

'We Have No Illusions about Being Heroes'

The word from our nuns in Uberlandia:

"We have no illusions about being heroes."

Uberlandia? An industrial city in south-central Brazil, about 250 miles due south of the new hinterland capital, Brasilia.

Three St. Joseph sisters went to work there last March, moving from the small towns where the Rochester community had established missions during the previous four years.

Uberlandia is 250 miles of dirt road from Mateira, their original station — 10 hours by bus.

The sisters reported this week to the Motherhouse here on the direction their work is taking: away from schools, into the families. They have settled into Bom Jesu parish, one of the poorest in the city of 300,000. The people, they say, "have great good will, and not much more."

Sister Rose Alma Hayes is training catechists, getting parents to bring their children for instruction, teaching religion also in a small high school and at the convent, tutoring a small group in English.

Sister Regis Sarkis' field is a housing project of 300 new



Sister Jogues chats with Dona Terezinha and her little son in a section of the parish called President Roosevelt.

homes, "tiny, almost demoralizing for a family, but attractive to the people because of their newness. It is a perfect arrangement for forming a community of persons interested in another and the common good of the area."

Sister Jogues McKay has what she calls an "amateur urban ministry," centered in a section that is without city lights and

The sisters went to Uberlandia on the invitation of the Oblate Fathers, with whom they work in organized parish teams.

They miss the village atmosphere of Mateira and say that the move was more of a wrench, in a way, than their departure from here, "because the bonds had grown deep." They feel that they will never know the city people so well as they knew those of the "interior."

They gather that their people are temperamentally unable to believe in their own success until they have seen it, and that the "outsider's" job is to show the way. Sister Regis has noted results in her work with married couples: they have banded together and approached the mayor on the matter of public utilities.

And in promoting lay participation in the liturgy, all have seen "something of a miracle, and a consolation" in the response of people "of little education and few cultural opportunities."

"The signs of the times are not always clear," Sister Jogues wrote, but the missionaries feel "secure in the insecurity of Christianity, trusting to be guided . . ."

"We have no illusions about being heroes."

CCD Teacher Is Gone but Her Legacy Lives On

by Joan Zummo

Among the many people in the Diocese of Rochester involved in CCD activities you will find represented nearly every kind of person and personality imaginable. There are men and women from the city, the suburbs, and from small towns, people from almost any profession, and with educational backgrounds just as varied. Each brings a unique personality to the program and each in his own way gives of himself to others. Since CCD workers in this diocese, as in most places, are volunteers, their efforts involve sacrifices by themselves and their families.

The story of one particular CCD teacher illustrates the truly Christ-like selflessness that can motivate these sacrifices.

Karen Kantar was a young wife and the mother of two preschool children. In 1966 she enrolled in the CCD training course and began to teach a third grade class in her parish, Holy Rosary in Rochester. Shortly after that she learned that she had cancer. Despite

steadily increasing pain and weekly two-day trips to Roswell she continued to teach her Saturday morning classes through that whole school year. Although the disease had become much worse by the beginning of the next school year she started teaching in the fall. By Thanksgiving, however, she had to give up her class and was confined to Roswell. Even while undergoing treatment during this time she kept planning classes and reading catechetical material. She kept in touch with her class through letters and cards. She and her spirit were an inspiration both to her students and to her fellow teachers.

Although she died on March 20, 1968, her influence has not ended. I never knew or met Karen Kantar, but her life has touched mine through people she did know, and influence, and inspire. She was a person who made Christ live in the world not only through her words, but through her life and even through her death. It is a legacy that any catechist could be proud to leave.

It would be more than presumptuous to claim that all CCD teachers are as selfless as was Karen Kantar. Motives for being involved in catechetical work are as varied as the people involved, but they do in common that one factor of wanting to spread the Good News of the Gospels.

Desire and inspiration, however motivating, do not make a person into a teacher. The Diocese of Rochester has therefore, established a CCD training program for lay people. The 30 week course running from September through May is composed of weekly two hour classes which meet at a number of locations in Rochester and around the Diocese. The classes consist of one hour of doctrine, taught by priests, and one hour of methods, taught by nuns who are experienced teachers. These nuns and priests volun-

teer their time not only to teach these classes, but also to attend training and planning sessions during the summer and in the fall before classes start.

This instruction program is under the supervision of Fr. Daniel Holland, Assistant Diocesan Director of CCD. Training of religious for CCD programs is supervised by Sr. Gilmary, S.M.H.S.H.

In 1966-67 over 350 people graduated from these courses, in 1967-68 the number had jumped to nearly 900, and this year the number will be even higher. Add to these numbers the people who took the course in previous years, those who have not taken the course but who have professional teaching training, and that very small percentage of persons in the program who

have no formal training, and it is obvious that there are thousands of people actively involved in the CCD programs of the Diocese. When you take your child to religion class this Saturday, why not stop to meet that one particular person out of these thousands who is devoting hours of time each week to bringing the word of God to your child.

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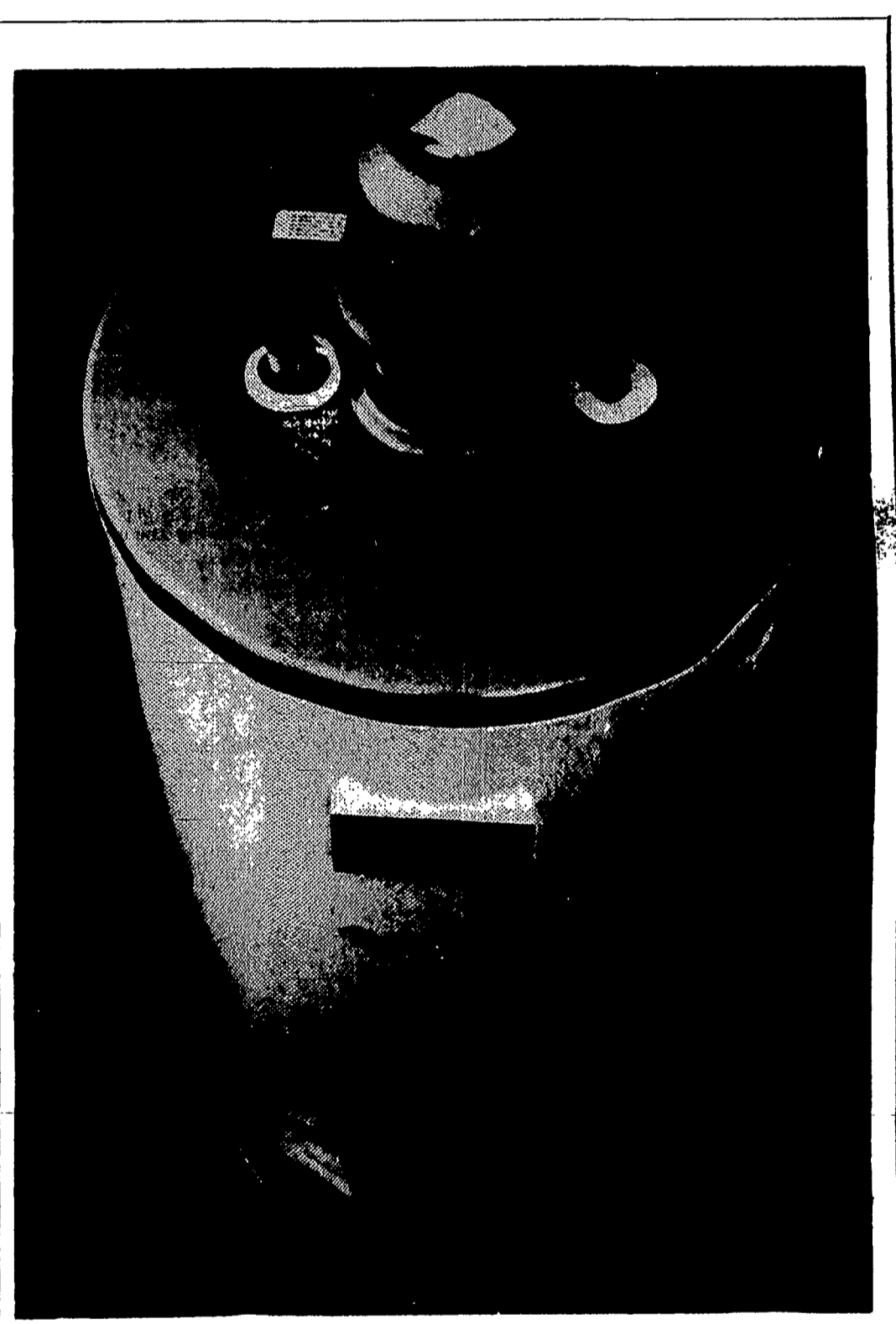
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