

NEWSletter

1300 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE · CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

~~Dr. [unclear]~~
~~Miss [unclear]~~
~~Mr. Yanniello~~
 Miss Goldenberg
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 Mrs. [unclear]

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CHARITY IN SOCIETY

"We should indeed thank God in His mercy and give due credit to the efforts of government, of management, and of organized labor which have in truth brought about an immense improvement in economic conditions. Nevertheless they are blind who do not see that in spite of all technological and political advances, there are still very many in all parts of our country, and here in the Archdiocese of Chicago who are in very serious need of help. Nor should men ever be so proud as to believe that there will come a time when the work of charity will be completed, and we can close our eyes to the needs of the weak and unfortunate. Human technological advances have a way of creating new problems even as they solve old ones. Our duty of charity to our fellow citizens in the Church, in our own nation, and in the family of nations is not of mere sentiment. It first of all requires that we fulfill to all men the duties of justice. Charity leads us beyond justice, but it does not permit us to pass over justice, nor to neglect the clear moral principles on which justice must be based.

"One of the greatest problems we must face here in Chicago is that of minority groups who suffer from prejudice, and from severe economic obstacles to suitable employment and decent housing. These minority groups, often newcomers from various depressed sections of our country, have a direct claim on our love.

"We cannot leave these problems to be solved by the government alone. These problems have arisen because individuals have refused to assume their proper social responsibility in the conduct of their own business or profession. They have persisted because some of us have been so slow to bring to American life the new vision and leadership which it needs.

"...we must begin to act. We must not be reluctant to take an active part in local political and welfare groups. We cannot leave civic responsibility to others. Perhaps a more genuine Lenten sacrifice than the giving up of candy or cigarettes might be found in the resolution to join some civic organization and to devote time to its meetings and activities."

The above excerpts are taken from "THE CHARITY OF CHRIST IMPELS US," 1962 Lenten Pastoral Letter of His Eminence Albert Cardinal Meyer, Archbishop of Chicago, and Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Migrant Workers.

S. 1129

The response to our appeal on S. 1129 was most gratifying, and offers to help are still pouring in. We stress the importance of your cooperation in helping us prepare our report for Congress by sending us your case stories as soon as possible. The time is short.

MINIMUM WAGE FOR BRACEROS

A priest suggested at a U.S. Labor Department hearing recently that Mexican nationals working in the U.S. should be offered a minimum wage of at least \$1.15 per hour, or piece work with an equivalent base scale.

The recommendation was made by Father Fidelis Kuban, O.F.M., missionary to migrant workers in Arizona. The Franciscan priest told the subcommittee that if such a minimum wage were offered Mexican nationals, domestic farm workers would be available in greater supply because they would have to be offered the same wage.

As a result, the U.S. Department of Labor has just announced minimum hourly wage levels, state-by-state, for imported Mexican farm workers ranging from 60 cents in Arkansas and 70 cents in Texas to \$1.00 in California. The minimums in the 22 states require that where a piece-rate system is used, hourly earnings must at least equal the minimum.

The Labor Department estimates that approximately \$500,000 is needed to enforce the Bracero program in order that wages will not be lowered and working conditions depressed for domestic farm workers. The Department has requested Congress to appropriate funds to put 57 more compliance officers in the field to check on use of braceros by Western growers. Braceros cannot legally be given year round work or operate power driven machinery.

PRESIDENT'S MIGRATORY LABOR COMMITTEE

When the President's Committee on Migratory Labor met January 17th, 1962, it was the chief purpose of the Committee's first meeting under the Kennedy Administration to establish a united Committee policy directed toward improving the economic and social condition of migrant farm workers and their families.

After the recommendations and directives were presented, the policy which was agreed upon by the Committee and endorsed by President Kennedy (see page 3) is to accomplish in agriculture what we, as a Nation, have already accomplished in most other sectors of our economy--the restoration of respect and dignity, based on good wages, good working conditions, steady employment, educational opportunities, and the extension of public health and welfare services to the men, women, and children who labor for hire in our American agriculture.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

January 17, 1962

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have read the statement of policy, recommendations and directives of the President's Committee on Migratory Labor which you sent to me today. I wholeheartedly endorse the Committee's view that a united policy is necessary if improvements are to be made in this important field.

Having been long acquainted with the problems faced by migratory farm workers and their families, I believe the Committee has outlined in its recommendations and directives the major areas of concern. A follow-through on the Committee's recommendations will, in my opinion, result in better conditions for the Nation's migrants--one of the most underprivileged groups in the American labor force. The five migrant bills introduced by Senator Harrison A. Williams of New Jersey and passed by the Senate during the last session of Congress offer the opportunity to make real progress in this important area consonant with the Committee's recommendations. I hope these bills will receive favorable action by the House this year.

/s/ John F. Kennedy

The Honorable Arthur J. Goldberg,
Secretary of Labor
Washington 25, D.C.

MIGRANT HEALTH LEGISLATION

In a recent message to the Congress on the health of the nation, President Kennedy emphatically recommended the enactment of legislation to improve health facilities for migrant families. The President pointed out that almost one million persons (domestic agricultural migrants and their families) have unmet health needs far greater than those of the general population. To help improve their health conditions, the President recommended--in addition to expanding the special Public Health Service activities directed to them--the enactment of legislation to encourage the states to provide facilities and services for migrant workers.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

We are very impressed with a newly-published manual for catechists "La Familia de Dios." The authors, Father Leo Mahon and Sister Xavier of Chicago, have done something startlingly new--not merely a translation into Spanish of the ordinary catechesis nor even a recasting of the same catechesis into Kerygmatic and scriptural form. What they have done is to rework the whole notion of Christ and Church into a very modern, unified scheme that is highly relevant to Latin-Americans. Don't let its simplicity fool you--it is really a radical departure. Of particular interest to priests is a mimeographed article written by Father Mahon outlining the theological base of his method. Copies of both the manual and the mimeoed prologue may be obtained from the Cardinal's Committee for the Spanish Speaking, 1300 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago 5, Illinois. Price: \$3.00 each, plus postage.

COMING EVENT

The State of Colorado's Department of Education is sponsoring a "MIGRANT EDUCATION WORKSHOP" from July 16-27, 1962, at Adams State College of Colorado. For further details regarding information and program, write to: Dean of the College, Adams State College of Colorado, Alamosa, Colorado. For registration or accommodations, write to: Director of Housing, Adams State College of Colorado, Alamosa, Colorado.

Try to encourage your parochial school teachers and your county superintendent of schools to attend or send a representative.

"MIGRANT WORKERS" IN THE NEWS

A pat on the back and a deep bow are offered the editors of Country Beautiful for their presentation of Father Vizzard's article on the "BADGE OF INFAMY" in their January-1962 issue, and to the editors of Hi-Time for their presentation of Father Reicher's article on "THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE SUN" in their May 4th issue.

We are grateful to these two outstanding publications for providing the opportunity of making the significance of the problems of the migrant worker more apparent to their readers.

It goes without saying that we appreciate very much the time Fathers Vizzard and Reicher took from their busy schedules to do these articles.

Senator Williams has placed Father Vizzard's article, the "BADGE OF INFAMY," in the Congressional Record in Washington, D.C.

MIGRANT ACTIVITY

This is the time of year when most of the migrant farm workers get on the move to follow the crops. During the months of April and May, the heaviest concentration of migrants is in Washington, California, Texas, Colorado, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Michigan, and Florida.

Migrants and their families need legislation, leadership and community understanding, day care, schooling, child labor protection, health services, emergency help, homemaking skills, adequate housing, safe transportation, responsible crew leaders, social security benefits, adequate incomes, recreation, and help in settling down.

Write to us for a copy of our "AREA PROGRAMS" Information Sheet which outlines the many things you and your organization, civic groups, adult education groups, fraternal groups, and others can do to help the migrants in or near your area.

You can write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. for a copy of the pamphlet, "THE COMMUNITY MEETS THE MIGRANT WORKER," a report on current programs and trends around the country. Ask for Bulletin No. 221-1960. Price: 25 cents.

Also available upon request from the above source is a pamphlet entitled, "PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR MIGRANT FARM WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES." Ask for Bulletin No. 236 - December, 1961.

NEWS AND NOTES AROUND THE COUNTRY

NEW YORK:

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has approved a \$100,000,000 world food program aimed at supplying surplus commodities to underdeveloped countries, freeing their limited capital and foreign exchange for economic development.

The plan, long urged by the Farmers Union, was first introduced to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the U.N. by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, last year in Rome.

The plan now is expected to go into operation with minimum delay. A meeting of nations participating is scheduled within the next few weeks.

OHIO:

Recently, the Ohio Bishops' Conference for the Apostolate to the Spanish Speaking held their second annual conference in Tiffin. The purpose of the Conference was to focus attention of Ohio Catholics on the religious problems of the Spanish-speaking in the state, both migrant workers and permanent residents.

ILLINOIS:

The State Department of Health is developing a pilot nursery school program in one of our south suburban areas which will operate during the summer essentially for children of migratory laborers. Each year about 2,400 migrants work in the south suburban area, the majority of them being Mexican-Americans who come from the Rio Grande area. A few are Negroes who live in the Chicago area.

CALIFORNIA:

Operation CAMMP, located at St. Mary's Center, 200 South San Joaquin Street, in Stockton was organized to help the thousands of migrant farm workers who come to the San Joaquin Valley each year to harvest the crops. CAMMP makes information available to the migrants on spiritual care, trains lay volunteers to work with the migrants, loans equipment to parishes for teaching Catechetics to migrants, provides pamphlets and literature (religious articles) for distribution to migrants, and works through the various parishes in planning programs and coordinating services to migrants.

If you live in or near Stockton, call HOWard 4-9306 and offer your time as a lay apostle to one of the many CAMMP projects. CAMMP needs your help.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

A Catholic spokesman has voiced "strongest support" for a bill which aims to help meet the "desperate" health of migrant farm workers. Father James L. Vizzard, S.J., said passage of the measure would be a "small step" toward health service provisions for migrants and their families.

Father Vizzard sent his message to Rep. Roberts in connection with sub-committee hearings on H.R. 5285, sponsored by Rep. Herbert Zelenko of New York, and other identical bills.

The Zelenko bill calls for an annual \$3 million program of Federal grants to states to provide health services for migrant farm workers and their families. The money would be available to public health agencies and other non-profit agencies, and would also be used to help train personnel to provide health services for the migrant workers.

WASHINGTON:

Proposals for grappling with economic and social problems of migrant workers in the State of Washington were presented to a legislative sub-committee hearing in Yakima recently by Richard S. White, Seattle attorney who is chairman of the Washington Citizens for Migrant Affairs. His recommendations were on labor, unemployment, compensation and pensions. His proposals were to: 1) establish a pilot program for education of children; 2) establish child labor regulations to control the use of children in farm work; 3) set up child care centers; 4) provide regulations to ensure safe and comfortable transportation within the state; 5) eliminate public assistance welfare requirements which disqualify some migrant workers in need of help.

LITERATURE ABOUT MIGRANTS

"THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE" is a report on the Migrant Laborer by Dale Wright, staff writer for the New York World-Telegram, and his experiences as a migrant laborer to determine if protective laws are safeguarding the interests of America's "forgotten men." His articles, now in pamphlet form, reveal the abuses heaped on the overworked, underpaid, exploited migrant farm worker. Available from the Bishops' Committee for Migrant Workers upon request.

"AGRICULTURE LOOKS AHEAD" by Rev. James L. Vizzard, S.J. A report on factors influencing agriculture's next 100 years. Available upon request from the Bishops' Committee for Migrant Workers.

"AGRICULTURAL MIGRANTS" - Selected Films--a booklet listing information on films for and about agricultural migrants--especially films suitable for use with Spanish-speaking migrant workers and families. The list includes many that are available in both English and Spanish. Copies of this booklet can be obtained only from: Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D.C. Ask for Public Health Service Bulletin No. 869, August-1961.

"MIGRATORY WORKERS IN WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE-1961" - is a summary report on the migratory farm workers in Wisconsin. Available only from: Wisconsin State Employment Service, Madison, Wisconsin.

"THE EDUCATION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS," is a report of current information concerning the complex problem of providing educational opportunities to the children of migrant workers. Available upon request from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Education, Washington 25, D.C.

"I WORKED WITH MIGRANTS" by Arthur C. Barry, M.M....A seminarian reports on 12 hours spent in the fields working with migrants. Available from the Catholic Digest, April-1962, 2959 North Hamline Avenue, St. Paul 13, Minn. Price: Single copy: 35¢; yearly subscription: \$4.00.

"CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF AMERICANS OF MEXICAN DESCENT" is a booklet which traces the ancestry of the Mexican Americans and its effects on their character. It examines their family life, the family structure, and the individual role of each member of the family. It explains their attitude toward religion; the history, difficulties and resulting problems which affect their faith. A special section deals with the migrants and their religious and educational problems. Available from: Toledo Diocesan Councils of Catholic Men and Women, 1933 Spielbusch Ave., Toledo 2, Ohio. Single copies: \$1.00. Quantity prices: 5-14 copies, 90¢ each; 15-29 copies, 85¢ each; 30-49 copies, 80¢ each; 50-100 copies, 75¢ each. (Larger quantity prices on request.) SEE ORDER BLANK ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.

I have ordered this!
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MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE

"WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CONGRESS AND HOW LAWS ARE MADE" is a scriptographic presentation of how Congress is elected and organized, how bills are considered, and laws are made. Available from: Channing L. Bete Company, Inc., Greenfield, Mass. Price: \$.75.

THUS SPOKE EINSTEIN

Strange is our situation here upon earth. Each comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet seeming to divine a purpose. There is one thing we do know: Man is here for the sake of other men--above all, for those upon whose well-being our own happiness depends...and for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy.

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



POSTMASTER:
If undeliverable for any reason,
notify sender on Form 3547.
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED.

Miss Helen L. Johnston
Dept. Health, Education
and Welfare
Washington 25, D.C.