

## Busy Pope

**Continued from Page 1**  
to improve family life, increase vocations and help solve social problems. However, he warned the bishops not to deviate from church teachings in seeking innovative solutions to those problems.

"There is also no lack of those who disfigure the Gospel message, using it as an instrument in the service of ideologies and political strategies, in search of an illusory earthly liberation, which is not that of the church nor that of the true good of man," the pope told the bishops.

In Peru, where the liberation theology of Father Gustavo Gutierrez is a popular influence on pastoral programs, the pope warned against directing religious life "toward socio-economic projects which should be alien to you."

Although he has steered away from directly addressing liberation theology, which sometimes combines Marxist sociological concepts and Christian principles, Pope John Paul told the Peruvian bishops that it is "the social teachings of the church, elaborated over a long period of ecclesial experience, which illuminate the problems of the world."

The church's preferential option for the poor includes the spiritually poor, even if they are materially wealthy, he said.

In the oil capital of Maracaibo, in northwestern Venezuela Jan. 27, Pope John Paul noted the "great human and professional transformations" brought by the discovery of oil in the area. He asked for the development of an "evangelizing education" to meet the spiritual needs of the people in an area transformed from an agricultural, hunting and fishing economy to an oil economy which accounts for more than 90 percent of Venezuela's budget.

In the jungle boom town of Ciudad Guayana in northeastern Venezuela Jan. 29, the pope defended workers' rights and spoke of the need to keep technology within the moral bounds that defend human dignity.

On Jan. 31, he also urged dignity for Ecuador's Indians, who have been oppressed throughout their country's history. About 250,000 Indians from Ecuador's mountains and jungles lined the Latacunga airport runway to greet the pope with cheers, songs, dances and pleas for con-

tinued church support in their efforts to improve their lives.

Pope John Paul told them although Ecuador's farm reform was "laudable," the Indians also should be provided with technical advice, economic aid, better economic return to the producers and better marketing systems.

He also cited "the profound values" of the Indian tradition, citing a strong religious sensitivity and a strong sense of community and family.

He said Ecuadoreans should unite to increase the influence of Catholic values in society to solve their social problems, which greatly affect the poor and the weak. In separate speeches to workers and to academics, professionals and artists, the pope cited the "intolerable abyss" between the rich minority and the poor majority and "the enormous weight of a foreign debt which threatens your development."

The underdeveloped world needs fairer economic relations with developed countries, the pope said Feb. 3 in Peru.

Developed countries "have to apply just measures in the relations, above all economic, with countries on the way to development," Pope John Paul said.

A lack of fair agreements can cause "desperate situations which bring conflicts" in underdeveloped countries, he said in the Andean mountain town of Ayacucho, Peru.

The area surrounding the town is a base of operations for a Maoist guerrilla group trying to spark a rural revolution, and the pope called on the guerrillas to give up armed struggle because "evil never is the road to good."

"Look for the paths to dialogue," he added.

In Arequipa, Peru, Feb. 2, the pope beatified Sister Ana de Los Angeles Monteagudo, a 17th-century prioress of the town's convent of St. Catherine of Siena. Pope John Paul said she "molded her heart by learning the meekness and humility of Christ."

In a beatification ceremony the previous day in Guayaquil, Ecuador, the pope beatified Mother Mercedes de Jesus, 19th-century founder of Ecuador's first religious order, the Sisters of Mariana of Jesus.

"In her the true preferential option for the poor clearly shines," he said.

Pope John Paul was scheduled to spend Feb. 4 and the morning of Feb. 5 in Peru.

### Auditions

Auditions for the Brighton Theater Guild's presentation of "The Most Happy Fella," will be held 7 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10 and Tuesday, Feb. 12, at East Rochester High School, 200 Woodbine Ave.

### Charismatic Mass

Victor — Father Thomas C. O'Connell will preside at a Mass for the Charismatic Renewal community of the Central East Region, 7:30 p.m., today, Feb. 6 at St. Patrick's Church. The public is invited.

### HOLY HOUR

The Holy Trinity Chapter of the Peoples Eucharistic League has scheduled a Holy Hour to begin at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 18, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Infirmary. Father Paul Tomasso will be the leader.



## Bishop Delivers Banner

Bishop Matthew H. Clark delivered this 16-by-20 feet, handsewn wall hanging depicting the union of the dioceses of Rochester and Tabasco, upon his arrival Monday in Mexico. The major contributors to the 2-week-long project -- from left, Dewey Donahue, Pat Thomas and Esther Eaves -- stand in the sanctuary of Holy Name of Jesus Church where the banner was displayed for a week before the bishop's trip. Other contributors, not pictured, included Carolee Cuba, Mafalda Camillacci, Helen LaMonica and Olga Chafel.

## Pontiff Calls for Social Justice

By Agostino Bono

**Lima, Peru (NC)** — Pope John Paul II, addressing bishops, Religious, youths and others Feb. 1-2, set guidelines for Peru's socially active church but did not directly confront a controversial current of liberation theology spawned in that South American country.

The church's preferential option for the poor includes the spiritually poor, even if they are materially wealthy, the pope said.

He urged Peruvians to adhere to Catholic social teachings. A popular influence on pastoral programs in the country is the controversial liberation theology of Father Gustavo Gutierrez. Father Gutierrez melds Marxist sociological concepts with Christian principles.

The pope strongly encouraged church social action. However, by the end of the first two days of his five-day visit, he had warned priests and Religious against "any intent to secularize your religious life" and "to direct it toward socio-economic projects which should be alien to you."

He told the Peruvian bishops, who so far have refused to publicly evaluate the currents of liberation theology in their country, that it is "the social teachings of the church, elaborated over a long period of ecclesial experience, which illuminate the problems of the world from the light of natural reason, of faith and of the morality of the church."

Youths were asked to construct "the peace of the year 2000" but to do so through a profound study of church social teachings. "The vision of the world and life given by the Gospel and explained by Catholic social doctrine impulses constructive action much more than any ideology, no matter how attractive it appears," John Paul said to youths Feb. 2.

In a nation where the annual per capita income is \$655, the pope said that the church's preferential option for the poor should not be interpreted as siding with one class. It is "neither exclusive nor excluding," he said to the young people.

"We must project this to the real poor, taking into account all classes and forms of poverty which exist in our world and also looking at so many rich people who are terribly poor," the pope added.

He told youths to remember "those who suffer because of the lack of liberty, above all the lack of religious

liberty."  
On Feb. 1, he informed religious and lay leaders that their work must be done in "ecclesial union" with the

bishops, who are the only ones empowered to exercise the church's teaching authority.

"You must avoid every-

thing which makes people think that a double hierarchy or a double magisterium exists in the church," he added.

## Bishops, Castro Meet

**Havana (NC)** — Three U.S. bishops met with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro at his invitation Jan. 24.

It was the first meeting the Cuban leader has had with U.S. Catholic officials since he came to power in 1959, according to a Boston Globe Service story filed from Havana. Castro has never met formally with the Cuban bishops' conference, the newspaper said.

On the same day, Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio, Texas, one of the three bishops, said that U.S.-Cuban relations "seem to be opening up."

"American priests are being given entry visas unlike in the past," he said. The archbishop said "we would like to arrange a trip to the United States by the Cuban bishops."

He also said that the U.S. church would try to send materials to help its Cuban counterpart repair church property and, if the government permits, buy a modern printing press for religious publications.

The bishops traveled to Cuba Jan. 21-25 at the invitation of the Cuban bishops' conference. In addition to Archbishop Flores, the group included Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop Bernard F. Law of Boston. Msgr. Daniel Hoyer, NCCB general secretary, and Father David Gallivan, a staff member of the NCCB secretariat for Latin America, accompanied the bishops.

Castro reportedly spoke to the bishops about education. He was quoted as saying the principle of Cuban education is that

"all students are involved in work as well learning. If you universalize schooling, you have to universalize work, otherwise you risk forming a society of elitist intellectuals."

Father Gallivan said that Castro arranged the meeting.

The bishops also visited Lenin Vocational High School outside Havana Jan. 24. The school's 4,000 students study science in the morning and pick lemons in the afternoon.

"The vision you have given us is not a particularly Communist one," Archbishop Law told Deputy Education Minister Asela de Los Santos during the school tour, the Boston Globe reported. But a school is "discriminatory" when students "are made to feel they can't think in an open or right line if they aren't communist," he said.

On Jan. 23 the news service reported that Archbishop Jaime Ortega of Havana spoke of "progressively greater possibilities for dialogue" with the Cuban government.

Papal pronuncio to Cuba Archbishop Julio Einaudi was quoted as saying "there's no persecution in Cuba."

Archbishop Edward McCarthy of Miami said he thought Archbishop Ortega and Einaudi "must be referring to the fact that there is no bloody persecution or putting to death of people in Cuba."

"I know for sure that the church is not permitted to function except within the walls of the church building," he said. The archbishop also said that that restriction prohibits schools, social programs and religious publishing.

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