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HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI  
*and*  
LATIN AMERICA



*His Holiness*  
**POPE PAUL VI**  
*and*  
**LATIN AMERICA**

On Wednesday evening January 27, 1965 a rare event occurred at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago.

On that date a personal representative of the Holy Father, His Excellency Archbishop Antonio Samore, Vice President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, delivered publicly to His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing as chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Latin America a holograph letter from His Holiness Pope Paul VI.

This letter of the Sovereign Pontiff was then read to the assembly of two thousand delegates and interested participants from North America and Latin America attending the Second Annual Conference of the Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program (CICOP). CICOP represents an initiative of the Sub-Committee for Inter-American Cooperation of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Latin America, the chairman of which sub-committee is His Excellency Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta.

The unusual gesture on the part of His Holiness in sending a message under these circumstances to the Bishops and to the major superiors of the men religious and of the women religious of the United States was prompted by His Holiness' marked satisfaction with the Second Biennial Report of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Latin America. In this report the Bishops' Committee detailed the contributions in personnel from the United States to the Latin American Church in priests, Brothers, Sisters and lay volunteers. As of January 1965, the report indicated that the Church in the United States possessed a total of 4091 persons at work in the various countries of Latin America.

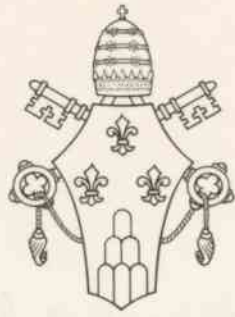
A reproduction of this memorable document from the Holy Father is provided herewith.

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1911



To Our Beloved Son  
*Richard Cardinal Cushing*  
Archbishop of Boston  
Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Latin America, I.C.W.C.

Our venerable Predecessor, John XXIII, in his Autograph Letter addressed to you, Beloved Son, on April 19, 1963, after expressing warm appreciation for the achievements of apostolic collaboration with the countries of Latin America, gave assurance of his firm confidence « that the American Dioceses and Religious Congregations will, in the years ahead, fulfil with solicitude the various more extended programs which have been proposed ».

Two years later, We are happy to note that this confidence has been amply justified, and those lively hopes fulfilled. Our own certitude on the subject was validly confirmed by the Second Biennial Report on the Cooperation of the Church in the

United States in supplying personnel to the Church in Latin America. This document came to Us as a precious gift at Christmas time, and was a further proof, if any were needed, of the devotion and attachment of the Hierarchy, Clergy and Catholics of the United States of America to this Apostolic See.

We read this Report with lively attention, finding therein abundant statistics manifesting the generous contribution of American Catholics to the Apostolate in Latin America, useful conclusions regarding the work accomplished, and courageous forecasts of the future. Above and beyond the expressive and significant figures, We were gratified to note the spirit and inspiration which animate this providential apostolic movement, which fills one of the most beautiful pages in the history of the Church in the United States.

Following immediately on the promulgation of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council's Dogmatic Constitution «De Ecclesia», it is most consoling to witness this transfer of energies from one part of the Mystical Body of Christ to another. The Church in your great Nation pours forth new, fresh and abundant resources

for the « building up of the Body of Christ » (cf. Eph. II, 22; I Cor. III, 9), and for the preservation and growth of the « People of God » in that neighboring Continent.

This brotherly union, this continual multiplication of undertakings, this incessant work of stimulus and coordination, not only give Us great joy, but also constitute so many important factors because of their deep doctrinal and pastoral significance.

Thus it is that Our Venerable Brothers share and participate, in a different way to be sure, in Our responsibility and duty as Supreme Pastor of the Flock. They are aware that « *qua membra Collegii Episcopalis et legitimi Apostolorum successores, singuli in ea sollicitudine pro universa Ecclesia ex Christi institutione et praecepto tenentur, quae, etiamsi per actum iurisdictionis non exercetur, summo opere tamen confert ad Ecclesiae universalis emolumentum* » (Dogmatic Constitution De Ecclesia, No. 23). In this way, too, priests feel the call to a wider and more open consideration of their duties towards the apostolate and the faithful become « ever more aware of their appertaining to the universal Church in which, overcoming the narrow limits of space, they feel engaged all for one and one

for all, because they are all sons of the same heavenly Father »  
(Discourse at the Inauguration of the Italian Seminary pro Ame-  
rica Latina, December 8, 1964).

Today, in fact, it is absolutely indispensable that each person become aware of the true dimensions of the Church. Greater awareness will lead to widening of vitality and fuller realization of the meaning of the name Catholic. Whoever enters by Baptism into the great Catholic family shares with all the other members the same unique hope, hears the same appeal, is part of the same body; he enrolls in that « army marching on the road which leads to salvation » (Clement of Rome, Ad Cor. XXXVI, 1); he joins that « great multitude... out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues » (Apoc. VII, 9).

These considerations, by which We have opened Our mind to you, and which could easily be developed at greater length, came to Us spontaneously on reading your Report. It is you who have activated their marvellous content by the consoling reality of the facts which you describe therein.

The perseverance, continuity and farseeing clarity which

mark your labors have had the effect of raising to four thousand and ninety-one the ecclesiastical, religious and lay personnel from North America now working in Latin America. Nor do we ignore the important fact that in the last two years alone no less than fifty-four diocesan priests, two hundred and ninety-four Religious priests and lay brothers, six hundred and ninety-four Women Religious and two hundred and eighty-eight lay people have been sent for the first time to that great field of the apostolate, a consoling total of one thousand three hundred and thirty persons.

We send our affectionate paternal greeting to those numerous Dioceses which have spontaneously placed at the disposal of the Latin American Dioceses a total of one hundred and seventy-nine priests, mostly dedicated to pastoral ministry in fifty-nine parishes entrusted to them in eleven Stations of that Continent.

We praise and encourage the Religious Communities of Men and Women which, with perseverance and tenacity, are gradually fulfilling the engagement undertaken at the Congress

of Notre Dame, Indiana, in 1961, of offering the Church in Latin America a tithe of their total membership by 1970. They are today represented there by one thousand six hundred and seventy Religious Priests and Lay Brothers, and by one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three Women Religious. In recent years they have expanded existing undertakings, or more frequently have started new initiatives with small groups which are added to little by little, since needs continually increase and demands must be met. While We naturally have special words of praise for those Congregations and Institutes which have numerically greater representation in Latin America - respecting their modesty We do not mention them by name - yet can We not forget those hundreds of others which have undertaken the burden of completely new foundations with equal courage and no less sacrifice.

We also express Our sincere appreciation to the hundreds of men and women Volunteers, who, with exemplary abnegation, perform their valuable work in many Latin American countries beside the local Catholic organizations.

Finally, We have learned with pleasure that the United

States Bishops' Committee for Latin America has recently established a movement: the Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program (C.I.C.O.P.), which seeks by educational means to promote greater understanding of Latin America's peoples among the Catholic millions of the United States. We are very happy to learn that this year, for the first time, many Bishops are introducing this program into their Dioceses, and many Religious Superiors are recommending it to their Communities, by advocating the observance of Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Week. Such a step should produce rich fruits of knowledge, warm friendships and Christian concern.

For the Second Annual Conference of the Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program a theme of great importance and current interest has been chosen. It consists in an analytical enquiry - and we are comforted to learn that representatives of the Bishops and laity of Latin America will be associated with you in this work - concerning the social structures of Latin America, in order to determine what is the reality today produced or being produced on that Continent, through the rapid substantial

changes and continual evolution noted. The conclusions which will be drawn from such study according to the teaching of pontifical documents will indicate the role which the Church must take in that present situation.

Recalling the fact that « Christian social teaching is an integral part of the Christian concept of life » (John XXIII; Encyclical Mater et Magistra, A. A. S., 1961, p. 453), and that « social action also, if properly understood, has its place among the duties of a priest », because « it would be an extension, as it were, of the priestly ministry properly so called » (Discourse to the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, July 9, 1963), it is easy to understand the motives which induce the Church to follow with particular interest, with apprehension but also with confident expectation, the evolution of the social situation in Latin America. It is her mission to give those changes a Christian visage and seal; to take part in them so as to permeate them with her message of salvation, light and love, which unifies and keeps united the various social levels and healthy resources of each people; as it is her duty to ensure the active and operative presence of her sons

in every sector of human activity, and hence also in the establishment of social conditions in which the life of all citizens will be lived and developed, as they reach towards a better, more equitable and more human future.

We pray, therefore, that the Second Annual Conference of Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program may produce many practical results, particularly a wider and more solicitous collaboration of the United States of America with the Church in Latin America, such as present urgent needs demand. We laud this specific purpose all the more, since we are convinced that, in the light of a truly universal viewpoint, it will not diminish but rather increase the generosity with which the American Hierarchy, Clergy and Catholics have always shown towards other worldwide activities, especially the work of the Missions, Peter's Pence and the Papal Charities, and the aid to needy peoples administered by your Catholic Relief Services.

Harmonious concord of action with Our Pontifical Commission for Latin America, which has always distinguished your work in this field of the apostolate, will continue to guarantee

successful results to your fervid activities. It is in the words of Saint Paul that We express Our ardent wish: « Qui coepit in vobis opus bonum, Ipse perficiet » (Phil., I, 6).

In order that divine assistance may guide and sustain your efforts, We assure you of Our prayers, and from Our heart We bestow upon you, Beloved Son, upon the Most Eminent Cardinals, the Most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops, the Congregations and Religious Institutes of Men and Women, and to the Catholic Associations of the United States of America, Our affectionate paternal Apostolic Blessing. ✠

From the Vatican, on the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, January 6, 1965.

Paulus P. P. VI-

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## *Telegram of Appreciation*

Immediately following the public reading of the apostolic letter, the following telegram was despatched to the Sovereign Pontiff.

TO HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI  
VATICAN CITY

The members of the Committee of Latin America of the Bishops of the United States in union with their confreres of the Hierarchy of the United States, with the major superiors of men and of women of the religious communities of the United States and with the zealous faithful of the Church in the United States,

profoundly grateful for the generous and deeply moving sentiments of the holograph letter addressed to them by Your Holiness regarding their relations with the Church in Latin America,

express their heartfelt thanks for this signal honor which Your Holiness has bestowed upon them.

Prostrate before Your Holiness, the participants in the Second Annual Conference of the Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program, gathered together from throughout the United States and from countries of Latin America, humbly beg the Apostolic Benediction.

Signed: *His Eminence*  
CARDINAL RICHARD J. CUSHING  
*Chairman of the Bishops' Committee  
for Latin America*

Chicago  
January 27, 1965

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

This brochure contains the full text of a letter sent by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, for the second Conference on Inter-American Cooperation (CICOP) held recently in Chicago. The sentiments expressed therein are alive with the spirit of "aggiornamento" and renewal that dominates the Second Vatican Council.

Springing directly from the approved decrees of the Council "On the Church" the Pope applied to Latin America the universal concern of one area of the Church for all others, pointing out how "it is most consoling to witness this transfer of energies from one part of the Mystical Body of Christ to another". He extolled the efforts of the Church in the United States that are aimed at "the preservation and growth of the 'People of God' in that neighboring Continent", and underlined "their deep doctrinal and pastoral significance". The implications of this conciliar view of the Church embraces all its members and is not reserved merely to those who are traditionally called missionaries.

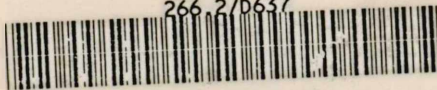
Bishops, first of all, by the fact of their collegiality as successors of the apostles, have a solicitude that reaches far beyond their own jurisdiction and touches upon every need of the Church everywhere. Priests also, "ever more aware of their appertaining to the universal Church in which . . . they feel engaged all for one and one for all", are called to a "wider and more open consideration of their duties towards the apostolate and the faithful". The laity too are enjoined to a new awareness of the true dimensions of the Church, for "whoever enters by Baptism into the great Catholic family shares with all the other members the same unique hope, bears the same appeal, is part of the same body." In simple terms, Pope Paul calls every Christian to real responsibility in the Church.

The Pope's reflections, so full of newness and vitality, are prompted by a reading of the Report of the Conference committee on what has already been accomplished in Latin America. More than four thousand religious and lay Catholics from the United States are now working in various missions in Latin America, and many dioceses are promising further personnel. Meanwhile, the Pope applauded the communities of religious men and women who have promised "a tithe" of their membership for the missions. In a special manner the Holy Father lauded the "men and women Volunteers, who, with exemplary abnegation, assist existing Catholic organizations in the mission fields".

Finally, CICOP itself was praised by the Pope for bringing scientific and professional study to the mission effort. Goodwill and zeal are not enough; planning and know-how must be the companions of the missionary or his efficiency and effectiveness are enormously reduced. The quality of attendance at the CICOP meeting guarantees that the Holy Father's concern for an understanding of the social, economic and cultural aspects of this vast program will receive alert and intelligent attention. Everyone can take heart in the manner in which Pope Paul has put the "new look" on the Church's work in Latin America, and with the new look his own blessing and encouragement.

EL COLEGIO DE MEXICO

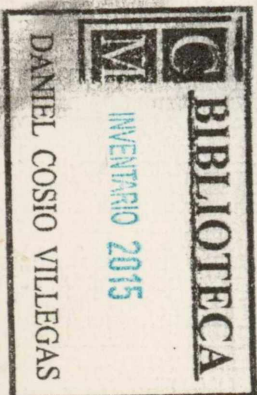
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*Richard Cardinal Cushing*

Archbishop of Boston



The reproduction of this apostolic letter has been graciously arranged by His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston.

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Please do not address requests to His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing.