

Bishop Hogan Visits Our Alabama Mission



Bishop Hogan meets two bright students in Selma, Alabama, school directed by Sisters of St. Joseph of the Rochester Diocese.

Bishop Hogan made an official visit last week to the oldest mission staffed by Sisters of the diocese — a hospital and an elementary school in Selma, Ala., directed by the Sisters of St. Joseph since 1940.

The school (50 children, 4 Sisters and a lay teacher) is part of the parish of St. Elizabeth, directed by the Fathers of St. Edmund (from Winooski, Vt.).

The hospital, Good Samaritan, is a modern, 4-story structure, well-equipped and accredited, caring for more than 2,500 patients annually. It serves Selma (population 35,000) and a 9-county area of southwestern Alabama, one of the lowest-income sections of the nation. Most of its patients are black.

Thirty-two doctors serve on the medical staff. The hospital has specialized in care of burns,

treating many badly burned children victims of open-hearth fires or uncovered gas heaters in substandard homes. Many elderly patients are plagued with pneumonia, nutritional deficiencies, cardiac and respiratory ailments and diabetes.

Sisters of St. Joseph working in Selma include: at St. Elizabeth's School — Sisters Doretta Rhodes, Joan Marshall, Margaret Kunder, Dolores Bachman; Good Samaritan Hospital — Sisters Evelyn Connolly, Paul Marie Dougherty, Katrina Amos; Sister Catherine Martin, assisting in parish social work and the office of the Edmundite Missions, and Sister Marie Weaver, working for the poor of the region in the federal Office of Economic Opportunity.

The support of the Selma Mission will be part of the Diocesan Missions Collection on May 23.



Hospital staffed by Sisters of St. Joseph of the Rochester Diocese serves a 9-county area in the "black-belt" of southwestern Alabama. Sister Evelyn Connolly, SSJ, administrator, talks to children at the front door of the 4-story structure.



Sister Evelyn (left) and Sister Katherine Martin show the hospital neighborhood to Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan Director of Propagation of the Faith, and Bishop Hogan. They are pressing Selma authorities to raze the dilapidated shacks and improve area housing.



Sister Evelyn, hospital administrator (left) and Sister Paul Marie Dougherty introduce a young patient to Bishop Hogan.



Bishop Hogan helps a pupil in St. Elizabeth's school.