

**Summary of report on first Hispanic Conference of Holy Cross
St. Edward's University, Austin, TX.,
December 28--30,
San Antonio, TX, December 31 optional field trip.**

Coordinators: Fr. Martin Garate, C.S.C., Director; Fr. John Connor, C.S.C.; Sister Jacinta Millan, C.S.C.; Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C.

Attendance: 80 Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters, and 25 non-Holy Cross Hispanic leaders.

Objectives:

1. Evaluation of past and present commitment of Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters in the service of the poor in the United States. (See Fr. Martin Garate's position paper on Holy Cross service to the poor).
2. An evaluation of vocation recruitment and formation of minorities and those desiring to serve in minority apostolates.
3. The reassociation of Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters in the apostolic service of the Hispanic poor (regional support groups, common apostolic planning, shared formation and on-going education, shared retreats, and prayer experiences, shared apostolic projects).
4. The mutual acquaintance of Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters working in the Hispanic or other poverty ministries.

Accomplishments:

- a) The fact the conference occurred reflected a felt need of the participants. We are also thankful for the evident action of God and Our Lady of Guadalupe in bringing about the conference.
- b) The conference was participatory rather than autocratic in style.
- c) The PROCESS of the conference is more important than the recommendations. It was a "*consulta de las bases*" of people from the educational, pastoral and social ministry of Holy Cross working directly with or indirectly for the poor Hispanic peoples of the United States.
- d) It generated an on-going commitment to Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters attending to the service of the poor in the United States. The general feeling was that more meetings of this type are needed. We will need to regroup regionally, however, prior to another national conference since regional groupings are less costly and can dovetail with regional meetings of Hispanic leaders.

On-going implementation: For the time being the on-going communications network will be through Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C., St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas (in charge of mailing conference directory and resolutions); Sister Jacinta Millan, C.S.C., Centro Pastoral, San Jose, California (in charge of reporting on Fr. Pelton's evaluation of the conference), and Fr. Martin Garate, C.S.C., Justice and Peace, South Bend, Indiana (coordination in Midwest region). Presumably each will be advocates for the conclusions of the conference in their respective societies. They will attempt to keep each other informed of important happenings.

October-November 1975 - Luncheon reflection group meetings at Justice and Peace Center. Revision of program according to acceptance of people required to give talks. Correspondence with non-Holy Cross people. Fr. Connor requests Fr. Martin Garate, C.S.C. to come to second preplanning session in Austin, Texas.

December 1976 - Preplanning meeting with Sister Jacinta, Fr. Garate, C.S.C., Fr. Connor, C.S.C. and Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C. form core planning team meeting with Bro. Stephen Walsh, C.S.C., Bro. Raymond Apicella, C.S.C. & Fr. Tom Windberg, C.S.C. to go over the university's responsibility for the conference. Discuss low registration of Holy Cross sisters and Sister Jacinta assumes responsibility to work on this. Expanded group designate, Fr. -Martin Garate, C.S.C. as conference director. Final determination of work groups. Fr. Garate, C.S.C. assumes responsibility of writing a conference position paper to be mailed to all participants. Three objectives of conference: Reflection on Holy Cross commitment to working with the poor in the United States; discussion of formation and training for poverty ministry in the United States; the reassociation of Holy Cross brothers, sisters and priests for the service of the poor in the United States (shared formation, continuing education, support and common apostolic ventures - whether they be short term or long term). Fr. Connor, C.S.C. remained at St. Edward's to do detailed ground work with Austin and San Antonio community.

Conference, December 27 - Registration and arrival of conference participants. Reception at Provincial House of Holy Cross Brothers attended mostly by Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters. Bishop Vincent Harris of Austin, Texas also participated. Meeting of conference team and work group leaders.

December 28,- Introduction and welcome by Fr. Garate, C.S.C. and Bro. Stephen

Walsh, C.S.C. Facilitation of group communication by Mr. Leonard Angiano of MACC and Bro. Raymond Apicella, C.S.C. Presentation of work group leaders (Our Lady of Guadalupe, popular religiosity and spirituality; Bro. Joel Giallanza, C.S.C., comunidad de base de base, Edward Beltran, U.S.C.C., and Fr. Frank Ponce of the Diocese of San Diego. Higher education, Sister Maria Andre Walsh, I.H.M.; Secondary education, Bro. James May, C.S.C., Assistant principal of Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, Illinois; Vocation and Formation, Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C.; Social service and Political Action, Fr. Martin Garate, C.S.C.; Youth and Ministry and Campus Ministry, Bro. Raymond Apicella, C.S.C. Selection of conference participants of work groups and work group discussion. Afternoon session by Pablo Sedillo, Director of U.S.C.C. and work group reflection. Liturgy celebrated by Fr. William Hogan, C. S. C. . Theme: Poverty of spirit and Holy Cross service of poor. Reading of letter of Fr. Thomas Barrosse, C.S.C. ; Bro. Romard, C.S.C. and of Marianite Holy Cross Sisters in New Orleans (also received telegrams from Superior General of Marianite Holy Cross Sisters in LeMans, France and Provincial Superior of Holy Cross Sisters of the Seven Dolours in the northeast and eastern provincial superiors of Marianite Holy Cross Sisters). All communications stressed importance of Holy Cross commitment to serving the poor in the United States, especially the minority groups, Hispanic, black, etc. The evening ended with improviso fiesta.

December 29 - Morning: Talk by Sister Jacinta on youth work with a panel; work groups. Afternoon: Talk by Sister Angela Erevia of MACC on symbols of Mexican American and Catechesis. Liturgy in San Jose Parish, Austin, Texas. Principal celebrant and homilist was Bishop Patrick Flores. Theme of liturgy, Our Lady of Guadalupe and her message to us today. Dinner at parish for parishioners and conference participants. Pablo Sedillo and Edgard Beltran of U.S.C.C. had to leave early but both were quite happy and asked that we publicize results to serve as a model for other religious communities to confront the Hispanic reality.

December 30 - Morning: Talk by Fr. Tony McGuire of Centro Pastoral, San Jose on the development of Hispanic ministry in the Center and the changes his apostolate has caused in Fr. McGuire's pastoral thinking and action. Fr. McGuire thanked Holy Cross for sending Sister Jacinta and Mauricio Laborde to work in San Jose. "You cared enough to send the very best." He also praised Holy Cross for the number of commitments to Spanish-

speaking in this country and South America as evidenced by the informal survey; work groups. Afternoon: Private prayer and reflection in work groups on resolutions to draw up by conference. Liturgy, Fr. Martin Garate, C.S.C. Theme: Holy Cross commitment to serve the poor. Evening: Presentation of recommendations of each work group and votation for acceptance or rejection by all conference participants. All work groups except spirituality passed action recommendations. Written evaluation prepared by Fr. Robert Pelton, C.S.C. Final missioning service: presentation of Our Lady of Guadalupe medals to symbolize commitment to continue the process of the conference and reading of prayer for dedication of service of the poor in the United States of the Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters.

December 31 - A small group visits Holy Cross High School, San Antonio and dialogues with Fr. Edmundo Rodriguez, S.J., founder of C.O.P.S.. Sister Jacinta, C.S.C, and Bro. James, C.S.C. reached agreement that ongoing communication would be established through. Sister Jacinta, C.S.C. in the Centro Pastoral, San Jose; Fr. Martin Garate, C.S.C., Justice and Peace, South Bend, James Hanson, C. S. C. , St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas. Croon also agreed to draw together a smaller group of Holy Cross religious; and Hispanic leaders for participation in the Second Pastoral Encounter of the U.S.C.C. in Chicago, Illinois, August 18-24 with a two day Holy Cross follow-up, August 25-26. Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C. took responsibility to mail out conference participant address booklet and recommendations. Bro. Simon mailed out conference pictures to all participants, Sister Jacinta, C. S. C. and Sister C.S.C. agreed to work on press releases. Sister Jacinta took Fr. Pelton` s evaluation. Fr. Martin Garate, C. S. C. will write an article for La Revista Dominical. The mailing of conference recommendations has been delayed due to the fact that Mrs. Maria Emerson, who was serving as a conference secretary, had to undergo surgery shortly after the conference ended. A list of some 35 Holy Cross sisters, brothers, and priests are to be invited to Chicago in August was also left with her to send out to Sister Jacinta, C.S.C. and Fr. Garate, C.S.C. and Bro. James, C.S.C. for approval.

Personal Evaluation and Reflection - The first impression is a thankfulness to God and Our Lady of Guadalupe for the fact that the conference happened. I am also thankful to the provincial superior of priests and brothers and to the regional superiors of Holy Cross Sisters for the support of their members attending the conference and to the general administration for giving us the money to run the conference. The overall impression of the participants was quite positive, The fact that it was an

intersocietal meeting was quite positive. Fr. Watzke, C.S.C. also pointed out that it was quite helpful to have non-Holy Cross people there to keep us looking outward and to challenge us. He recommended that future meetings be arranged in conjunction with professional meetings.

I was impressed with the recommendations of the conference. The major question is who will be advocates for these recommendations before our institutions and superiors. For the time being this is Fr. Garate, C.S.C. Sister Jacinta, C.S.C. and Bro. James, C.S.C. responsibility to determine. However, I believe the PROCESS in the promotion and execution of the conference was more important than its recommendations. It is a method of consultation "las bases" as the Hispanics say.

I believe the positive feeling of the conference was due to the fact that the participants were looking for something of this nature. Many, particularly those working alone, do not feel they have the support their brothers and sisters of Holy Cross in what they are doing. The institutional people often call their efforts "doing their own thing," when in reality they are often involved in some of the most creative work being done by Holy Cross today. One example of this is Sister Gertrude Smanda, C.S.C. who has worked in Grand Rapids, Michigan the past 12 years in migrant ministry. This is some of the most urgently needed work of Holy Cross today.

One major concern of the people involved in poverty apostolates is the extent to which Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters in the United States are really committed to working with the poor in the United States. Since 1940 we have become an upper-middle class community with most of our institutions and personnel serving the upper and middle class in this country. I believe that those serving poor in this country need their own organization and support system to defend their apostolates against the self-interest of the more influential universities, schools and parishes. My own feeling is that those who wish to work with the poor must justify their proposals to an extent not asked of those working in middle class institutions. Moreover the representation in the Indiana Province on province committees represents principally the personnel and concerns of the middle class institutions. Frequently individual members are forced to justify pastoral methods and apostolic plans to groups having no direct experience of serving the poor and working under assumptions foreign to poverty work. Fr. Garate's position states the problem is that our formation and institutions into 'middle class mentality' which is of no service to the poor. Also we see that in practice the poor we serve cannot expect the same level of service that the rich expect, such as stability of commitment (problem of frequent transfers), resources and personnel devoted to the apostolate. If we ask ourselves honestly where we

now devote most of our time, talents and personnel we would have to say with the middle and upper class and their children.

At the present time there are only 7 or 8 members of Holy Cross priests of the Indiana Province serving the Spanish-speaking in the United States on a full-time basis (with about 460 members of the province this is about a 1.2% personnel commitment to 25% of the Church and the largest poverty group in the Church in the United States at the present time. Hence our rhetoric in public declarations of chapters and the like, at times, over extends our actual level of commitment. We have been requested by the Church in this country to give priority to our service of Spanish-speaking and the elderly (Province Development Report of May 1976). We may wish to service Spanish-speaking and other minority groups in the future but at present there are strong institutional pressures and self-interest mechanisms that have us unable to respond to the Church's call to this service of the poor. Examples of this are low minority representation at the University of Notre Dame; high schools in the province serving the Anglo community; parishes which in view of the overall needs of the Church are over-staffed; and seminarians generally uninterested in the service to the poor. (There was only one seminarian from Moreau, Jose Ahumada, who attended the conference). As we have learned in our mission apostolates abroad, service of the poor requires a change in life style, way of thinking and basic assumptions. Such change is painful and most of us resist change that entails pain. Much change in countries such as Chile came in part as a result of circumstances beyond our control (government intervention of St. George's).

Our Indiana Province meetings reflected the fact that most members present are generally satisfied with what they are doing (not the general pattern for clergy in this country). Satisfaction mitigates accepting the pain of listening to what the poor and minority groups in this country are saying about us. Until we are willing to face up to the difficult problem of internal psychological resistance to change and institutional pressures and middle class and upper class demands which block our listening to the poor, the painful and therefore prayerful conversion necessary to work with the poor will not occur at a desirable level. Hence I believe the level of province commitment, to this apostolate will remain essentially low in the foreseeable future. We don't need new declarations at a general provincial level. What is said in our constitution and by the general consul of the congregation is sufficient motivation. But ideals and motivational language is not enough to effect change of life styles and apostolic commitments and orientation. The poor need a voice in our decision making bodies and the decision makers need to experience directly the pain of the poor minorities in this country. I believe that in the future this can be

accomplished by: •"

- a) The establishment of an inter societal, inter provincial communication network (our mutual commitment is stronger for reasons of apostolate than for reasons of geography). Ongoing education on the needs of poverty groups in the United States which are both experiential as well as academic, e.g., programs such as outward bound that allow you to spend a week-end in the inner city without money.
- b) Support groups established regionally for those members of the priests, brothers and sisters societies working with the poor.
- c) Representation of the apostolates to the poor, and their interests -in our community, decision-making institutions.
- d) Recognition of the poor's right to organize, pastorally, civically, economically and socially, to pressure our institutions to change and respond adequately to their needs.
- e) The need for prayer experience, that will lead to a desire to serve the poor (directed retreats such as the one given in the inner city of Des Moines, Iowa by a Jesuit team).
- f) The need of direct contact of those in formation with the poor (as to share their pain.) As Fr. Garate, C.S.C. says we must allow the poor to evangelize us.
- g) The need of special formation programs for minorities and those in minority apostolates.
- h) The need for career training programs for those considering a second career in the service of the poor. (Recommendation of Fr. Burton Smith, C.S.C.).
- i) The need of more wealthy institutions of Holy Cross, parishes and schools, to support with salary and resources those who are working directly with the poor and have no source of financial remuneration for their work. (This is what Paul did when gathering money for the Church at Jerusalem).
- j) The need of sensitivity of superiors to the special conflicts and

suffering of those who share the suffering of the poor, One good example of this was our response in Chile.

- k) The need to adopt a missionary rather than a parish pastoral approach to working with minorities (i.e. Leadership training, comunidad de base, lay responsibility rather than paid staff and over planned program) . The Spanish-speaking in the United States are generally unevangelized and unorganized socially and pastorally and therefore cannot afford the pastoral staffs of more developed Anglo parishes.
- l) The spiritual freedom to respond to the request of the Church today for service of minority groups in the United States, Spanish-speaking, black, Indian, Asiatic; senior citizens, mentally handicapped children, etc..) and priority given to those over requests from our own middle class institutions or the Church elsewhere in this country. In other words in future development we should give preferential treatment to those serices offered by the personnel of Holy Cross to the poor. This I believe was the attitude of our founder Fr. Moreau as was expressed in the letter of Fr. Barrosse to the conference participants.
- m) The spiritual freedom to respond to the request of the Church today for service of minority groups in the United States, Spanish-speaking, black, Indian, Asian; senior citizens, mentally handicapped children, etc..) and priority given to those over requests from our own middle class institutions or the Church elsewhere in this country. In other words in future
- n) Superiors should be willing to allow people to fail in projects that serve the poor and avoid the temptation to over plan the future. We lose nothing if we fail, we lose everything if we don't try. In the last analysis the only reason that can be given for preferential treatment in the service of the poor is that this was Jesus own attitude and what He commanded of His disciples. Jesus of Nazareth was the suffering servant of the poor ."The spirit t of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor." To us religious today Christ continues to say, "Go sell what you have, give it to the poor, and come follow me."

CC: Fr. Thomas Barrosse, C.S.C.
Sister Kathleen Anne Nelligan, C.S.C.
Fr. William Lewers, C.S.C.
Bro. Romard Barthel, C.S.C.
Fr. Robert Pelton, C.S.C.
Fr. Martin Garate, C.S.C.
Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C.
Sister Jacinta Millan, C.S.C.
Sister Maryanne O'Neill, C.S.C.
Fr. John Connor, C.S.C.
Pablo Sedillo, U.S.C.C.
Edgard Betran, U.S.C.S.
Mr. Leonard Angiano, MACC
Mrs. Maria Emerson

Report on the First Hispanic Conference of Holy Cross
by Father John Connor, C.S.C.

The conference was held at St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas from December 28 to the 30. December 31 was an optional day in San Antonio, Texas to visit Holy Cross High School and discuss with Fr. Edmundo Rodriguez, S.J. of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish the organizational principles used in initiating C.O.P.S. (Citizens Organized for Public Service).

There were approximately 80 Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters from around the country; 20-25 Hispanic leaders, priests, sisters and lay leaders, especially from our parishes in Austin and from MACC and other places in San Antonio in attendance.

The coordinators were Sister Jacinta Millan, C.S.C., Centro Pastoral, San Jose, California; Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C., St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas; Fr. John Connor, C.S.C., Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Milford, Indiana; Fr. Martin Garate, C.S.C., Justice and Peace Center, South Bend, Indiana.

Background History - The initial idea was presented at the April, 1970 meeting of Indiana priests to a small group of 8 interested persons. Texas was suggested as the site for the conference. We wrote to provincials of brothers and priests in May to win acceptance of this idea.

In June 1976 Bro. Romard, Southwest Provincial approved the idea, and Bro. Stephen Walsh, C.S.C. accepted the proposal to host the conference at St. Edward's University. Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C., Religious Studies Director at St. Edward's University accepted the responsibility of being Brother Coordinator.

In July, 1976 the first preplanning meeting was held at the Mexican American Cultural Center. Present were Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C.; Bro. William Dooling, C.S.C., San Antonio, Texas; Sister Jose Maria Hernandez, C.S.C., Salt Lake City, Utah; Sister Mary Duane, C.S.C., Los Angeles, California; Fr. John Connor, C.S.C., Notre Dame, Indiana; and Mr. Leonard Angiano, Leadership Development Office, MACC, San Antonio, Texas. The initial proposal for the conference agenda was submitted by Fr. Connor and was rejected as

unworkable. Four major addresses were decided upon and a series of work groups. Sister Jacinta Millan, C.S.C. of San Jose was recommended as Sister Coordinator of meetings. She accepted this position reluctantly by phone conversation from San Antonio.

August 1976 - A visit was made by Fr. John Connor, C.S.C. to San Jose, California for the purpose of revising plans for the conference through discussions with Sister Jacinta, and Bro. James Hanson, C.S.C. They established a work distribution plan and began work on the conference brochure; correspondence was also taken care of at this time with those to give addresses.

September 1976 - Fr. Connor secured acceptance of Justice and Peace Center to use their facilities for office work and meeting place as well as an address.

Fr. Connor will assist Fr. Garate in the formation of a Midwest regional council and the writing of a newsletter to be sent to conference participants to provide an on-going information vehicle.

It has been recommended that a small group of Holy Cross leaders in the Hispanic apostolate regroup for the Second Pastoral Encounter of the U.S.C.C, office in Chicago, August 18-24 and follow up by a two day evaluation. Fr. Connor left a list of approximately 35 Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters and 15 or 20 non-Holy Cross people with Mrs. Maria Emerson, conference secretary, to be sent to Fr. Garate, Sister Jacinta and Bro. James for their approval as the invitation list to the Encuentro. This meeting occurs every 4 or 5 years and is a very important event for the Hispanic Church in the United States. It was felt that a good Holy Cross input would be valuable and would also allow us to test our own conclusions with the general trends in the United States. The two day follow-up should allow us to establish definite goals and objectives which we will strive for over the coming two years.