

DIOCESAN NEWS

Advocates want feds to rethink migrant policy

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

BROCKPORT — Secular and religious advocates for migrant farmworkers have begun a campaign to raise public awareness of what they perceive to be undue surveillance and "persecution" by immigration authorities of Latino migrants and their families.

The advocates, who plan to take their case to congressional representatives eventually, held a press conference at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Aug. 24. They include Catholic and Protestant church leaders, as well as migrant educators, legal representatives and health workers, and have formed an ad hoc "Committee on Immigration Issues Affecting Farmworkers."

The advocates are arguing that the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service, as well as the U.S. Border Patrol, are endangering this year's harvest by targeting Latino — mostly Mexican — farmworkers for arrest, detention and deportation. They are also arguing that federal officials, through the practice of "racial profiling," are harassing Latinos who are U.S. citizens by asking them to provide such documentation as birth certificates that other citizens never carry.

For example, Josefino Paz, a former farmworker who works as a migrant tutor and advocate, is a Mexican native and U.S. citizen who said he had been stopped by border patrol officers on at least three occasions in the past two years and asked for documentation. Paz, who attends Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, said the incidents had made him angry at INS officials he claimed target people who look Mexican for such questioning.

"Many citizens do not carry birth certificates or citizenship papers," he said.

Additionally the advocates are arguing that the federal agencies are retarding the



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Renan Salgado of the Farmworker Legal Services of New York speaks at a press conference at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Brockport Aug. 24. At left is former farmworker Rosa Rivera of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

integration of Mexicans into wider society by making them fearful of leaving the farms they work. For example, one advocate noted that fewer Latinos attended a recent Brockport arts and crafts festival than in years past, and attributed that to their knowledge of the presence of several border patrol officials in town that weekend.

The advocates also provided copies of anecdotes told to them by farmworkers of incidents in which both aliens and/or U.S. citizens who were born in Latin America have had negative encounters with authorities.

"I would like to see a whole reconsideration of our immigration policies," said Barbara Deming, a member of St. Luke's who heads the Brockport Ecumenical Outreach Committee. Deming said she would

like to see a general amnesty for undocumented workers currently in the country. She added that the United States was built by immigrants like the Mexicans.

"I think we're forgetting our past, and I think in the case of the farmworkers we're just picking on the working poor that are here to bolster our economy," she said.

On Aug. 28, Peter Moran, chief patrol agent of the U.S. Border Patrol for the Buffalo Sector, which covers Western New York, said he would be willing to meet with migrant advocates and discuss ways his agency could be more sensitive to their concerns while still enforcing the law. Moran made his comments after the *Catholic Courier* had sent the advocates' press documents via fax to his office.

Moran said, for example, that parishes that have Spanish Masses could inform his

office of their Mass schedules, and that his agents could stay away from the areas around churches during such times so that migrants would not be afraid to go to Mass.

Moran said that his agency does not target schools, churches, health centers and hospitals for surveillance, but it does check out shopping areas and highways.

He added that agents are allowed under the law to take into account a person's appearance when deciding whether to approach him or her and question a person about their right to be here. However, he said, migrants — and citizens — have the right to refuse to answer such questions.

Among those present at the Aug. 24 press conference was Sister of St. Joseph Judy Justinger, director of Hispanic Migrant Ministry, a joint effort of the dioceses of Rochester and Buffalo. Also present was Father Peter Enyan-Boadu, pastor of Nativity of Our Lady Church where many migrants go to Spanish Mass on Sundays.

Several farmworkers and their children were also present, as were farmowners including Diane Krenning, an apple and hog farmer from Albion, president of the Orleans County Farm Bureau, which represents farmers.

"We need our partners in harvesting more than ever before," her statement read. "It is very critical that our crops are brought from the fields in prime condition. That is why today I am asking — maybe begging — the INS to stop racial profiling and stop the raids in the fields."

Aspacio Alcantara, a representative of Centro Independiente de Trabajadores Agrícolas — The Independent Farm Workers Center — a statewide farmworker organization, said the federal government should cease its "persecution" of migrants.

"We are not delinquents or criminals," he said through an interpreter. "We are not a charge for the state. We are contributing to the economy. We are human beings and children of God."

New school year brings new faces to some principal offices

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

As the 2001-02 school year beckons, there are new faces in the principal offices of a handful of diocesan schools.

Deacon Daniel R. Hurley replaced John D. Farrelly as principal of Immaculate Conception, a school for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade in Ithaca. Farrelly has taken a position with a North Carolina school district.

Marilyn Zinn left her position as principal of All Saints Academy at Denison Parkway, a pre-K-first-grade school in Corning, to become principal of St. Mary Our Mother School in Horseheads. She replaced Mary Canali, who resigned earlier this year. Zinn herself was replaced at All Saints by RoseAnn Ewanyk, who will also continue to be principal of All Saints Academy at State Street, a grades two-eight school in Corning.

Diana M. Oravec, who has taught grades five through eight at St. Ann's School in Hornell since 1990, was named principal of St. Patrick's, a pre-K-eighth-grade school in Seneca Falls, replacing Louis Rizzieri who resigned this year.

Linda Cvik, who has taught at St. Patrick's, a pre-K-fifth-grade school in Owego, since 1987, has replaced Gary S. Foote as principal. Cvik had already served as interim principal of the school from 1999-2000.

Felician Sister Christina Luczynski, from Buffalo, has replaced Marylin Dewey, who resigned this year, as principal of St. Joseph's pre-K-sixth-grade school in Penfield.

Tracy Nadler, assistant principal of St. Andrew's pre-K-sixth-grade school since 1995, has replaced Thomas G. Bahr as principal. She was director/teacher of the Pittsford Cooperative Nursery School for

eight years prior to working in St. Andrew's.

And David Lincoln, principal of St. Joseph's, a pre-K-sixth-grade school in Wayland, has left the principal's position after one year to take a position with the Rochester City School District. As of Aug. 28, no new principal had been named, according to Sister of St. Joseph Elaine Englert, director of Catholic School & Diocesan Recruitment.

The new principals bring with them decades of experience.

Deacon Hurley has worked in education for 26 years, 23 of them in Catholic schools. Prior to coming to Immaculate, he taught Spanish and coached basketball, track and cross-country at Spencer-Van Etten High School south of Ithaca for three years. He also served as principal of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads for 14 years and, prior to that, taught and coached at Notre Dame High School in Elmira for nine years.

Deacon Hurley was ordained in 1990, and currently ministers at St. Mary's Parish in Horseheads as well as the Schuyler Catholic Community of St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Watkins Glen and St. Benedict's Parish in Odessa. He said that while he enjoyed his work in a public school, he realized that he needed to work in a Catholic school again.

"Faith is just so much a part of my being," he said. "I need to express myself on a day-to-day basis, and that's what I can be in a Catholic school."

Prior to working at All Saints, Zinn was a teacher at Holy Family Primary, a pre-K-third-grade school in Elmira, for 12 years. Like Deacon Hurley, Zinn stressed a need

to be able to work in a faith-based environment. She said that she looked forward to working at St. Mary Our Mother because she will be able to work on the curriculum to help the students meet New York state's assessment standards. Students take assessment tests in grades four and eight, and this year, will take a social studies test in fifth, she noted.

From 1987-94, Ewanyk was director/teacher for St. Vincent's Early Childhood Center in Corning. The program was renamed All Saints Academy Pre-School in 1994 and moved its location which, by 1995, was also home to a kindergarten and first grade.

From September 1994 to December 1997, Ewanyk served as building coordinator for All Saints Academy K-first-grade at Denison Parkway, and director and teacher for the childhood center. In December 1997, she was made interim principal of All Saints pre-K-eighth-grade program at both its Denison Parkway and State Street campuses. In June 1998, due to increased overall enrollment on both campuses, she was made sole principal of the State Street campus, and Zinn took over the Denison Parkway school. Upon Zinn's departure this year, Ewanyk was once again put in charge of the entire pre-K-eighth-grade program that is located on both campuses.

"I am blessed with supportive faculty, staff and wonderful students to work with," Ewanyk said. "I'm looking forward to the new school year."

Oravec has been teaching in Catholic schools since 1977, starting out at St. Mary's in Dansville, and subsequently

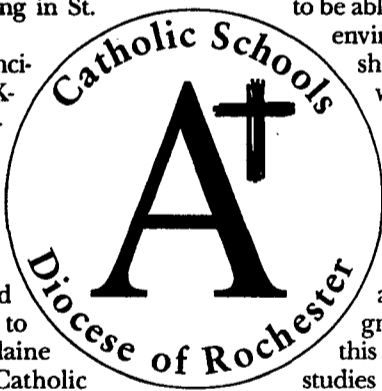
holding teaching positions at St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport and then again at St. Mary's before coming to St. Ann's. She has also served as a catechist in religious education and taught Spanish to adults this year at the Alfred Unit of Empire State College.

"I just think that Catholic schools are where I belong," she said. "I always say it's my vocation, not my occupation. I just feel it's real important to incorporate the religious beliefs into the (students') everyday life."

Cvik, a Batavia native, echoed many of the sentiments her fellow principals voiced when asked about why they choose to work in Catholic schools.

"I just really believe in Catholic education," she said. "I think it gives a child a well-rounded education because we can teach from a spiritual point of view. ... It's the whole person that we're taking care of."

Nadler said she is "looking forward to an exciting year of community building, faith development and academic progress." She added that the school's major thrust for the last few years has been on improving students' reading, a policy she plans to continue and enlarge to include writing skills this year.



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