

Give to the Diocesan Missions This Sunday

My dear People:

My visit to Selma Alabama in early March marked the completion of my tour of mission areas served by our diocesan priests and sisters. The mission territories vary only in geography and in the cultural differences of the people. The roads of the interior of Brazil marked 'Pan-American highway' would be designated

'Closed—Impossible' in rural America.

The azalea fragrance of Selma offers a sharp contrast to the stench of the open sewage that permeates the rarified atmosphere of LaPaz, Bolivia. The native dress and language of the poor of Santiago, Chile bear but slight resemblance to the image of the migrant camps of rural Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.

Yet the story in all of these areas is exactly the same. It is the story of poverty that is degrading to human dignity; it is the story of the despair and the erosion of the human spirit bred by sub-human social conditions.

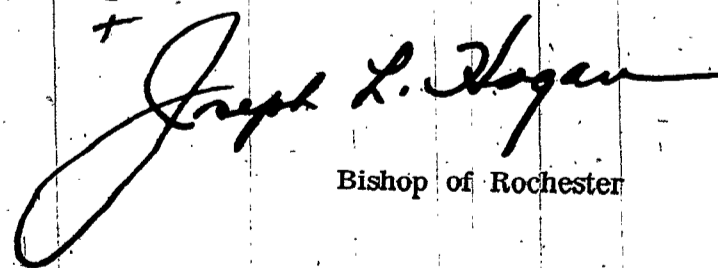
The redeeming chapter of the story is provided by the generous presence of our priests and sisters who in their faithful service to the disadvantaged bring a ray of hope and an assurance of the Church's concern for their plight.

I have designated next Sunday as Diocesan Mission Sunday to focus our attention on the needs of our missionaries and the people whom they serve. It was my pride in our priests and sisters that prompted my journeys to visit them. The same pride has encouraged this appeal for prayers and financial support to sustain and encourage them.

Your abiding generosity to our missionaries confirms my optimism for a renewed vitality of our Church in these critical days.

With a blessing I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,


Joseph L. Hogan
Bishop of Rochester



Sister Christel Burgmaler, SSJ, looks over the results of a "self-help" program designed to help Latin American farmers grow more rice.



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan visited the Selma mission school maintained by Rochester contributions; there he found time to help instruct some of the pupils.



Sister Carolyn Cardinal, SSJ, prepares a catechetics class with a Brazilian lay teacher.