

Teachers Learn at Geneseo

Twenty one teachers from State Teachers College — and three Latin American countries learning about the Catholic lay apostolate at St. Mary's Parish school techniques at Geneseo Center in Geneseo.

The group is on a ten month study trip to this country as part of the Alliance for Progress program.

Many hold special positions in their homelands as school principals, supervisors or as teachers in specialized courses.



Officers of Latin American teachers group at Geneseo State Teachers College are, from left, Panfilo Matos, Dr. Virtudes Ogando, Manuel Diaz, Dr. Flora Hernandez and Renaldo Ballesterio.

Dr. Norman Lyon of the Geneseo College faculty is coordinator of the program and arranges for visits to area schools so the teachers can see college classroom lectures put into practice. Schools visited, besides the Geneseo campus school and public schools, included Blessed Sacrament school, Rochester, and Guardian Angels school, Dansville.

The twenty-one teachers are 16 from the Dominican Republic, 4 from Paraguay and 1 from Costa Rica.

Mr. and Mrs. John O'Brien of St. Mary's parish aid them in a bi-weekly supper-meeting at the parish center where they cook their own dinner according to customs of their native lands and then talk of what's going on "back home."

Father Peter Jankowski brings Father Edward Scanlan of Buffalo for a monthly visit to hear Confessions and give a short sermon in Spanish. The teachers speak English but prefer their religious practices in the more familiar Spanish.

In the three nations they represent, they said city children usually finish elementary school studies but only about fifty per cent complete high school courses.

Poverty in rural areas reduces school attendance to a mere fraction of the total child population.

Teachers average \$90 a month in wages.

Costs of basic necessities are quite low — for food, clothing and public transportation. A private car, however, costs about \$5000 and a television set about \$550.

In the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Costa Rica, they reported the Church was free in its activity, unmolested by state control but in need of more priests and nuns. Some parish priests have as many as six churches in scattered villages to take care of and can provide Mass in some of them only once a month.

Their hopes for the future prosperity of their countries and the progress of the faith there rest in increased and better educational facilities. They voiced warm admiration for American school systems, materials and equipment. They wonder if the pupils appreciate the numerous opportunities offered them in this country which are lacking in other nations.



New Buildings Near \$2 Billion

New York — (RNS) — A total of \$1,716,350,000 was spent in Catholic institutional construction last year in the U.S., the Catholic Building and Maintenance magazine reported here in its November-December issue.

Of each Catholic construction dollar, the magazine said, 38 cents was spent on educational facilities — elementary, high school and college. Eighteen cents was spent on hospitals, 14 cents on churches and the remaining 30 cents scattered among other institutional projects.

While the total dollar volume of construction was down slightly from last year, the number of Catholic high schools built hit an all time high, the journal said.

Catholic elementary schools were built in less numbers than last year but additions to Catholic elementary schools rose sharply. Church, rectory, convent and residence institutions remained at roughly the same level while hospital construction fell off slightly.

Construction at the Catholic universities and colleges was above that of last year and indications are that next year will see the construction of even more new facilities. Catholic elementary school construction dropped from 288 new units built last year to a total of 200. However, at the

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Nun-Doctor Saves Little Girl's Foot

Jacaltenango — (NC) — A little Indian girl of Guatemala whose foot was almost severed will walk again because a nun-doctor in a remote Maryknoll hospital here rejoined it to her leg successfully.

"Not long ago the press in the U.S. played up an operation in Boston in which a boy's severed arm was sewed back successfully," Father Arther G. Melville, M.M., of Newton Highlands, Mass., said. "We had a similar operation here, but under more difficult and primitive conditions."

"On a wooden table, with a minimum of instruments, Sister Rose Cordis, M.D., repaired a child's foot which was almost completely severed accidentally by her drunken father swinging a huge machete."

THE BIG KNIFE caught the baby just above the ankle, going

through muscle, blood vessels, nerves, and bone, with only a piece of flesh attaching the foot to the leg. In a long, difficult operation, the Sister-doctor sutured the foot to the leg and then waited two or three weeks, wondering whether she would have to amputate. The toes, sole and back of the foot turned black, and the wound became infected. In desperation, she gave injections of a new rug, Wydase, with the hope that it might possibly work.

Gradually circulation returned, and today the child can walk with a high shoe serving as an ankle support. She can move her toes and has feeling in them. She is now in Guatemala City where a specialist is doing further tendon repair.



New Daily In Argentina

Buenos Aires — (RNS) — First issue of a new independent Roman Catholic daily called Predica (Preaching) will appear on newsstands here shortly, it was announced.

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