

Peru Missions Win U.N. Praise

Lima, Peru (AP)—United Nations officials here unanimously agreed that the Maryknoll Fathers' cooperative program has created a new hope for thousands of Andean Indians.

This is the report of Msgr. John O'Grady, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, Washington, D.C., who recently completed a tour of the area as a member of the Andean study group of the U.N.

The Department of Peru, the most heavily populated area in Peru, is located high in the Andes mountains along the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest lake in the world. The majority of the 600,000 people living in this region are Indians—illiterate and impoverished.

To offset this situation, Maryknoll priests, who first moved into the area in 1943, started a campaign to win the friendship of the usually austere and suspicious Indians. The missionaries described for the trials they had been through and the problems they had to overcome to win the confidence of the Indians. Gradually they made progress through a cooperative program.

THE MARYKNOLL credit movement was started in San Juan, Pisco, in 1945. It began with 23 members. Today, the credit union boasts some 3,000 members and \$250,000 in savings. At the Bishop's Conference held in January, 1953, Father Daniel McEllan, M.M., of Denver, Colo., was authorized to

extend cooperative credit throughout the entire country. He has set up a central office for this purpose and already has established credit unions according to Msgr. O'Grady.

"During a meeting at which 200 Peruvian officials discussed their problems with the U.N. mission, three Maryknoll Fathers told their stories," Msgr. O'Grady reported.

"They made a profound impression on the U.N. officials, who were quite enthusiastic in expressing their admiration for the work of the Maryknoll Fathers in the area. They felt that Maryknoll had outreached everybody else in their sociological approach to the Indians."

In addition to small loans the parish of San Juan has enabled the people of Pisco to buy 240 homes, acquire farm equipment, start businesses and pay medical bills. During the past year the parish cooperative has advanced more than a million dollars of credit to all classes of Peruvians at a one percent interest rate.

Professional finance companies in Peru charge anywhere from 20 per cent to 50 per cent on a loan.

"Peruvians feel that the Maryknoll cooperatives have made a real contribution," Msgr. O'Grady said. "They hope that the cooperative idea can be extended to the entire country. They also realize that this presents some problems of finance that cannot be immediately resolved. In his extension program, for instance, Father McEllan is currently facing a deficit of \$6,000 a year for the next two years."

"All of us associated with the United Nations mission feel called upon to do our part in the extension program that Maryknoll has undertaken."

Rochester Girl Finds New Life As Lay Missionary In Texas

Miss Mary Catherine formerly Irene Clellin of Rochester is the second young lady of the Rochester diocese to devote some time to the lay apostolate in San Antonio, Texas, as a Daughter of St. Francis.

The Daughters of St. Francis are an organized group of Catholic girls and women who have agreed to spend a portion of their lives in a new field of Catholic action. The purpose of the group is to aid activities in parishes.

Under the supervision and guidance of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child, who are located locally at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester, this parish apostolate is established at 144 East King's Highway, San Antonio.

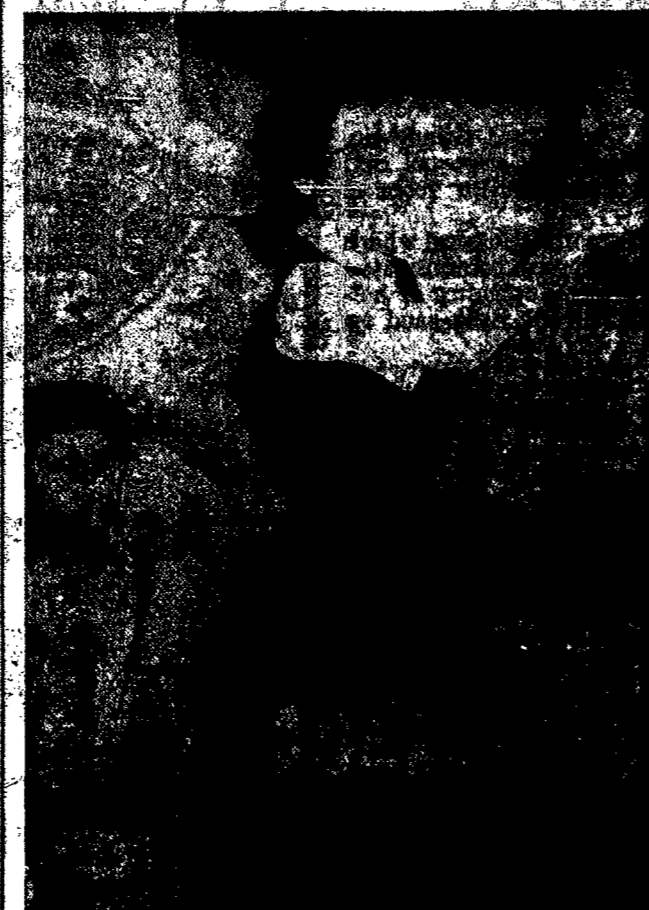
The Sisters are contemplating opening a training center for this lay apostolate in the State of New York. Girls just finished high school or older women with years of experience are welcome to join.

THE COMMITMENT to embrace this way of life consists of the promises of poverty, chastity and obedience for only one year. After a year's renewal of promises will be allowed provided the requirements of the Sisters have been met.

After the required training, the assignments of the Daughters of St. Francis will plunge them into many vital fields of activity in human society. They will be found in hospitals, reform institutions, schools and homes. The work of the group broadens in the following fields:

- 1) Teaching in schools and catechetical centers for public school children;
- 2) Social work, taking census and doing home visits;
- 3) Nursing, especially in poor sections;
- 4) Home economics and domestic work, including rotary housekeeping;
- 5) Secretarial work, such as shorthand, typing, filing, and general office work.

THE DAUGHTERS of St. Francis live a semi-community life and become members of the Third Order Secular. The



ASSISTING THE POOR through collecting and providing medication, food and clothing for undernourished children and the destitute keeps Miss Mary Materine, formerly Miss Irene Clellin, of Rochester busy.

spiritual life includes the reception of the Sacraments, Mass, spiritual reading and other devotional activities.

This Apostolate fills a vital, urgent and important need of a community. It offers unique contributions to society and to the world. Conditions of these times demand lay people who will devote at least a portion of their lives to the service of the Church and the faithful.

The spirit of St. Francis of Assisi permeates the entire apostolate. The Poverello was most noted for his simplicity of heart, his humility, his intense spiritual joy, poverty of spirit and love for his fellow man.

The Daughters of St. Francis hope to establish all of the saint's ideals into their future work and to bring alive his ancient and venerable spirit in their contacts with other lay people.

MOTHERHOUSE of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child is located at Regina Coeli Acres, Williamsville, New York.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Table of League Standings for various sports teams including High Individual, St. Thomas, Super Super Market, and others.

40 Nurses Hear Atonement Friar In Corning

Corning — The Fall Communion and Breakfast of Corning Chapter of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses was held at the Bazon Steuben Hotel.

The 40 members in attendance received Communion in a body at St. Vincent de Paul's Church.

Highlight of the program was a talk by the Rev. Theopane Murphy, S.A., newly appointed pastor of St. John's Atonement Seminary at Montour Falls.

The speaker told his listeners how they could grow spiritually and how they are in a position to exert a profound influence upon their patients' spiritual as well as their temporal welfare.

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Age No Obstacle To Priest

Fomeque, Colombia (RNS)—Msgr. Augustin Gutierrez, 74, is 74 years old. But age doesn't stop this extraordinary man who has built a multifaceted community development project high in the central cordillera of the Andes.

His projects, who has worked 22 years at Fomeque, has one major goal in view. "Here at Fomeque," he said, "we want to train people so that they, in turn, can go out to teach others."

Nearly 500 young men and women are now studying (in a six-year course) at Fomeque's two normal schools. Founded eight years ago, the schools send the majority of their graduates back to the many small communities which dot these mountains to become rural school teachers.

All these projects—and others besides—are organized under one central organization called the "Granja Agricola de Fomeque." This "agricultural granja" has its own officers, constitution and by-laws. It receives some governmental financial assistance and also finds the town's civil authorities.

"We put up 200 here in a large hall—they bring their pallets and sleep on the floor—and the rest stay with families or at inns-down in the village. Over the weekend we give them classes in reading and writing, along with instruction in sewing, child care, hygiene, and the like."

The girls' vocational school is the oldest project at Fomeque. "When we came here over 20 years ago," Gutierrez said, "we found a few girls sitting on a dirt floor,

trying to learn under the most primitive conditions. Now we have a modern, well-equipped school—and some 2,000 graduates to date.

"It is interesting to visit the women who have been with us for our four-year course. Their homes, their family life, their relationship to the community—everything is on a different level from the homes of those who have no educational opportunities."

Some of these graduates—along with other young married couples of the town—live in a new housing project which the Granja Agricola began building recently. "In the project we give our young families the chance to live in a modern, decent house," Msgr. Gutierrez said. Some of these homes have been built cooperatively.

The Granja Agricola does not confine its work to Fomeque; it reaches out to other parts of the country, training teachers for other rural areas, welcoming observers (who, incidentally, stay in a bright, modern hotel which the community has built), sharing the fruits of its experience in rural education.

A meeting was scheduled this month at Fomeque to discuss a plan to systematize rural schooling throughout Colombia on the Fomeque pattern.

Msgr. Gutierrez also heads the "Junta Sacramental de Apostolado Rural," a group of rural priests organized three years ago, which meets regularly at Fomeque. Such groups have since been organized in 20 other districts throughout Colombia.

Here we go slowly—it has taken over 20 years to build up these works. But it is a new spirit of community we are trying to inculcate and for that, we must go slowly. Numbers are not important. It is the few girls sitting on a dirt floor,

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Waverly Scouts Take Hike To Our Lady's Hill

Waverly — At the first meeting of St. James Girl Scout Troop No. 63, the following patrol leaders were selected: Mary Sisto, Beth Dugan, Dolores Tuccinardi and Roberta Tuccinardi.

Their respective assistants are: Mary Lou Brougham, Mary Coleman, Rebecca Chayka and Joanne Johnson. Twenty-four girls have enrolled for this year's activities.

Mrs. George Brougham is leader of the troop, assisted by Mrs. Al Hodel and Miss Dawn Sladon.

FIRST HIKE of the season was taken to Our Lady's Hill about two miles west of Waverly, which is the site of a proposed Carmelite Monastery.

The girls took knapsack lunches and made plans for a Halloween party.

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