

## Our Priests in Bolivia Send Us a Message

The Courier-Journal prints another digest of a report from priests serving in the Rochester Diocese-Mission Parish (St. Joseph the Worker Church) in La Paz, Bolivia. Three diocesan priests, Fathers Peter Deckman, Edward Golden and Paul Froemesser, currently are assigned there.

Time indeed passes quickly. Here are some highlights covering August and September in Bolivia.

Father Pete and Father Ed miss Father Paul, who is still back in "the States" recuperating from an attack of hepatitis. (If you happen to see Father Paul, tell him we'd like to have him back.)

Father Deckman is engaged full time in our parish work. Father Golden is working part time for the parish, and part time is attending classes in social and pastoral theology in the Dominican Institute of Studies here in La Paz.

August highlights were two: (1) final preparation for and reception of First Holy Communion by 36 children; (2) a great deal of work installing borrowed dental equipment in our medical clinic, to replace what we lost when the former dentist, who owned her own equipment, took it with her when she returned to the States.

Now one of our problems is to find a substitute for our new dentist, who is sick and in need of an operation.

September brought a major event here — the Sept. 28th change of presidents by military coup. The new government immediately issued a statement which has been described as leftist and nationalistic, answering the cries and complaints of many pressure groups in the country. Our parishioners thus far have experienced little change in their routine lives.

We were shocked when a plane with 74 passengers crashed against a mountain, splitting

in two. Two friends of ours, Canadian Resurrectionist Fathers Walter Strub and James O'Connor, who had worked in La Paz for six years, were among the victims.

We have been having some fruitful meetings with the priests, Sisters and laity of three neighboring parishes — planning, with the Bishop's consent, for the arrival of two Bolivian seminarians. They would work in the parish while continuing their priesthood studies. (This has been our hope — that Bolivians themselves in time

take over the work of our parish. Perhaps Latin America will be the "leader" in solving the religious vocation crisis!)

Dr. Velazco points out that there are many doctors in the lower areas here, but the majority charge prices which certainly are not in conformity with the reality of this popular zone. Consequently, he adds, "the poor have their dignity to maintain, and live in many sicknesses as a cross to carry and don't resort to medical aid."

Our clinic treats about 130 to 140 patients a month. Says Dr. Velazco:

"Undoubtedly we can do absolutely nothing free of charge without injuring them further by demeaning their dignity as human beings. We charge the minimum whenever possible. In fact, the consultorio operates at a loss each week."

Dr. Velazco is issuing a plea to America for common surgical instruments and drugs.

We leave you for now with an appeal for your prayers.

FR. PETER DECKMAN  
FR. EDWARD GOLDEN

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# WHERE HEALTH and BEAUTY AIDS COST LESS

**Switch in Plans**  
Urban VIII as he appears in Ronald Pedrone, garbed as Blackfriars' current production of "Galileo," models the robes, belonging to Bishop-designate Joseph Hogan — that he almost wore in the play. The group had borrowed Msgr. Hogan's cassock, etc., but had to return them when his appointment was made public. The play continues this weekend with four performances at the Strassburgh Planetarium: Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m., and a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m.

**Black Culture Under Review By Mercy Nuns**  
Diocesan Sisters of Mercy will discuss minority cultures during a day-long assembly Saturday, Oct. 25, in Mercy High School.

It will be the first congregation-wide activity to be sponsored by the Sister's committee on social justice. The program is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Theme of the gathering will be "Understanding Minority Cultures," and the schedule includes speakers, films and displays.

Among speakers will be Sister Martin de Porres of Pittsburgh, a Sister of Mercy who is president of the National Black Sisters Conference, and Bernard Gifford, president of the Rochester FIGHT organization.

The program is designed to implement the new school curricula and history of minority ethnic groups.

Father John J. Hempel, Diocesan Director for Human Concern, will close the assembly with celebration of Mass.

**MORE CHRISTIAN VOICE**  
Bangalore, India (NC) — A joint Catholic-Protestant appeal for greater Christian representation in the personnel of the Mysore government was presented here to the state's governor and chief minister. The appeal for a "Christian" to be named to the ministry and in the higher echelons of the judiciary came in a joint memorandum by the presidents of three major church societies.

Albany, N.Y. unions, government groups, hospitals are among the members of the N.Y. State Council on Aging which will bring new care to New York.

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