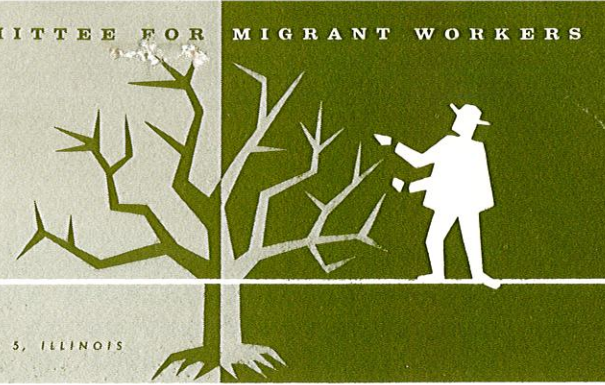


NEWSletter



1300 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE · CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

VOL. II, NO. III

JUNE-JULY, 1962

MATER ET MAGISTRA: SUMMER'S APPLICATION

The central thought of the great encyclical of Pope John is the solidarity that binds all men, and makes them members of the same family. This solidarity is based on the community with Christ, Our Brother, and brings with it an all embracing responsibility to the members of the human family. As such, the Christian can never claim that the situation in which others find themselves is none of his concern. We are all our brother's keeper, and in the course of strict justice we are further reminded that none of us should see salvation; the bell that tolls in death is a constant reminder that we too shall die, and that no man is an island unto himself alone. Poets and writers have so expressed this idea; humanists of all time have felt it deeply, almost to the shame of those who call themselves Christian, and who all too easily ignore its meaning.

We do not have to look too far afield for an application of this teaching in this our day for, at this very time, the migrants are again in our midst. We greet them as a part of the great human community to which we all belong, and we pledge ourselves anew to their recognition as an essential part of our economic community; a part which must be recognized and respected by all Americans.

This has been admirably begun these past few years by those many members of the Christian Family Movement, Confraternity and Legion of Mary who are now visiting the camps and aiding in the works of mercy; we salute them in the Mid-west, the South-west, and the Far-West. Without them many a priest in migrant work would be much more limited than he now is.

BRACEROS

Last year's braceros numbered less than 325,000, the lowest number since Public Law 78 has been officially the law of the land. Preliminary indications this year show a further decline in the use of braceros. Mechanization in cotton, pressure from the United States Department of Labor, and other factors have reduced the exploitation of this law. Some economic effects have been felt in Mexico, which, for the first time in its history, can be classified as an urbanized country. 51 per cent of the Mexican are listed as living in urban areas, 49 per cent in rural areas. If the Mexican economy can make industrial life more attractive, perhaps there will be even greater difficulty in securing braceros for future years.

AREA PROGRAMS

Sometimes the entrance of migrants into a community presents a series of difficulties and problems. It should be remembered that migrants would not be in any community unless they were needed. Because of the number of requests we receive daily from individuals and groups around the country who want to know what they can do to help the migrants, we have compiled a summary of activities entitled "Area Programs".

The problem of what you can do in your area depends very much on what the people who will be working on the program or project want to do, the time they have available, the areas in which they live and their distance from or proximity to the migrants, and the skills which they have, all would be factors influencing the kind of project that could be done. The suggestions in our "Area Programs" would have to be adapted to local conditions.

If you are interested in a copy of our "Area Programs", please let us know.

SOCIAL SECURITY KITS

The Social Security Law is almost the only law under which the migrant is entitled to coverage. However, because many of the migrants are unaware of this law, they are unable to take advantage of its benefits. The Social Security literature which we have on hand is available both in Spanish and English. We would be happy to send you a kit, if you will just let us know.

HARVEST OF SHAME

The CBS Documentary, "Harvest of Shame", continues to have record showings around the country. The States of Colorado, Wisconsin, Ohio, Texas, Illinois, and Iowa have had record breaking audiences during the months of June and July, with the State of Colorado taking an all-time lead. It is interesting to note that the majority of these groups have been non-Catholic.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Recently, a delegation from Brazil visited the offices of the Bishops' Committee to learn of the aspects of the migrant worker situation in the United States, particularly from the standpoint of segregation, legislation, and their future. The delegation was sponsored by the Commission for International Development of New York.

"MIGRANT WORKERS" IN THE NEWS

We are grateful to Sister Mary Agnella, P.V.M.I., a Parish Visitor sister who works in a rural parish, for bringing to the attention of Parish Visitor readers her articles on "The Harvesters". We appreciate the time she took from her busy schedule to alert the P.V. readers of a very important Christian and contemporary social problem.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

One of the best all-around introductions to the Spanish-speaking and their cultural background is given by Rev. Anthony Soto, O.F.M., in his pamphlet, "Migrants In Your Parish." It is a report of his experiences as a parish priest with migrants and their world. Copies are available at .08 each, plus postage, from the Bishops' Committee.

STAFF CHANGES

We regret to announce the leaving of Lester Hunt from the Bishops' Committee for Migrant Workers.. Lester has been given a fellowship at the University of Chicago for further work toward his doctorate. In future years, Lester's renown will be something we can all share in, for we send him with our blessing and gratitude for his past work.

At the same time, the Bishops' Committee would like to announce the appointment of the Rev. Ralph J. Duggan as Executive Assistant to the staff. Father Duggan is a native of San Francisco, and a priest of the Stockton Diocese.

Father Duggan's duties with the Committee include the direction of experimental projects, the coordination of inter-diocesan migrant work, and the development of program activities.

LITERATURE ABOUT MIGRANTS

"America's Displaced Persons: Migratory Farm Workers 1935-1960," is a brochure listing the bills before Congress. Available free from the Bishops' Committee.

FEPC - First Annual Report. Available free from the Hon. Edmund Brown, Governor of the State of California, Fair Employment Practice Comm., Sacramento, California.

"THE MIGRANT LABOR PROBLEM IN WISCONSIN," April - 1962. An essay on migratory labor by Professor Elizabeth Brandeis Raushenbush of the Economics Department of the University of Wisconsin. Available free from the Governor's Commission on Human Rights, State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin.

"EDUCATION ON THE MOVE" -- Part II -- Report of a 1961 Demonstration Summer School for Migrant Children in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Available free from the Governor's Commission on Human Rights, State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin.

"SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL PATTERNS OF THE MOVEMENT OF SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL MIGRANT CHILDREN INTO WISCONSIN" -- Part II -- by Lindsey and Walton. For additional information, write to Mr. Herbert H. Lindsey, Instructor, Cooperative Educational Research and Services, The University of Wisconsin, 1120 West Johnson Street, Madison 6, Wisconsin.

"HOW OHIO HELPS MIGRANT CHILDREN - GROWTH PROGRESS 1957-1961." Available free from Elizabeth S. Magee Education and Research Foundation, Inc., 940 Engineers Building, Cleveland 14, Ohio.

"PROGRAMS FOR AGRICULTURAL MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES" -- A Report of the Sub-Committee on Agricultural Migrant Workers by the Illinois Commission on Children, 522 East Monroe Street, Springfield, Illinois. Available upon request.

"PERIODIC REPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS" -- A Report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. Available upon request.

"ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOR" -- by Louis Levine, Deputy Director - Bureau of Employment Security - U.S. Department of Labor. A report before the joint meeting of the American Economic Association and American Farm Economic Association on December 28, 1961, New York. Available free from NEWS, USDL, Washington 25, D.C. Ask for BES62-1356.

"NATIONAL GOALS FOR THE 5TH DECADE OF THE MIGRANT MINISTRY -- 1960-1970." Single copies free; quantity prices available upon request from the Division of Home Missions, The National Council of Churches of Christ, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.

FROM:
BISHOPS' COMMITTEE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS
1300 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois



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NEWS AND NOTES AROUND THE COUNTRY

ILLINOIS:

Father Raphael Orozco of Palatine and Father Fidel Rodriguez of Chicago Heights, both in charge of Spanish-speaking people which includes migrants in their areas, report very good attendance in their summer schools this season.

CALIFORNIA:

Father Bill Hughes of Stockton reports he has training courses ready in the Mother Lode country and other valley counties, and the start of a CAMMP program.

OKLAHOMA:

The Oklahoma Council of Churches reports that it has concentrated its program efforts for migrants on a cultural and social-economic basis, with great emphasis being placed on community acceptance.

WISCONSIN:

Father John Maurice reports very active CFM programs in and around the Racine, Waukesha, and Milwaukee area for migrants. Racine is sponsoring a trade school for migrant adults where they can learn a skill, and thereby leave the migrant steam.

Two summer school programs are being conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis and the Dominicans of Milwaukee for migrant children, covering the three R's.

During the winter, fifteen young men and women were trained to teach catechetics from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish to the migrant children who will be in the area during the summer.

The Green Bay Diocese has prepared a program of relief, education and religious instruction for migrant workers for northeastern Wisconsin. Approximately 15,000 migrant workers come to this area each year. More than 500 lay catechists, three full-time priests, ten nuns, six seminarians and a number of representatives from many of the major organizations in the diocese will aid the Spanish-speaking workers. Thrift centers have been established for the distribution of clothing, and day schools are being conducted for migrant children.

The first day-care center for migrant children opened July 9th in the Madison area. The center is being financed through federal child welfare service funds. The center's main function is to insure the children get a proper education. Approximately 5,000 migrant workers come to the Madison area each year.

TEXAS:

Ordinarily, we record information about summer schools held for migrants in northern states. The Gratiot County League of Catholic Women reports operation of a store where migrants can buy necessities at low cost. Baskets of food were distributed to needy people. Most interesting is the attempt to meet Spanish-speaking people on a social level. It is obvious that the urbanization of Spanish-speaking people will continue over the next few years. Such meetings are necessary to help mutual understanding and the urbanization process. Some people in California have been interested in using the technique of Home Visiting inaugurated by Friendship House of Chicago in its work with Negroes. For information on this program and its usefulness in the Spanish-speaking apostolate, write to Miss Betty Plank, Friendship House, 4233 South Indiana Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois.

The El Paso Diocesan Council of Catholic Women reported at their annual convention (April 25-26, 1962) on the success of their migrant program. They placed special emphasis on religious instruction, physical welfare, and entertainment. In one parish in particular, two members were able to obtain glasses, shoes, and medical aid from civic clubs for many of the migrant children.

The Housing and Home Finance Agency has announced a grant of \$100,000 for a low-cost home construction project for migratory workers to the Catholic Bishops' Committee for the Spanish Speaking of San Antonio. The project will be carried out in Bexar County, Texas, a home base for some 12,000 migrant workers, mostly of Mexican descent. Participating in the housing project will be an auxiliary organization, composed of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish laymen, called Action for Community Development, Inc. The project will be carried out in three phases: 1) planning and design of the community and of the homes to be built; 2) a systematic effort to improve the families' incomes thru job training and placement facilities in the community; 3) and transfer of homes from rental to home ownership.

The State of Texas is the nation's biggest exporter of citizen workers and biggest importer of foreign farm hands. An estimated 90,000 Americans leave Texas each year, seeking a chance to make a living in 39 other states where wages are better.

A new dimension has been added to ameliorate the migrant worker's problem of too little work and too much travel. In an effort to supplement the annual worker plan in existence for a number of years, the Department of Labor, through its various state offices, has brought the Pooled Interview System to South Texas. The migrant, thru his crew leader, voluntarily accepts these services for his own personal benefit, in order to have more gainful employment during his migration.

WASHINGTON, D.C.:

Senator Harrison Williams reports he presently is trying to work out a plan for a privately supported volunteer program to help migratory farm workers. The details are now nearing completion, but already volunteers have offered their help. Individual students -- and a few educators and college officials, too -- have indicated their willingness to help. Every effort will be made to enlist them in well-organized pilot programs in one or more states.

MICHIGAN:

Father Keller of Saginaw summer schools operating in Beaver, Munger, Alma and Sebawaing, where the three R's were taught together with religion. Some 435 children were in attendance for four weeks.

Nine migrant centers were inaugurated by the CFM with a very well planned program in Alma, Aopena, Beaver, Crosswell, Munger, Pigeon, Reese, Saginaw, and Sebawaing. To quote Father: "The participation of lay groups, especially families, has been unbelievable. Once they get their feet into a camp, you can't keep them out. The migrants are really flabbergasted with all the genuine love they are receiving, and never in my twelve years of migrant work have I seen migrants so open and happy."

Father Michael Jorissen has replaced Father James Sheehan of St. Joe's Church in Erie in migrant work. Father Sheehan has been transferred to Detroit, Michigan, where he is Executive Secretary of a Council on human relief.

A medical clinic and summer school programs have begun their fourth summer of operation for migrants in and around the Erie area.

MICHIGAN, TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA:

There are approximately 500,000 migrant U.S. farm workers. During the seasonal peak, the States of Michigan, Texas and California employ over 50,000 migrants each. (Michigan - 54,100, Texas - 80,800; California - 63,200.)

OHIO:

The Social Action Committee of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, with the assistance of the members of Kappa Gamma Pi, has a well-planned program of catechetical instructions for the families of migrant workers which they are using very effectively in the Cincinnati area.

OHIO (Continued):

Father Hoelle of Dayton has things well under way for the forthcoming fiesta for migrant workers at Sacred Heart Church in New Carlisle, for August 12th. The fiesta will start with Mass and procession at noon, and will be followed by lunch, a pinata for the children, Mexican music, and slides of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There will also be Spanish games and baseball for the men. The fiesta is being held to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15). Fiestas are the characteristic way of celebrating important feast days for Spanish-speaking people.

NOTE: The Bishops' Committee is very much interested in learning of your pilot programs and their effectiveness in your area. Send what information you can to us for publication in a future Newsletter. No doubt what you are doing in your area could be applied effectively in other areas around the country.

LITERATURE ABOUT MIGRANTS

The Migrant Ministry has a special offer on a "Migrant Ministry Information Kit" which contains the following: "The Migrant Ministry Today." A self-evaluation of direct services and progress toward legislative goals; "The Fifth Decade." A report of the National Study Conference on the Church and Migratory Labor; "National Goals." A folder on goals for the fifth decade of the Migrant Ministry; "Annual Report - 1961." Price of kit: \$1.00. Order from the Migrant Ministry, DHM, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.

"HOUSING FOR MIGRANT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS" Labor Camp Standards" by the U.S. Department of Labor. A report giving detailed information on laws and regulations relation to migrant agricultural housing, including coverage and administration, provisions relating to site and physical facilities, and those relating to sanitary facilities. It also gives information with respect to voluntary State standards and to county standards. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Ask for Bulletin 235, November-1961. Price: 35 cents.

"MAJOR AGRICULTURAL MIGRANT LABOR DEMAND AREAS (BY MONTH AND PRINCIPAL CROPS)" is a booklet designed to acquaint the public with the complexity of placing and scheduling domestic migratory workers under the Annual Worker Plan. The twelve charts show major crop production centers in the U.S. (This booklet is not intended as a composite guide for migrant workers.) Available from Bureau of Employment Security, Farm Labor Service, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D.C. (Free)