

are associated with the diocese which provides innumerable benefits ranging from spiritual guidance and charity to education and health services for everyone in the community.

The diocese is comprised of a myriad of ethnic communities. Catholic German and Irish immigrants settled in northeast Ohio in the early 1800's. Later, immigrants from eastern and southern Europe made their home there. In the early 1900's, many immigrants from Mexico and, following World War II, immigrants from Puerto Rico moved to the area to work in the steel mills. The diverse ethnic groups of the diocese are united as a family in their common religious beliefs and goodwill toward each other and the rest of the community in spite of social, economic, or racial differences. This diversity cherished and celebrated as an asset to the diocese.

Upholding a longstanding tradition of goodwill, the people of the diocese work together to serve over 600,000 people annually in Catholic hospitals, charities, and agencies. Over \$80 million worth of health and human services is provided each year through these organizations. Furthermore, 70,000 students from all socio-economic levels are educated in Catholic-affiliated schools including the 146 elementary schools, 23 high schools, 2 seminaries, and several colleges and universities in the northeast Ohio area.

Events catering to different constituencies of the diocese are planned throughout the year to celebrate this landmark anniversary. A "Celebration on the Mall" in Cleveland, scheduled for August 17, 1997, will feature the multicultural aspects of the community. Dancing, arts, games, food, and a major liturgical event will fill the day culminating in a fireworks display in the evening.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in praising the Catholic diocese of Cleveland, a diverse, charitable, and faithful family dedicated to the improvement of and inextricably united to the northeast Ohio community.

A SESQUICENTENNIAL TRIBUTE
TO THE SINSINAWA DOMINICAN
CONGREGATION OF THE MOST
HOLY ROSARY

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride today that I pay tribute to an assembly of women, indomitable women, on the occasion of their sesquicentennial anniversary. As the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters celebrate 150 years of mission and ministry, I would like to take a moment to reflect on and to honor their tradition and their vision.

Founded on August 4, 1847, by the Reverend Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli, O.P., in Sinsinawa, WI, the order identified education as its primary mission. Acknowledging the power of knowledge, the sisters committed themselves to taking education to immigrant and minority populations throughout Wisconsin, into northern Illinois, and Minnesota.

By the 1870's, the Sinsinawa Dominicans brought their talents to Milwaukee County, eventually teaching in 11 city and suburban schools, including St. Rose Grade School and Dominican High School where their education mission continues today.

In the ensuing years, the Sinsinawa Dominicans continued to make education a priority. While living among the people whom they served, they saw discrimination, they saw poverty, they saw abuse. In typical Dominican fashion, they committed themselves to "an intentional focus on justice as essential to Dominican mission. We will work for justice and peace through our ministries, with an emphasis on issues concerning race, women and children, the Church and ecology." (Chapter Directions, 1994).

In 1997, 150 years after Father Mazzuchelli accepted the first 4 Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters into the order, these extraordinary women, who now serve in 83 dioceses throughout the United and abroad, continue to bring the power of learning to young and old, to native and immigrant. But now rededicated to community justice, the sisters also work among us as healers, as advocates for women and children, as lawyers, as literacy proponents, as writers of and makers of our common history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dominican women in Milwaukee, in Wisconsin, and throughout the world as they celebrate their remarkable history. May they look to their future with confidence, and with the gratitude of communities everywhere.

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE
PALESTINIANS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the House, especially my good friend JIM SAXTON, who has been a leader in Middle East issues, in adopting the Forbes-Saxton amendment that temporarily suspends U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority and PLO until the President can report and certify that they are complying with various elements of the Oslo accords and other human rights. It's the right amendment at the right time. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, I am in a unique position to follow the progress of the Middle East peace process in great detail and have done so since coming to Congress 3 years ago. My friends, it is with great disappointment that I report to you—there hasn't been any progress. Since the signing of the Oslo accords in 1993, have we had peace? Have the Palestinian Authority and the PLO lived up to their commitments in the Oslo accords? No we have not and no they have not.

Year after year, the violations and gross misconduct of the Palestinian Authority and PLO continue to grow. History is sometimes a cruel, but honest teacher. We can never allow politics of the moment to obscure the essential facts: The Palestinian Authority and the PLO openly violate the Oslo accords and continue to disregard the human rights of Israelis and Americans in Israel.

Yesterday we witnessed the brutal bomb explosion in Israel killing at least 13 and wounding more than 150. Hamas later claimed responsibility. Living with this kind of senseless violence is unbearable for all in the region and my deepest condolences go out to those who

lost a loved one in the explosion. This latest example of terrorism leads me to ask the question—why isn't there peace between the Israelis and Palestinians? Since the Oslo accords in 1993, the world has witnessed rioting and bombs exploding in the streets of Israel, buses exploding, and Prime Ministers assassinated. With the stroke of a pen or an impassioned speech, one man could help restore peace to the region—Yassir Arafat. Instead, his silence and inaction has allowed the spigot of violence to flow. With the passage of the Forbes-Saxton amendment, the House is rejecting the policies of Arafat, an international terrorist.

For the benefit of all who are following this debate, allow me to summarize some of the more egregious violations and examples of blatant misconduct by the Palestinian Authority and the PLO. There's no question about it—Arafat has blood on his hands. I ask you why should we squander taxpayer money on a regime that has since September 1993, the signing of the Oslo accords:

First, Arafat announced that he was setting aside seats in his cabinet for representatives of four terrorist groups: Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. In January 1997, Arafat appointed Imad Halouji, a Hamas activist from Gaza, as a Minister Without Portfolio; and Arafat named Sheikh Talal Sidr, a Hamas activist from Hebron, as Minister of Youth and Sports. He was one of the Hamas terror leaders deported to Lebanon in 1992 by Prime Minister Rabin.

Second, Arafat's cabinet announced, on May 3, 1997, that it would impose the death penalty for any Arab who sells land to Jews. During the weeks following the announcement, 3 Arab landsellers were found murdered.

Third, there has never been an overall disarming of the terrorists or seizure of the tens of thousands of illegal weapons in the hands of private Arab citizens in PLO-controlled areas. Arafat has estimated that there are 26,000 such weapons in Gaza alone, according to other estimates, there are 40,000.

Fourth, the PLO has not honored any of Israel's requests for extradition.

Fifth, Palestinian Arab newspapers that fail to toe the Arafat line are shut down. During the past 2 years, 6 newspapers have all suffered this fate. The U.S. group, Human Rights Watch found that the PLO regime "has often acted in an arbitrary and repressive fashion, carrying out large numbers of political arrests, censoring the press, and failing to conduct credible investigations into suspected abuses."

Sixth, the PLO's Palestine National Council [PNC] has not revised or annulled the articles in the PLO National Covenant that conflict with the Israel-PLO accords.

Seventh, the Palestinian Authority has failed to adhere to security provisions of the January 17, 1997 Hebron accord. According to the agreement, the Palestinians may have a total of up to 400 policemen, equipped with 20 vehicles and armed with 200 pistols, and 100 rifles for the protection of the police stations. The PA has deployed approximately 1,500 policemen in Hebron, nearly four times the number permitted under the agreement.

If you choose to dismiss the violations I've mentioned, and keep in mind these are only a few, one thing is certain—the practice of murdering Palestinians for selling land to Jews is