



Representing the Diocese of Orlando at the Detroit "Call to Action" meetings were, left to right, Father John Bluett, family life; Sister Teresa McElwee, SNDdeN, humankind; Bishop Thomas J. Grady, chairman of section on family life; Sister Carleen Maly, OP, neighborhood; and, Father Pat Murray, personhood. Not pictured are Rafael Arce, Avon Park, work, and Roberto Mireles, Winter Garden, ethnicity.

'Call to Action' Conference

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of families, youth, racial and ethnic minorities, the aged and the handicapped. They also listed the poor, divorced Catholics, laicized priests, sexual minorities, those in prison and the unemployed as deserving of the Church's special attention.

The gathering called upon the bishops to resist U.S. arms policies including the possession and proliferation of nuclear weapons and an eventual initiative "leading to general and complete disarmament."

Jesuit theologian Avery Dulles was quoted as saying that there is a lot of concern in the Church for moving ahead on matters of human value in the modern world. Dulles also noted that conservative forces were clearly in the minority at the conference. "Personally, I did not expect the group to be this liberal," he said.

The Jesuit also said he did not believe the assembly represents American Catholics but rather those "middle management" Catholics most active in the Church.

Expressing dismay at the recommendations of the conference was conservative columnist Frank Morriss who said that "the whole conference has been orchestrated by people who represent an infinitesimal number of Catholics. The grass roots simply aren't here," he said.

Bishop James Rausch, general secretary of the NCCB and USCC, who is generally recognized as the original force behind the whole program that culminated in "A Call to Action," told NC News Service during the program that what was beginning to emerge from the conference seemed unrepresentative, not only of American Catholics as a whole but of the majority of the delegates as well.

Thomas A. Horkan, Jr., executive director of the Florida Catholic Conference, who attended the Detroit gathering as a representative of the National Association of Catholic Conference Directors, observed that "some of the more radical recommendations which have received media attention are far removed from most Catholics, certainly from the Catholics in Florida."

But, he continued, "the vast majority of the recommendations were very positive, scriptural and doctrinally sound -- and I am sure they will be well received by the bishops."

Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit opened the meeting with a plea to the delegates to listen to the needs of the people expressed in the two-year consultation and to take up the challenge "to respond by becoming a more caring, a more faithful and more responsible community of men and women."

In a filmed message, Pope Paul VI, praising the aims of the conference, noted that action for justice is a response to the Gospel of Christ. Messages were also received from President Gerald Ford and presidential candidate Jimmy Carter.

During the conference, Catholic pacifists demonstrated outside Cobo Hall. Later in the program, an anti-Communist group demonstrated within the hall itself -- at one point interrupting a liturgy. Police brought the demonstrations under control but no arrests were made.

The conference has no legislative power. Rather the recommendations will be considered by the U.S. bishops at their meeting in May, 1977. The democratic thrust of the conference was seen by many as a logical development of the idea of collegiality, or broadly-based decision-making, that emerged from the Second Vatican Council.

Attending the meeting from three of Florida's dioceses were:

From St. Petersburg: Msgr. W. Thomas Larkin, diocesan chairman of the bicentennial commission, Mrs. Lois Martin, St. Cecelia, Clearwater, James Whelan, St. John Parish, St. Petersburg Beach; Mrs. Thelma Bonner, St. Peter Claver Parish, Tampa; Peter Shea, Holy Cross Parish, St. Petersburg, and Farmer.

From Orlando: Bishop Thomas J. Grady, Father John Bluett, Family Life director of the diocese; Sister Teresa McElwee of the Justice and Peace Commission; Sister Carleen Maly of the neighborhood apostolate, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Winter Park; Rafael Arce of Avon Park, Roberto Mireles of Winter Garden and Father Murray.

From Pensacola-Tallahassee: Bishop Rene H. Gracida, Msgr. Terrell F. Solana, Sister Ann Maura O'Keefe, Dr. Francis A. Rhodes, Terri Goss, Michael Wever, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Briscoe, and Xuan Thanh Le.



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Msgr. Larkin



Pat Farmer

Bishop watches as police slay Brazilian Jesuit

ROME (NC) -- Jesuit headquarters here has announced that a Brazilian Jesuit was slain by police while seeking information on two women reportedly arrested.

Father Joao Bosco Penido Burnier, 59, visited a police station near Diamantino in the Mato Grosso area of west-central Brazil Oct. 10, the announcement said.

He and Claretian Bishop, Pedro Casaldaliga of Sao Felix had gone to

inquire about two women, reportedly arrested and mistreated by police.

According to Jesuit spokesman Father Donald Campion, the priest was hit over the head and shot by police in the presence of Bishop Casaldaliga.

Both Bishop Casaldaliga and Father Burnier have been actively defending the rights of the Mato Grosso's rural population. Father Burnier, a native Brazilian and former Jesuit novice master, had been working in the area for the past 10 years.



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