



Mountain Padre's Mission Of Peace

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Events of recent years have forced Americans to face the unpleasant fact that the people of Latin America can no longer be taken for granted as good and quiet neighbors. After centuries of sleep, the family of nations south of the border have awakened noisily to the dawn of the space age. Their frequent fighting, rioting and rebelling have spread some anxiety through the neighborhood of the Western Hemisphere. It isn't clear yet who or what will bring order into Latin America's house. But one thing is sure, Communist agents are struggling to keep it in order.

Father Cyril Knapp, O.F.M., a Franciscan priest and native of Rochester, has been laboring for the past three years in the heart of South America's Andes Mountains, conducting a person to person mission of peace amongst Aymaran Indians. The Aymaras, an ancient and numerous tribe scattered through Bolivia and Peru, have never accepted the hard lot four hundred years of the white man's domination has brought them. They are a perfect target for Communist subversion.

Father Knapp, who is 45 years old, is a native of Rochester, N.Y. He is a member of the Society of the Holy Spirit, a branch of the Franciscan Order. He has been in the Andes for three years, working in a remote area of the mountains. He is a native of Rochester, N.Y. He is a member of the Society of the Holy Spirit, a branch of the Franciscan Order. He has been in the Andes for three years, working in a remote area of the mountains.

These Indians are simple people," Father Cyril Knapp says. "and you can't convince them by argument. They will agree with anything you say — on the surface. But they really make their judgment on what you do."

To help Father Knapp reach a dying woman's grave, he is climbing a suspension rope over a deep chasm and fastened the rope to a log across a steep bank and pulled. He hauled himself across hand over hand.

"All I could think of as I slipped from that rope," Father Knapp recalls with a smile, "was the scales of beef that used to hang in the refrigerators at Schaeffer's Meat Market where I worked during high school."

Our people need everything," the Rochester Franciscan says. "spiritual, moral, economic, medical help, technical and agricultural training. They look naturally to the missionary to help them. The Communists have promised many of these things, but we've got to deliver it or wish to save them."

To back up their words, Father Knapp and his Franciscan confreres have established a central grammar school in Cochabamba that now educates some 150 children, as well as a chain of 25 rural schools throughout their mission territory. Recently, Xavierian Brothers from the United States inaugurated a special school in Cochabamba to train young Indians men, selected for their intelligence, beauty, vigor and leadership qualities to conduct these rural schools. Besides normal school training, these men will be equipped to combat Communist aims in the villages by leading their fellow-Indians in social and economic development. The school offers no breast course, and each of the 200 Indians who will eventually make up the student body, must spend five years in training before graduation.



these handouts. Of course, it isn't ideal to be giving out food like this, but the economy here is in frightful condition and if we didn't provide this little modicum, many of our people would starve and die. As it is, diseases like tuberculosis, leprosy and malaria now cause countless deaths.

Under the Franciscan direction, a group of South American Sisters maintain a small clinic in Cochabamba to treat the sick. Each day some 40 or 50 Indians come for treatment.

"On isolation journeys through the mountains, two of the Sisters usually come along to help me," Father Knapp says, "and we do almost as much medical as spiritual work."

Father Knapp attended St. Andrew's Grammar School and Aquinas Institute where he played varsity football during the 1940-50 seasons. In 1951 he entered the seminary of the Franciscan Order at Callicoon, N.Y. A year after his ordination to the priesthood in 1958, he was assigned to the Bolivian mission. His mother, Mrs. James Knapp, resides at 61 Parkside Drive, Rochester.

U.S. Monks Featured In Polish Magazine

Washington — (HNS) — Ameryka, the Polish-language magazine about life in the United States which is circulated in Communist Poland, featured in its March of No. 50 issue a four-page pictorial feature on an order of Roman Catholic monks.

Poland, although ruled by the Communists, is a predominantly Catholic country.

Thirteen pictures, three in full color, are carried by the U.S. government-published magazine (known here as America Illustrated) of activities of Cistercian (Trappist) monks at the Abbey of Our Lady of the Holy Ghost near Atlanta, Georgia.

Thirty thousand copies of each issue are sold in Poland at ten zlotys (about 40 cents) per copy. The U.S. Embassy in Warsaw also distributes 2,000 complimentary copies every month. Poland, in the exchange program, distributes an English-language magazine, "Poland," in the U.S.