

World & Nation

Deal with Cuba allows widespread deportation, bishop says

Miami (NC) — Miami's Auxiliary Bishop Agustin Roman called Cuban-American civic and political leaders in Miami to a mid-January meeting to warn that the federal government will still be able to deport other Cubans after the decision on Mariel boatlift felons is made.

The Cuban-born prelate, who was instrumental in quelling the Cuban prison riots in Oakdale, La., and Atlanta, stated that Cubans who have failed to become naturalized citizens, many of them long-term residents, have no protection against deportation.

He added that those deemed undesirable by the government are also subject to deportation.

In November, the United States and Cuba resumed an agreement that allows for Cubans to emigrate to the United States and allows the United States to deport Cuban "excludables" back to their homeland. Cubans from the 1980 Mariel boatlift rioted at the Oakdale and Atlanta prisons because they feared deportation.

Ralph Penalver Jr., the bishop's attorney, said, "I think the people in our community have not fully realized the extent of the

information that we gathered in Washington. The U.S. will have an open-ended deportation policy with the Cuban government, which means that any Cuban-born person not naturalized, who has committed a felonious crime, is subject to deportation."

Penalver's remarks referred to a December 18 meeting in Washington where a delegation led by Bishop Roman included the attorney and local Cuban leaders who met with U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and Undersecretary of State John Whitehead.

According to Penalver, many in the Cuban-American community of south Florida fear they may be deported as well as their relatives if they ever have any trouble with the law.

"Deputy U.S. Attorney General Arnold Burns told me that the U.S. open-ended deportation policy will extend beyond the list of Mariel 'excludables' and Whitehead said that in order for 20,000 Cubans to come in, we would have to deport," Penalver said.

"We had no idea of what the new policy consisted, and it is amazing to me that we have had to cross-examine such high-level officials to get it," he said.

Stuart Lipp, deputy chief of the State Department's Office of Cuban Affairs, who attended the December 18 meeting, said he was not going to discuss the issue.

"I'm not interested in scaring people and I

don't want to speculate," he said. "If an alien commits a crime, he is deportable. When all the Mariel excludables have gone back, presumably there will be others who are deemed deportable who will be sent back also in accordance with international law."

He declined to say whether the government was actively pursuing the idea of asking the Cuban government to take back more Cubans, nor what conditions would have to

be present for such action. These are questions which would have to be answered by Immigration and Naturalization Service, he said.

A local immigration official, who requested that he remain anonymous, said there are "hundreds; if not thousands, of old-time Cubans who have committed violent or serious crimes. We did not have the means to deport them until now."

Syracuse diocese takes in \$4 million for sisters

Syracuse (NC) — The Syracuse Diocese has received just over \$4 million in cash and pledges in the first stage of a five-year effort to raise an \$8.4 million diocesan fund for Retired Sisters.

Religious orders of brothers and nuns across the nation are facing severe financial difficulties as more of their members reach retirement age and fewer young ones are left to support them.

Monsignor Charles Eckermann, diocesan director of development, said the first-year proceeds from the Syracuse campaign — which was begun with collections and pledge cards given out in all parishes the weekend of November 21-22 — formed the largest first-year collection of its type in any U.S. diocese.

Diocesan officials set a goal of \$600,000 in

one-time cash contributions by January 1. By December 30 proceeds from that part of the campaign had totaled \$1.3 million.

Five-year pledges totaled \$2.7 million, half the goal of \$5.4 million.

Monsignor Eckermann said actual payments on the pledges amounted to \$400,000 by December 30, bringing the total of cash already received up to \$1.7 million.

Bishop Joseph T. O'Keefe of Syracuse kicked off the fund-raising drive with a personal pledge of \$50 a month for 60 months. He told Catholics that if 1,800 individuals or families in the diocese would match his pledge, the effort would provide a \$5.4 million base for a long-term fund which — through investment — would generate an estimated \$21 million to pay religious retirement costs from 1993 until at least 2028.

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