

# Rochester Diocesans in Latin America

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Because of the May 25 diocesan-wide collection for the Latin American missions of the diocese, I welcome the opportunity to make a second report on my April trip to South America where I visited our Rochester missionaries: Sisters of St. Joseph in Brazil, Sisters of Mercy in Chile and diocesan priests in Bolivia.

The Courier-Journal (4/18/69) printed my observations of the dedication and modest success of the three diocesan priests, Fathers Peter Deckman, Paul Freemesser and Edward Golden, in their parish of St. Joseph the Worker in the slums of La Paz.

I spent nearly a week with them including Palm Sunday and joined the community procession and Mass with their people.

The welfare of 25 Sisters and priests from the Diocese serving in Bolivia, Santiago and Chile, will be the target of a first diocesan-wide collection for the Latin American Missions of the Rochester Diocese on Sunday, May 25. Pictures and stories on this page, plus added material in the next two issues, and an illustrated tabloid to be handed out at all churches on May 18, will set the scene of the three apostolates which need massive financial help.

For the rest of Holy Week I enjoyed the novelty of sharing the Holy Thursday liturgy in Spanish with our Mercy Sisters in the San Luis parish in San

tiago, Chile, and the Easter Vigil in Portuguese at the mission of the Rochester St. Joseph Sisters in Bon Jesu parish in Uberlandia, Brazil.

There was real evidence of both practice and enthusiasm in the singing of the Holy Thursday Mass. With Sister Marilyn Gerstner directing, and a young man playing the guitar, the teenagers of San Luis reminded me of their New York State counterparts.

The windows of the San Luis church now have tinted glass—they had no windows at all when I visited here in 1966—but the same bare electric light bulbs hung from the ceiling.

San Luis hopes to have more attractive lighting fixtures and some simple decorations in time, but for the present the parish has more pressing needs for whatever money it receives.

We had a festive get-together luncheon at the Mercy convent of the San Luis parish on Holy Thursday. Sisters Margaret

Spellacy, Joan Kora and Marilyn Gerstner, working in the San Luis parish, were the hostesses for the party.

From Santa Catalina came Sisters Maureen O'Byrne and Barbara McGrath. Sister Janet Canfield represented San Andres parish. (Sister Jane Kenrick, although now returned to Santiago, was then away on leave at her home in Ithaca.)

I flew from Santiago to Brazil on Good Friday afternoon. The size of the crowds seeing friends off on the intercontinental flight to Europe and North America as well as the well-dressed appearance of the travelers could give any observer the impression of general well-being and affluence in Chile. But I still had clear recollections of the dusty, unpaved streets and ramshackle slum-houses in the Santiago suburbs where the Mercy Sisters were living and working.

I reached the church of the Oblate Fathers in Uberlandia just in time for the Easter Vigil.

The priests and congregation and our Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph were already gathered on the front porch of the church.

It seemed very strange to attend an Easter Vigil in the mild tropical evening. Back home in Rochester the Easter liturgy is always tied in with the awakening season of Spring. But here in southern Brazil it was Autumn.

A meal-together with all the Sisters of St. Joseph from our diocese in Brazil was not possible because the Sisters are separated in three distant cities in two states of that huge country. But a number gathered at dinner in the Bon Jesu convent in Uberlandia on Easter Monday night with Sister Rose Alma Hayes, the Regional Superior and me.

Sister Mariana Pilot, superior of that convent, with Sister Regis Sarkis, Jogues McKay and Sophia Bove, were hostesses. Sister Joan Thomas Gutberlet came over from Cachoeira Alta, and brought greetings from Sisters Loyola Schmitz and Brenda Dewey from her house.

A whirlwind trip with three short stopovers can give a visitor only a superficial understanding of the real problems confronting our Latin American missionaries. But one is easily filled with a proud appreciation of their contribution for the welfare of the poor in the name of the Rochester Diocese.

Our 26 diocesan share common problems but their settings in the mission apostolates are in strong contrast: the priests in La Paz have a mission in the clouds; the St. Joseph's in Brazil stand on the frontier; and the Mercy's in Chile work in a big city's suburban slums.

## St. Joseph's Sisters Serve in Brazil

The first and the largest contingent of Rochester diocesan to move into Latin American mission work came from the Sisters of St. Joseph. They opened their first foreign mission in the Diocese of Jatai, Brazil, in December 1964. The apostolate began with one Sister and today numbers sixteen.

The choice of this particular area in Brazil came after Mother Agnes Cecilia, Mother General of the Community, and Sister Florentine, her assistant, visited the diocese of Jatai in response to the invitation of its Bishop, Dom Benedito Coeica, a Brooklyn-born Franciscan.

The first Rochester St. Joseph nun to settle in Brazil was Sister Rose Alma Hayes, whose administrative background as principal at St. Agnes High School, as well as her proficiency in languages, made her an excellent choice as the foundress of this new mission.

Four more Sisters — Mi-

chael Marya Popowich, Adelaide Lafferty, Regis Sarkis, and Annice Kloster — joined Sister Rose Alma in August 1965.

All of them studied at the Intercultural Institute, sponsored by Fordham University, which is in Petropolis, a city not far from Rio de Janeiro. Their courses included the Portuguese language and the history, customs and contemporary needs of the Brazilian people.

The first convent was opened the small inland town of Mateira, and the Sisters assumed the direction of all of the schools in that town and in the nearby one of Canal Sao Simao, with a total enrollment of about 1200 students. They also opened clinics in both towns.

The parishes of this area were cared for by the Irish Oblate Fathers who welcomed the Sisters most warmly. The two communities have

continued working together with great compatibility.

Gradually the Sisters' work expanded, including not only the direction of the schools and the teaching of religion and English, but also doing catechetical work and aiding in adult education.

Every year since 1965, more Sisters have volunteered to join this mission, been given training right in Brazil, and have assumed their new apostolate. There are now sixteen Rochester Sisters there, including besides the five already mentioned: Sisters Jogues McKay, Loyola Schmitz, Mariana Pilot, Gilmery Cardinal, Celeste Bercher, Joan Thomas Gutberlet, Sophia Bove, Mildred Coughlin, Paulissa Orczyk, Brenda Dewey, and Marie Barbara Burgmaier.

These past four years have also seen the growth of the Sisters' areas of responsibility into a second house in Cachoeira Alta — another

inland town — and a third in Uberlandia, a city of almost 100,000 people.

Their work, too, is moving into new fields as they see more the needs of the people they wish to serve — university teaching, urban ministry, adult education, tutoring, working with civic leaders, etc.

Symbolic of the growth and change of their ideas and work as they "listen to the Spirit" with their people, have been the changes in their religious habits. The long black skirts and stiff headresses soon gave way to gray suits and small veils.

Just this year they made the decision to wear contemporary dress because of the unfortunate connotations which the religious dress has for many of the South American people.

Future plans include expansion into Rio, as well as the establishment of a House of Studies in Uberlandia.

CHILE  
BOLIVIA  
BRAZIL



Six Rochester Sisters of Mercy work for the poor in Santiago, Chile. Pictures show a meeting of neighborhood mothers at a catechist meeting directed by a Sister, a little Chilean neighbor asking help at the convent door and Sister Barbara McGrath studying in her room. The Mercy Sisters



This is the brick-factory in the hills outside La Paz, Bolivia, financed a year ago by gifts from hundreds of Rochester diocesans at the request of Rochester's mission priests. Managed and staffed by people of the parish of St. Joseph the Worker, where Fathers Peter Deckman, Edward Golden and Paul Freemesser are stationed, it is a sample of the self-help projects started by the priests to relieve the unemployment and give independent pride to their people. The diocesan-wide collection on May 25th for the Latin American missions of the Diocese of Rochester will help this parish.

## Pope Changes Mass Liturgy

(Continued from Page 1)  
day of October to the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

The various seasons will be characterized in part by the biblical readings assigned to each (for example, Isaiah during Advent, the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of John during Eastertide, the baptismal and

penitential Gospels during Lent), as well as the Mass prayers, which are increased in number so that each day of Advent, of Lent, and of Eastertide will have its proper prayer.

1. The new liturgical calendar is organized on the following principles:

a) the restoration to each saint of

his "dies natalis," the day of his death, as his feast day.

b) the selection of only those saints most important to the universal Church, as the council ordered, so that other saints are left to a local cultus, whether national, regional or diocesan.

c) the assurance that the new listing of saints will be an expression of the universality of holiness both in time and in space. Hence, beside the many saints of early times, there will be added more recent saints (such as St. Maria Goretti) and saints from other parts of the world (for example, the Martyrs of Nagasaki for the Far East, the Martyrs of Uganda for Central and Southern Africa, St. Pierre Chanel for Oceania, the North American Martyrs for North America, St. Toribio and St. Martin de Porres for South America, St. Columbanus and St. Ansgar for Northern Europe).

2. An overall view of the new calendar shows the following situation:

a) Feasts of Our Lord: the traditional ones remain, less the Holy Name and the Most Precious Blood.

b) Feasts of Our Lady: the principal feasts (Assumption, Immaculate Conception, Nativity, Annunciation, Divine Maternity, Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, Visitation) remain obligatory, as do also the feast of Mary Queen of the World (August 22), the Seven Dolours (September 15), the Rosary (October 7), and the Presentation (November 21).

The following feasts are now optional: Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11), Our Lady of Mount Carmel (July 18), the Dedication of St. Mary Major's (August 5) and the Immaculate Heart of Mary (the Saturday after the Feast of the Sacred Heart).

c) Feasts of St. Joseph: the feast of March 19 remains obligatory; but the feast of May 1 become optional.

d) Feasts of the Angels: the Angels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are grouped together in a single celebration (September 29); the feast of the Guardian Angels is preserved (October 2).

In general, then, the number of saints inscribed in the calendar has been diminished, because feasts have either been suppressed for historical reasons, or left to local celebration, or given optional commemoration. At the same time, a more universal representation of feasts has resulted, in order to correspond better to the present growth and extension of the Church.

## U.S. Catholic Population Listed at 47.8 Million

Washington — (NC) — There are nearly 48 million Catholics in the United States, according to the Official Catholic Directory just issued here.

The total, given as 47,873,238, or 23.6 per cent of the nation, shows the smallest increase recorded in 25 years — 404,905.

The 137th edition of the directory, published by F. J. Kenedy & Sons, dates the 1968 statistics as of Jan. 1.

It gives the total of priests as 59,620, of whom 37,454 are diocesan — one more than in the previous year. A decrease of 184 is shown by the figure for priests in religious communities — 22,166.

The number of students in the 137 diocesan seminaries has dropped by 2,659 to 19,573. In the 407 novitiates and scholasticates of the orders there are 14,417 candidates for the priesthood, or 3,187 fewer than a year earlier.

The figure for parishes in the 50 states has risen, meanwhile, to a record total of 18,146.

The directory also records a total of 167,167 Sisters, a decrease of 9,174, and 11,755 Brothers, a decrease of 508.

The number of pupils in Catholic elementary and secondary schools still exceeds five million, although it is down by 221,508. The total of public school children receiving religious instruction is given as 5,458,433, indicating an increase of more than 102,000. Catholic colleges and universities, whose total of students has increased steadily for 16 years, reported an enrollment of 435,716, or 1,756 more than the previous year.

The number of infant baptisms declined by more than 44,000, to 1,995,172, and the number of deaths recorded increased by 29,772 to 412,264. In the same period, there were 465,792 marriages, an increase of 34,637.



### U.N. Leader, Pope Confer

U Thant, secretary general of the United Nations, receives a hearty welcome from Pope Paul VI on a visit to the Vatican. Their talk centered on the development of nations, largely those of the so-called Third World. In greeting Pope Paul, U Thant said that the ultimate objective of economic development "can only be the social and spiritual uplifting of man and society." (RNS)

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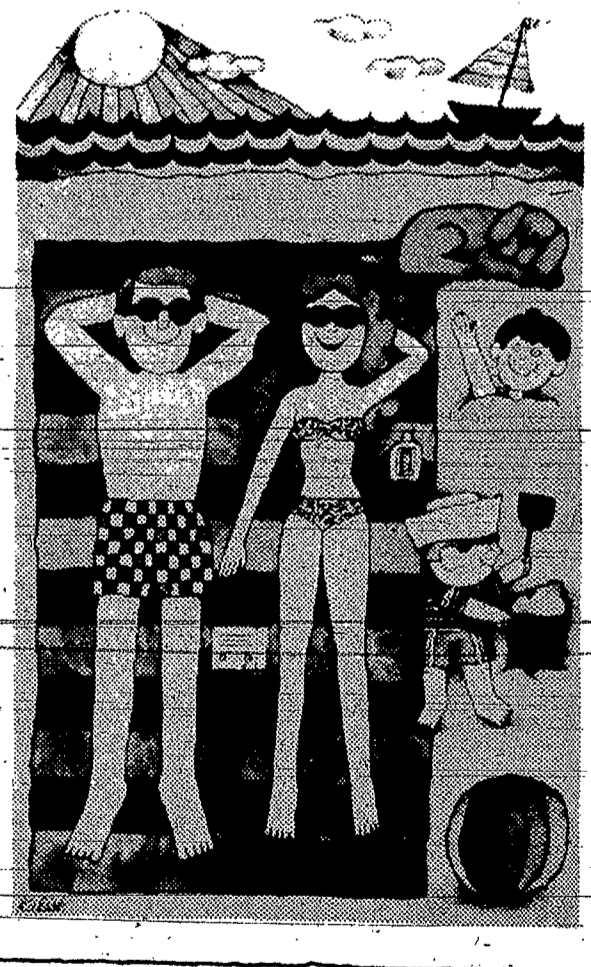
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## War Aides

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## St. L Black

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