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U.S Hispanics

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keynote speakers, Mario Paredes, director of the Northeast Hispanic Catholic Center in New York. Those in Hispanic ministry need to keep looking at that cultural revolution because "the imagination of the people has been awakened."

In 1987 the U.S. bishops approved the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry, calling for small ecclesial communities, parish renewal, youth ministry, promotion of family life and leadership formation adapted to the Hispanic culture. That plan in part came out of the U.S. bishops' 1983 pastoral on "The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment." And in 1972, 1977 and 1985 Hispanics gathered for national *encuentros* (encounters) to discuss their needs and how the church could address them.

But many dioceses still have not integrated those plans into pastoral work, said Paredes, urging participants to pressure their diocesan leaders to do so.

"We need to go back and tell our archdioceses they need to catechize people in their own language and culture," said Paredes.

The return to San Antonio as the birthplace of Hispanic ministry gave the opportunity for celebrations to focus on the roots of U.S. Hispanics. A commemorative video traced Hispanic roots from the Aztecs through Spanish conquistadors to immigrant communities of modern times.

A gala fiesta at San Jose Mission — one of several Spanish missions in San Antonio — as well as two Spanish-language Masses, and even the convocation's location at Incarnate Word, a 114-year-old institution founded by the Sisters of Charity, highlighted the blend of cultures represented in U.S. Hispanics.

"The first graduate of Incarnate Word was a Mexican-American woman," noted the college's president, Louis Agnesse Jr.

When he was ordained an auxiliary bishop for San Antonio on May 5, 1970, then-Bishop Flores was the first Hispanic made a bishop in the United States in modern times. In April, 1978, he was appointed bishop of El Paso and in October, 1979, was installed as San Antonio's archbishop.

As he celebrates his 25th anniversary as a bishop, 11 of today's ministry leaders were honored with a medal named for him. The recitation of their accomplishments echoed a comment made at the conference began.

"If you work in Hispanic ministry you have a pretty good shot at going down in



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark (seated at left) joined Father Guillermo Arias of Puerto Rico (standing, far left) at the opening of the Hispanic Mission at Corpus Christi Church Aug 21. The weeklong event featured speakers, music and liturgies to unify the diocese's Hispanic community.

history as the first to do something," noted program moderator Roberto Gutierrez, president of Hispanic Television Media.

Honorees included Father Virgil Elizondo, who founded the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio; Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh, executive director of the Miami archdiocese's Catholic Community Services and long-time coordinator of programs to adopt Cuban immigrant children; Roberto and Rosie Pina of San Antonio, hosts of "Nuestra Familia," the only Spanish-language Catholic television program; and Paredes.

Also honored were the late Jesuit Father Joseph P. Fitzpatrick, longtime Fordham University professor; Eduardo Kalbfleish of New York City, a Cursillista for 35 years and former national coordinator of the Cursillo movement; Sister Angela Erevia, a Missionary Catechist of Divine Providence and author of a publication on the quinceañera, a coming-of-age tradition; Olga Villa Parra, former executive director of the Midwest Hispanic Catholic Commission in Indiana; Father Mario Vizcaino, executive director and founder of the South East Pastoral Institute in Miami; and Miami Auxiliary Bishop Agustin A. Roman, vicar general, executive director of pastoral services and vicar for Hispanic ministry in the Miami archdiocese.

Call to service

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completely from other groups of Catholics.

"The Spanish community will always be very proud of its culture. And to celebrate that with the rest of the diocese would be a wonderful thing," commented Carmen Quinones. A native of the former Holy Redeemer Parish in Rochester, Quinones currently directs the youth-ministry program at St. Thomas More Church in Brighton.

Sister Genovevan Morales, OSF, hopes to see Hispanic church leaders from Rochester conduct seminars for Hispanics in her part of the diocese. She is the pastoral associate in urban ministry at St. Francis de Sales Church in Geneva, serving approximately 150 Hispanic families.

"The city of Rochester has professional (Hispanic) people with great talents," Sister Morales commented.

However, those interviewed said that struggles faced by many Hispanic Americans, such as inner-city living and difficulty with the English language, still must be overcome before this culture's lay ministry can fully blossom.

Hispanics, said Sister Morales, must also be made welcome in a mainstream setting.

"There's potential, but there's a fear. You have to win them over," she remarked. Whether it be church ministry or an-



Sonia Acosta holds Christian Bryant, age 2, while listening to Father Aris speak Aug 21.

other career, Quinones observed that Hispanic adults' voices must be heard loud and clear so that others may follow.

"I can see a teen afraid to take the steps. (But) it's out there for young people to get ahead, and they need to know there are strong people to lead them in those directions," Quinones emphasized.

Carlos and Jeannette Martinez said they'd like to serve as advocates for such programs the Instituto, and are hoping fellow Instituto alumni will be similarly sought out by their parish communities.

This example of extending oneself to others is a basic Catholic ideal regardless of a group's ethnic background, Quinones pointed out.

"I feel a responsibility in being human. In any culture, if you're not going to strive to do anything for another person, what's the point?" she stated.

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