

Letter from Bolivia

October: Month of Changes

By Father Peter Deckman and Father Edward Golden

La Paz, Bolivia — Change seems to characterize us in Bolivia, during the month of October.

First, we wish Bishop Fulton J. Sheen the very best in his first happiness in his continued work writing and preaching. We also thank him for the cooperation that we have received in our work in La Paz.

We congratulate our new Shepherd, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. May God bless him with wisdom and charity in his efforts to serve the people of Rochester.

The new revolutionary government here surprised us with the take over of a U.S. owned oil company. There were parades, demonstrations and speeches supporting the government in its historic decision.

We agree with the basic thesis that the riches, the natural resources should belong to the country in which they are found, that is, in Bolivia. So often big foreign business takes the riches of a country, sacking it so to speak, while contributing nothing to the country in the way of wealth or development. It's as if the country didn't exist, or existed only for the benefit of the already rich foreigners. It is the old scandal of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. There is a cause-effect relationship involved which has been strongly condemned by the Church in the Vatican documents and in the encyclicals of the Popes.

After the military occupation of Gulf's property, there was a scare that the Bolivian money had devaluated. At present, it seems to be holding its own, although a danger still exists.

One of the measures which they have taken to stabilize the peso and fill the coffers of the national treasury has been to lift all liberations on imports or materials coming into the country. This could seriously affect our receiving shipments of medicines and other equipment. As yet, we are not certain.

We still miss our giant, Father Paul Frommeyer. We hope that he is well.

During the month we made a drive to reactivate the Cooperative of Savings and Credit.

Through a cooperative, the members of the Zone would be working together, helping one another at the same time that they are helping themselves. This could be a realistic application of the Christian message.

We continued our efforts at a Joint Pastoral conference with the other three neighboring parishes. Our talks this month centered around the possibilities of a Health Cooperative and the construction of a High School in the Area. Perhaps the four parishes can also assist in exerting the pressure necessary

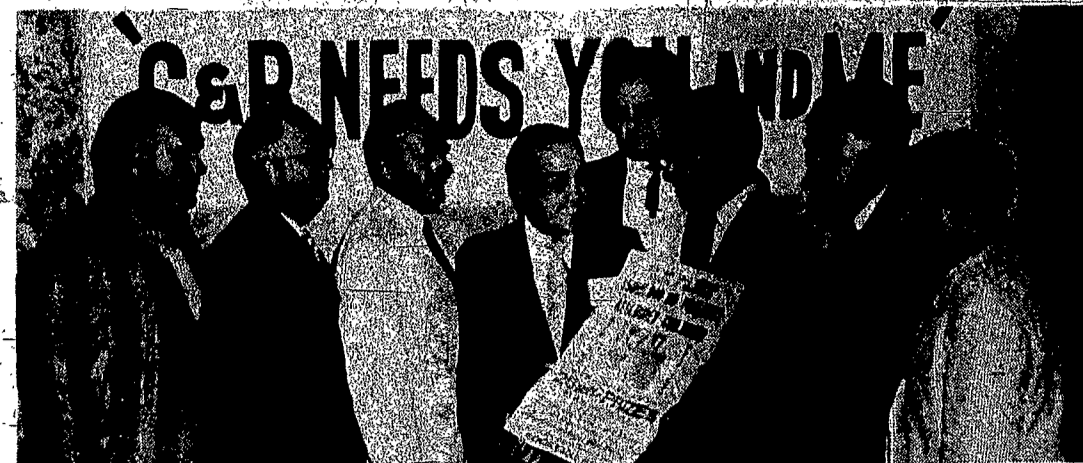
to make authorities build a high school in the Zone.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, Bishop Manrique, the Archbishop of La Paz, surprised us with a visit. As is the custom, he had come to celebrate the Mass with the people of our parish. During that same week we had a meeting with the Archbishop concerning the plan of two young men coming to the parish to work, live and study in preparation for the priesthood. He gave the plan his official approval. So, we are now on our way with the project.

En the liturgy, we have concentrated on a re-education of the people with regard to the Mass.

The medical and dental clinic has continued to treat the sick of the Zone. The clientele appears to be steadily increasing. Meanwhile, we have continued our efforts to be with the people with a constant desire to know them, their culture and their needs.

We continue to ask for your prayers and moral support.



Leaders of the state-wide K. of C. fund-raising drive for \$850,000 met in Tarrytown to finalize plans. Among those present were four men from the Rochester Diocese. (L. to r) Keith Turner, Herkimer; John Morphy, Rochester; Wallace J. Stevenson, State Deputy; Vito Minci, State Chairman of the Fund Raising Drive; Ernest Jackson, Ithaca; Bernard Wilson, Henrietta; Christopher Cleary, No. Syracuse and Everett J. Claudis, Canandaigua. The New York State Council has promised \$500,000 of the fund for the education of mentally retarded children.

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French Clergy To Discuss Celibacy Law

Paris (RNS)—Priestly celibacy, the material life of the Church, and the realignment of the basic structure of the Church are the main subjects for discussion at the three-day Assembly of Roman Catholic bishops and priests at Lourdes.

In his comment on the question of celibacy, Father Huot-Pleuroux, director of Catholic Information, noted that more and more priests are getting married after obtaining dispensation, but the "evangelical value" of celibacy is still "largely recognized."

The assembly set to begin Nov. 6 will delve into the following questions: the value of celibacy in the world and for the Church; consensual celibacy as a privileged expression of the Gospel; conditions for the possible ordination of married men; and concrete conditions for remaining celibate.

2 Faiths Hold Joint Communion

London (RNS)—Anglicans and Methodists knelt together in a gesture of unity when they jointly celebrated Holy Communion in Southwark Cathedral — the first such event in the long history of this center of Christian worship in south London.

It came just a few weeks after controversial Bishop Mervyn Stockwood of Southwark had caused a theological storm by announcing that a special Service of Communion to Unity would be held with Methodists in January.

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Ceremonies r tradition again trumpets, organ prayer... a l a new Bishop.

Such was the Sacred Heart Lloyd Hogan by enth Ordinary.

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Assisting in t Bishop Hogan's ther Michael C

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Representativ churches in ti present. Seated Bishop George Episcopal Dio soon will be re



Noting the Joseph L. Hog ester, the Cou presents a sp ment ora the diocese. See s

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