COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Rome (NC) — During his

Oct. 10-13 trip to Spain and

Latin America, Pope John

Paul II praised the region's

missionary past, acknowledged the "tears and suffer-

ings" of its present and urged

the church to take a greater

role in the future of its

The pope linked his dra-

matic call for Latin American

bishops to "create a new

dawn for the church" with

their responsibility to defend

the region's estimated 100

million poor. He skipped

over a line in one speech

which called on the church to

offer its support for the

"social liberation of the

multitudes of the needy," but

a Vatican official said the

While he repeatedly em-

phasized the church's respon-

sibility to be an effective

social force, the pope was

careful to define the limits of

that force. In the urgently

needed pastoral work, he

said, there are rules which

people in Puerto Rico, the

pope stressed that the laity

'must exercise its mission in

close contact with priests and

Speaking later to priests,

nuns and seminarians at a

university in San Juan, the

pope told them never to use

the excuse of a "greater

pastoral efficiency" to ignore

the directions of their bish-

Latin American bishops

gathered in the Dominican

Republic's capital of Santo

Domingo, the pope said that

the Latin American church's

work on behalf of the poor

and the oppressed must

follow specific teachings of

comment on liberation theol-

ogy, which was born in Latin

America in response to

widespread poverty, the pope

told the bishops that they and

other Catholics must not

consider the poor as "a class

in struggle." Class struggle,

one of the tenets of Marxism,

has been used by some

branches of liberation theol-

ogy in explaining how

Christ's message should be

understood and applied in

The pope's trip, which in-

cluded an overnight stop in

Zaragoza, Spain, was made

to help inaugurate a

church-sponsored

evangelization program

leading up to the celebration

in 1992 of the 500th anniver-

sary of Christianity in Latin

But the timing of the visit

gave the pope an opportunity

modern Latin America.

In his most detailed public

the universal church.

And to more than 100

To more than 500,000

must be followed.

bishops.

comment was still valid.

people.

'Keep the Faith, Help the Poor,' Pontiff Urges

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

William Privett of the curriculum review committee speaks at the press conference Monday. At his side, from left, are Father Charles Mulligan and James McCuller, co-chairmen of the Teen Pregnancy Coalition, and Ivette Salgado of the bilingual

3rd Draft Issued Of Sex Ed Curriculum For City Schools

The third draft of the Junior High Component of the Family Living/Sex Education Curriculum, projected for January 1985 classroom implementation, leased at a press conference Monday sponsored by the Monroe County Teen Pregnancy Coalition, in conjunction with the City School

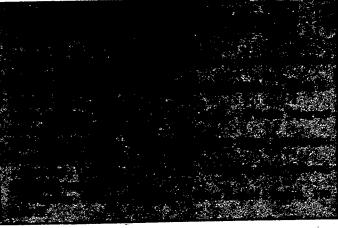
A series of forums have been scheduled on the to seek further input on the program an a spokesman said "it will be revised ... it is a curriculum in evolution."

Coalition respresentatives at the conference in the School District Central Of-Mulligan, diocesan director of Social Ministries, Larry Perkins of the City School District and James McCuller of Action for a Better Com-

munity. Although the diocese was involved in amassing input for the formation of the curriculum and although the diocesan Education Divisiont is preparing an official reaction to it, Patrick Fox, diocesan director of the Department of Youth Ministry, stressed that the curriculum is "for use in city public schools and not for diocesan schools."

In response to a queston at the conference, Father Mulligan, along with Mc-Culler a coalition cochairman, said that although the diocese has its own separate sex education program, he looks forward "to fruitful interaction" with the school district.

McCuller stressed the necessity of parental involvement in sex eeucation of



their children. "Young people and parents have the responsibility to take on the problem of teenage sexuali-

Parents must take up the responsibility," he emphasized, "and we're not going to be passive about this.

William Privett, of diocesan Catholic Charities who served on thereview committee for the curriculum, echoed the need for parental involvement and said a handbook will be putlished in addition to the curriculum (which he said is "more than 600 pages long") to "enable parents to know what's being taught."

The Teen Pregnancy Coalition was formed in October 1981 as a gathering of religious, ethnic, health and social agency leaders seeking effective community action relating to teen sexuality and

teen pregnancy. The coalition sponsored a series of 16 community forums in December 1981 and January 1982 to determine community sentiment on the subject. These forums generated a list of

principles and program goals relative to teen sexuality and teen pregnancy.

A statement released at the Monday conference said the "the unforums left mistakably clear impression that the major action to be taken should be development and implementation of high quality family life and sex education curricula for use in public and private schools, religious and community institutions, countywide."

The City School District decided to pursue actively the development of such a curriculum for city schools "in a manner consistent with coalition principles and with a commitment to secure public input into the curriculum content and mode of presentation prior to classroom presentation."

To gather further community input, a series of six forums will be conducted by the coalition and City School District. The first, designed for Spanish-speaking persons, will take place from 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 21, at the Ibero-American Action League, 938 Clifford Ave. Continued on Page 4.

of the Vatican document on homily as an endorsement of liberation theology, released the church's commitment to task of a "new evangeliza- quoted the text of the pope's tion" of the region.

The document, issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, condemned forms of liberation theology which "un-critically" use Marxist concepts.

Speaking to the bishops and about 100,000 people during a Mass Oct. 11 at a Santo Domingo racetrack, the pope insisted that work for the poor can never include violence. In an apparent reference to Nicaragua, where four priests hold posts in the Marxist-influenced Sandinista government, the pope also warned that church leaders should beware of bringing their people under "programs of atheism."

The church's preferential option for the poor, Pope John Paul said, is not "exclusive or excluding," but is open to all those "who want to leave sin.'

The pope made the individual the focus of his comments on the social aspects of sin and liberation. Liberation, he said, is liberation from sin, and social evil begins in the individual human heart.

During a Liturgy of the Word celebration in Santo Domingo's Olympic Stadium Oct. 12, the pope told the bishops to avoid the "seduction of ideologies" and social models which "omit or contradict" the faith.

But the pope's cautionary remarks about violence and sengers of peace, love and political ideologies did not salvation." eclipse his strong call for the church to lead the fight for social justice -- through emphasis of the moral and social dimensions of the Gospel.

In fact, newspapers in the Dominican Republic re-

to underline the major points ported the pope's Oct. 11 Sept. 3, as he outlined the the poor. Most of them sermon, including the line omitted referring to th e social liberation of the poor.

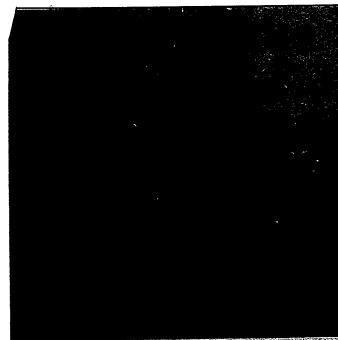
Pope John Paul's pledge that "the church and its hierarchy want to remain present in the cause of the poor" individual and "his aspiration for an unpostponable social justice" brought prolonged applause from participants in the outdoor Mass. Many had waited for hours in the hot, muggy weather to hear the

The pope criticized political corruption, arms expenditures and the armed conflicts which have sapped the region's resources. He also warned against economic exploitation by "foreign powers" and lashed out against what he called "the egoism of the 'satisfied'" who exercise "privileges of an opulent minority" while much of society lives in misery and oppression.

In each of his talks, Pope n Paul also sounded ...emes of hope. He repeatedly returned to the example of the energy, faith and sacrifices of the first missionaries to the New World and urged new vocations to minister to the region's growing population.

In Spain, the pope told relatives of missionaries that their sons, daughters and brothers were modern "mes-

"Be proud of them," the pope said in a talk in the Basilica of Our Lady of Pilar, "and continue to cultivate the missionary spirit."



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