the little prayer book, "Treasury of Prayers," five for a dollar, saying: "To plant one peach tree is good, but to plant five is better. Many people have forgotten the traditional prayers which every Catholic should know and pray: the Acts of Faith, Hope, Charity; the Memorare and Hail, Holy Queen, etc. These are in the Treasury of Prayers. Many children do not know the Act of Contrition, though I was pleased to find that every child who came to confession in this parish did know it."

The 1,000 booklets I brought were all gobbled up. So you have a spiritual orchard in your parish. I brought a lot of Sheen tapes, too. Yours is a parish where there is an interest in the tape apostolate. So the Word of God continues to be heard from the master preacher, Archbishop Sheen.

Your staff was great. Deacon George Welch was there to assist. Your school principal, Sister Judy Kendrick, was on deck to help. I knew her in Ithaca 40 years ago when she was five years old, with a cute nose, a determined chin, and a character to match.

Your cooks treated me like a prize steer to be

fattened for market. The meals were glorious. The secretaries, the Sisters, Ray Verschage, the maintenance man, the choirs and soloists, the altar boys, the Altar Society women: all were superb.

Father Ed Golden and you are fortunate to have one another as housemates. Father G. oriented me to the keys, switches and refrigerator, and was most companionable. We exchanged ideas. I enlightened him about the Legionnaires of Christ and my favorite TV program, "Crossfire." He expatiated about his prison work, and his five years on the Bolivian Mission. He is a charmer.

After Novena ended, I felt free to float, from Tuesday through Friday, so met with many friends of old: Msgr. Schwab, handily living at St. Joseph's Hospital, surprisingly alert for his 89 years; the Sisters at Notre Dame High, St. Joseph's and Lourdes Sisters. Tour friends hosted me at Pierce's and the Sirloin Room.

The area priests' meeting each Friday noon gave me a chance to meet priests I rarely meet. Brother Sebastian Mahar from Mt. Saviour, a fellow pilgrim to the Holy Land in 1972, came for lunch with Father Hogan.

On Thursday I had supper at Horseheads with Father Bonsignore and Deacon Cosmic. That priceless cook, Jo Ryan, who will retire this June after serving Father Bart O'Brien for 20 years, remembered and served a delicious borscht.

The last day I stopped at the Dominican Monastery and visited with Sister Agnes Daley who hails from Webster (she was graduated from St. Mary's Nursing School in 1945), and with Sister Claire Russer.

My finale came after the 5:15 Mass Friday. Mary Helen Michalko and her husband and son took me to McDonald's. They proposed some place more elegant, but I said: "No. Let's get a quick snack so I can get on my way. It's 125 miles to Webster, and 2 1/2 hours. Anyway, my restaurant patronage tends to plebian places."

My greetings to your good mother and your Hibernian aunt Bernice Hickey in Auburn. And my thanks to you and your parishioners, and to all Elmira for a happy two weeks in "The Queen City of the Southern Tier."

Computer Show in May

A two day Personal Business Computer Expo presented by The Meeting Company in conjunction with St. John Fisher College will be held May 6 and 7 at the college. Primarily geared to the small business person and professional, all the major manufacturers and distributors of computer equipment will be represented with displays of the latest technological advances in data processing equipment.

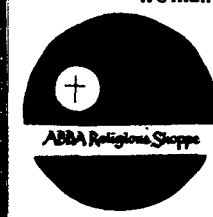
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