

One of the liveliest places in Rochester these days is a building on Clifford Ave. known as the Spanish Center.

The Center houses two organizations: the Ibero-American League and the Spanish Apostolate of the Diocese of Rochester, both dedicated to serving the Spanish-speaking community in the area.

According to Mr. Jorge Colon, executive director of the Ibero-American League, his organization provides more than eight distinct services to the community.

Under the coordination of Domingo Garcia, the league provides daily employment help. Dinorah Rudolph heads this service which includes placement, counselling, and orientation. General education classes are held Mondays and Tuesdays, under the direction of Lucas Burgos, which include tutoring for in-school children, English as a second language, and Civil Service classes.

The league also helps new-comers with their identification and documentation, counsels on legal matters and provides a recreation program. Improving police-community relations is also a League concern, as is community organization and a summer youth program which this year served 400 children and found jobs for 120.

The Spanish Apostolate, under the direction of Father Anthony Calimeri, also operates out of the center and offers seven services to the Spanish-speaking in the city.

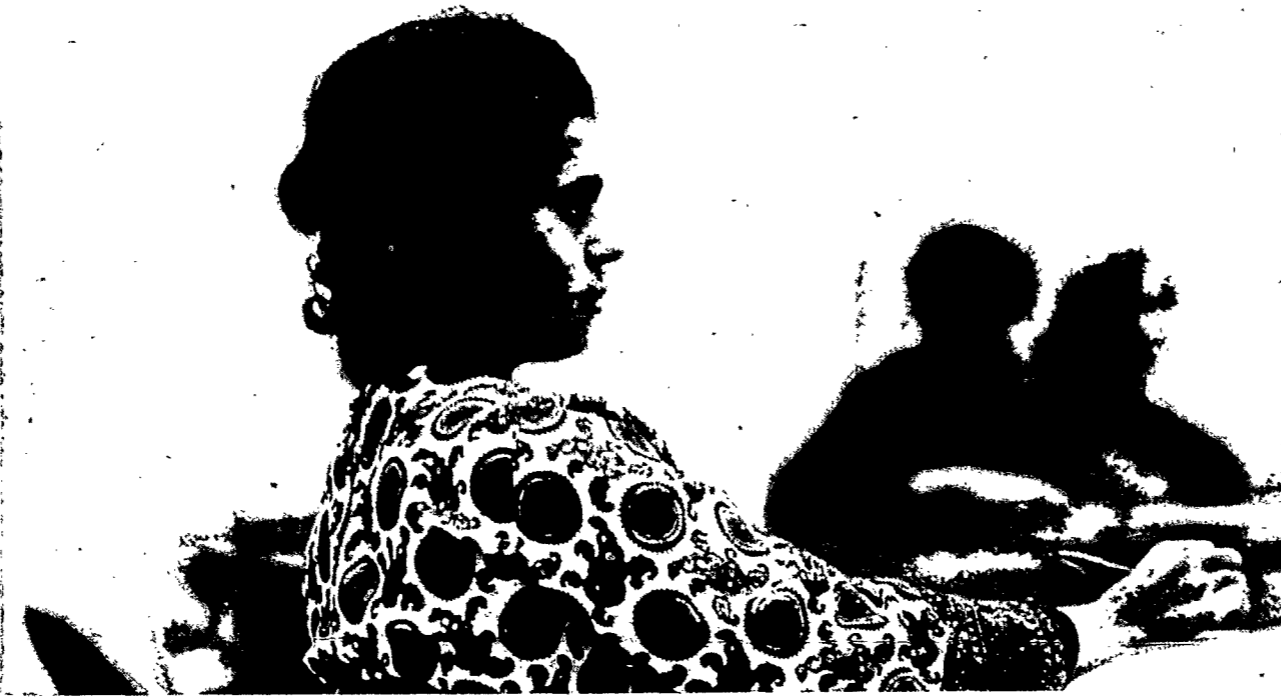
According to Father Calimeri, Masses are conducted in Spanish in various parishes and with the aid of four Missionary Sisters of Guadalupe, from Puerto Rico; the catechism is taught, and marriage counseling is provided, as is home visitation.

The sisters also give classes in adult Christian education and further the work of the Cursillo movement (a retreat-like program which provides experiences in Christian community).

Where the Action Is



Dr. J. F. Benavides gets ready to start class.



Maria Cruz attends a class in employment orientation.



Victor Lopez (left) and Frank Vazquez in the employment counseling service provided at the center.