

Trying to Vatican But Not Easy

By Jerry Finnegan
The United Nations drive to slow down the world's population growth...

At the center of the drive is the Second International Population Conference, scheduled for Aug. 6-13 in Mexico City.

A followup to the 1974 population conference in Bucharest, Romania, the Mexico City meeting is not expected to break significant new ground, but rather to refine and update the conclusions of a decade ago.

In Bucharest the Holy See was the only participant to withhold support from the final document. The Vatican delegation approved of much that was contained in the statement but said that some moral principles it considered essential were missing or inadequately represented.

The same result is a possibility in Mexico City, since the working document for the August conference does not offer substantial changes in some key areas that concerned the Holy See 10 years ago.

These include the primacy of marriage and the family in population issues, the role of abortion, sterilization and artificial birth control in family planning, and the question of ethical priorities when one deals with population growth and socio-economic development.

The Bucharest conference turned into a confrontation between populationists and developmentalists. Populationists, led by U.S. and British groups, sought to make birth limitation and zero population growth the primary objectives of the conference. Developmentalists, including the Holy See and most of the Third World countries, wanted population issues subordinated to social and economic development goals.

The Holy See's delegation helped fight for and was generally happy with the emergence of an articulate Third World view as the dominant factor in the Bucharest final document, the "World Population Plan of Action."

Since Bucharest, better population data and actual progress in slowing down population growth in many parts of the world have led to significantly lower projections of likely population growth in the coming decades. On the other hand, most nations still consider the expected growth too rapid and see a need to establish or strengthen policies aimed at reducing the rate.

From a peak of 2.1 percent a year in the 1960s, the rate of population growth has dropped to an estimated 1.5 percent in the early 1980s, according to the United Nations.

As in 1974, growth rates vary from country to country and region to region, but the highest growth rates are in underdeveloped countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

When the delegations from around the world met in Mexico City, they will be looking at the quality of life of the existing and future world population. This means studying targets for reducing infant mortality and increasing life spans through better living conditions and health care. It also means finding ways to slow down, control or even reverse rapid urbanization.

The educational, economic and legal advancement of women is advocated as a means of attaining population goals by reducing birth and fertility rates through development and use of resources and their just distribution are concerns as well.

Internal and international migration because of war, famine, drought or economic reasons also occupies a significant part of the agenda.

In all these questions the Holy See's main focus has been on the preservation of ethical values, particularly the advancement of the dignity and rights of the human being and the family.

Msgr. James T. McHugh, a priest from Newark, N.J., who was part of the Vatican delegation in Bucharest, is to be part of the Mexico City delegation, explaining some of the Holy See's chief concerns.

Noting that most nations still consider the principles of the 1974 "World Population Plan of Action" valid and not likely to call for extensive revisions, Msgr. McHugh summarized some of the Holy See's difficulties with WPPA.

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Zurenda, second from right, with family members Mrs. Vicki Zurenda, her husband George P. Zurenda Jr., and Ms. Sara Zurenda.

Good Neighbor Zurenda

Elmira - The second Good Neighbor Award of the Development Council of St. Joseph's Hospital was presented recently to George P. Zurenda, an industrialist, at the eighth annual council dinner. Zurenda was recognized for his achievements in the areas of "business, community leadership and philanthropy," by Richard Evans, council president; N. Jackson Learned, chairman of the board of directors, and Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator. Evans outlined the recipient's activities which included being named state

Small Business Administration person of the year in 1979. He serves on the SBA advisory council, Syracuse. He owns and operates Zurenda Enterprises which include Elmira Stamping and Manufacturing Corp., Industrial Services Corp., Triple Cities Metal Finishing and El-Co Embossing Products, Inc. His efforts resulted in the transformation of the Elmira Theatre into the Samuel Clemens Performing Arts Center. His involvement led to the restructuring of the Chemung County Multiple Sclerosis Society. He is an Elmira College trustee and a

fencing coach. He also was recognized for his longtime concern for St. Joseph's Hospital and those served there. He is a member of the Development Council, Special Gifts Committee. Zurenda is a former president and director of the Elmira Symphony and Choral Society, former president of Elmira Country Club and former president of the Western New York Division of the National Metal Finishers Association. A rendering of a commissioned wall sculpture, presented in memory of Zurenda's wife, Josephine, also was unveiled.

KC Auxiliary Celebrates 50th Jubilee

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 178 celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Father Paul Wohlrab, chaplain, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, and at a dinner following.

Four charter members were honored at the dinner: Mrs. Dorothy Blaese; Mrs. Thane DeRoo; Mrs. Ruth Flynn, and Mrs. Helen O'Connor.

Unable to attend were Mrs. Mae Lofink and Mrs. Trimbey.

Jean Szembrot, president of the auxiliary, hosted the evening. Other officers of the organization are Pattie Nolan, vice president; Mary Barnhart, secretary; and Kay Tedone, treasurer.

Blue Army Vigil

The special all-night vigil of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will begin 9 p.m. Friday, June 29, and will conclude with 6 a.m. Mass the following morning at Holy Rosary Church. Priest leaders include Father John O'Malley, Msgr. Emmett Murphy, Father Raymond Fleming and Father Robert Meng.

Bishop Hickey To Celebrate Knights' Mass

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the celebrant and homilist at the 67th annual Field Mass for deceased members of the Rochester Regiment and Ladies District Auxiliary, Knights of St. John, 10 a.m., Sunday, June 24.

Marching to the cadence of a solitary drum, the regiment, under the command of Colonel Robert M. Strich, will process to the temporary altar, near the All Souls Chapel in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Assisting at the Liturgy will be Martin Stephan and

Phillip Gabello as servers; Joseph Maleca and Charles Keller, lectors; Charles Stich, Ed Kraft, Jack Hummel, Joseph Dukett and Larry DeLong, ushers.

Richard Schloss will monitor the sound equipment.

Following the Mass, the names of knights and ladies who have died since last June will be read.

During the memorial moment of silence, taps will be sounded by a bugler from Bishop Kearney High School.

The public is invited to the event.

Salvadorans

Continued from Page 1. ing, and torture in the new prison. He said his crime was that he was a member of a labor union and had participated in legal elections, which he said, "was enough to change me into an enemy of El Salvador," in the minds of

the military rulers. Through the aid of his mother and professional colleagues, he left prison. On Christmas night, 1983, he flew to Mexico, and waited there for two months until his wife and two children could join him. He entered the United States on May 5.

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