

WORLD & NATION

Bishops pledge to work on migration issues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishops from the Americas, meeting Feb. 12-14, pledged greater cooperation on migration issues and asked government leaders to solve economic problems that cause massive migrations.

Closer cooperation is needed to find pastoral responses to the causes and effects of migration, said the bishops from Latin America, Canada and the United States.

More than 20 bishops representing the Latin American bishops' council, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States met in Clearwater, Fla., to talk about migration in the Americas.

Government leaders need "to humanize economic globalization by taking more fully into account the challenges of migration," they said in a closing statement.

The statement was released in Washington by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The statement said that the bishops discussed illegal migration, the drain of human resources from Latin America because of migration to the wealthier North, economic globalization, respect for human rights and promotion of economic development in the South.

"The overall solution is upgrading the economy of each country so people don't have to migrate," Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Camden, N.J., told Catholic News Service after the meeting.

But this is a long-term solution, added the bishop, who attended as chairman of

the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration.

Poor countries are losing "the best and the brightest" as their better-trained and better-educated population move out, he said.

Another participant, Mark Franken, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services, said bishops emphasized that people in poor countries should have "the right not to emigrate" through improvements in their economic and social conditions.

"There was a recognition that not all migration is positive to the individual or the community," said Franken afterward. "If a person is poor, this is not a positive situation."

Latin American bishops saw the need to promote public policies that stimulate economic development, he said.

U.S. and Canadian bishops saw the need for a greater sense of welcoming of immigrants at the parish level, said Franken.

This would include training programs for pastoral workers in the language and culture of the immigrants, he said.

The bishops also spoke of a more concerted effort to legalize the status of people and treat them with dignity, he added.

"We must recognize that the U.S. economy is dependent on workers from other countries, irrespective of their status. They must be treated with respect. They are contributing to society," Franken said.

Bishop DiMarzio said no specific programs were approved at the meeting.

Possibilities discussed included establishing a society of Latin American priests

to follow the migrants into the United States and work with them, said Bishop DiMarzio.

U.S. bishops also considered ways to provide financial assistance to immigrants who are sent back to their home countries by the U.S. government, he said.

"This is costly for the migrant," said the bishop.

This was the third such meeting since Pope John Paul II's 1999 apostolic exhortation, *Ecclesia in America*, calling for closer ties among hemispheric Catholics.

In addition to Bishop DiMarzio and Franken, the U.S. delegation included Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, NCCB president; Bishops Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., NCCB vice president, and Henry J. Mansell of

Buffalo, NCCB treasurer; Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy; Msgr. William P. Fay, NCCB general secretary; and Msgr. David J. Malloy, NCCB associate general secretary.

Attendees from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops included Bishop Gerard Wiesner of Prince George, British Columbia, president; and Bishop Jacques Berthelet of Saint-Jean-Longueuil, Quebec, vice president.

Representatives of the Latin American bishops' council, known as CELAM, included Bishop Jorge Jimenez Carvajal of Zipaquira, Colombia, president, and Cardinal Geraldo Majella Agnelo of Sao Salvador da Bahia, Brazil.



Reuters/CNS

Trial delayed

A girl in Guatemala City walks past graffiti celebrating the life of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera, killed in April 1998 shortly after releasing a report on military abuses in the nation's civil war. Five suspects — including three linked to Guatemala's military — were set to go on trial Feb. 15 for the bishop's murder, but the trial was suspended that day.

Induction of cardinals Feb. 21

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II is set to preside over the biggest consistory in the church's history, creating a record 44 new cardinals during three days of ceremonies at the Vatican.

Many of the cardinals are bringing hundreds or even thousands of guests, so the scale of the celebrations is unprecedented. The main events will be held in St. Peter's Square, the only place big enough to accommodate the crowds.

Among the new cardinals are three from the United States: Cardinals-designate Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington, Edward M. Egan of New York and Avery Dulles, a renowned Jesuit theologian.

At a Liturgy of the Word Feb. 21, the pope holds the consistory proper, formally inducting the new members into the College of Cardinals. He pronounces a formula of creation and solemnly reads their names.

Then, as each cardinal kneels before him, he consigns to them a scarlet biretta — the "red hat" — whose color signifies their willingness to shed their blood for the faith. The pope's sermon is expected to focus on the significance of the appointments for the individual prelates and for the universal church.

In the afternoon, the cardinals host "courtesy visits," in which anyone can come to offer congratulations. The visits are normally held in the rooms of the

Vatican's Apostolic Palace, but because of the high number of new cardinals this year, some of them — including the three Americans — will receive guests in the Paul VI Audience Hall.

On Feb. 22, the pope returns to St. Peter's Square to concelebrate a morning Mass with the new cardinals. At this time, he presents each of them with a gold ring, a sign of their special bond with the church of Rome.

Many of the cardinals will spend the rest of the day in receptions, sometimes visiting the Rome churches to which they have been assigned. These "titular" churches symbolize their new status as members of the clergy of Rome and their new relationship with the bishop of Rome, Pope John Paul.

On Feb. 23, the pope greets the new cardinals and their families in a final audience.

The pope named the cardinals in January, leaving them about a month to make travel plans, send out invitations and order their distinctive red garb. It was the eighth time Pope John Paul has created new cardinals since his election in 1978; he has now named 160 of the total 184 members of the College of Cardinals.

Of that number, 135 would be eligible to vote in a conclave, which is restricted to those under age 80. Pope John Paul has named 125 of the voting-age cardinals, leaving a definitive stamp on the body that will some day choose his successor.

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