

THE CHURCH AND THE SPANISH SPEAKING

(in Texas)

I. The Church's problem and duty. This makes it the responsibility of all Catholics. We are the Church; we carry her burdens.

- 1) To save these souls. To give them the sacraments, truth, moral guidance. To help lift them materially also, so that they can live more decently, securely, and more in keeping with their dignity as the sons of God.
- 2) To promote justice. It is the Church's duty, Catholic duty, to oppose injustice, exploitation, discrimination wherever these are found. These things are sins, and the Church must oppose sin.

II. Special responsibility toward the Spanish speaking. These people are traditionally Catholic. They are Catholic in ancestry. They have been allowed to get away from mother Church, mostly because of lack of resources. They should be reclaimed.

III. Difficulties. Lack of resources. Fewness of priests, sisters, schools. Lack of money to provide churches and schools.

IV. Progress that has been made:

- 1) in religion. How we are getting along. The number of priests, sisters, catechists, churches, schools. The Office for the Spanish Speaking. The athletic program (John Hidalgo). Sister Mary Victory and Sister Immaculate. Etc.
- 2) Civic progress. Better citizenship. Sharing in the life of the community. *Organizations.*
- 3) Economic progress. Many getting ahead, but still much poverty. *Organizations.*

V. On the debit side:

- 1) Discrimination. In education. In business (lower wages) Before the law.
- 2) Lack of interest and sympathy and understanding by our brother Catholics. We don't know one another enough, nor one another's problems.

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Objection from the floor:

Much of the Mexican's difficulty is his own fault. They don't become Americanized. They won't work. Etc.

Acknowledge and explain Failings of the people. Urge all to a Christian attitude of sympathy and understanding; of responsibility for all these souls. Helpfulness---for Christ's sake.

Question: Delinquency. *in* Irresponsibility, *voting etc.*

(If you like this idea of discussion)