

AUBURN NEWS

Mary Ann Ginnerty 315-253-2176

The Rev. Ernesto Loera ...Alias 'Father Camera'

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

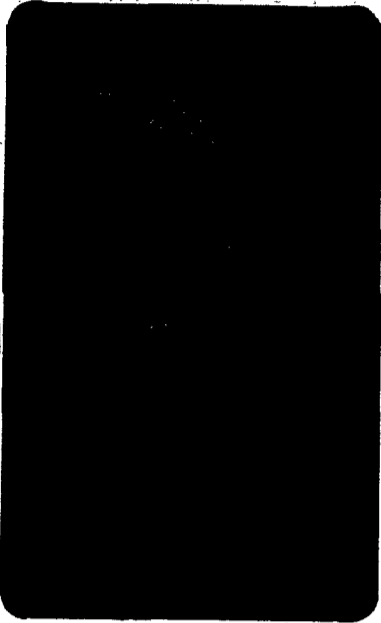
Auburn—“With a shutter and a click” of his camera, Father Ernesto Loera, a Franciscan father and native of Mexico, once disappeared among the Huichole Indians high in the western Sierras of Central Mexico, and portrayed the family of man on film, earning the title, “Father Camera.”

With the skill of the technician and the appreciation of the artist, this apostle with the camera still uses photography to capture the true dignity and essence of man, whether it be Mexico, or the encampments of the Spanish speaking migrants from Rochester to Wolcott.

Currently at Holy Family rectory. Father has spent the past 12 summers living out his commitment to the ideals of St. Francis, administering to the material needs of area migrants, wherever he finds them.

A scholar and a teacher in his native Mexico, there could be no ivory tower for him. “I believe a priest should imitate the ideas of Christ as much as possible, and we see through the gospel, Christ coming and teaching among the poor.”

“I must bring the Church right into their homes to reach their hearts,” he reflected. “Many do not seek out the services of the Church because of their embarrassment, perhaps about their poverty and lan-



FATHER ERNESTO

guage difficulties, or the feeling they are not a part of the community. My people need love and assurance.

“They are suspicious of help extended to them,” explained Father. “Going to them to offer Mass is not always enough. One time I found myself stopping a fight when I arrived at camp—by stepping between the fighting men. But, many times I just introduce myself as a friend, offer encouragement, bring material help in little ways, before they feel able to come to me.”

Father feels that perhaps saddest of all is that some may have experienced overt acts of churchgoers who treated their presence as an intrusion, or failed to extend the hand of welcome when the opportunity arose.

While the community at large tends to lump all Spanish speaking people together, Father pointed out there are diversities in cultures, values, and family life styles between the Mexican-American migrant and the

Puerto Rican. Both, however, have in common that while citizens, perhaps bilingual, often illiterate, they feel alien in their own country and community dependent on their labors.

It is Father's rare charisma combined with a profound love for the poor and needful which become allied in his commitment to work with the migrants and settlers. He strives to achieve for his people a feeling of welcome from the area Christian community. He urges encounter with his people by those willing to give the most costly of commodities, time and self, to extend a “hello and welcome.”

Father taught philosophy at the Franciscan seminary in Zapopan, the University of Mexico, Guadalajara, and theology at Regina Mundi College in Monterrey.

It was while doing post graduate work at St. Bonaventure in Olean, following his ordination, that he was introduced to the migrants. Msgr. Joseph J. Sullivan, now pastor at Holy Family, was pastor in Penn Yan, and sent out a call for a Spanish speaking priest to help him care for 100 Puerto Rican migrants working in the parish. Father Ernesto answered the call in 1959, and has spent all but two of his summer vacations doing the same thing.

With typical concern, Father Ernesto assures, “Fulfillment can be found in letting people know we are their brothers.”

HOLY HOUR ROSARY & BENEDICTION

Thursday, 8 P.M.

by Father Albert Shamon

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH
414 LEXINGTON AVE.
(off Dewey Ave.)

Auburn Area Notes

Auburn — An open meeting will be conducted by Father Albert J. Shamon, diocesan vicar of education, explaining the concept and implication of regionalism for the Rochester Diocese at 8 p.m., July 1, at Holy Family Hall, Auburn.

King Ferry — Sister Helen Goschke of the Rural Education Center is continuing graduate work in religious education at summer sessions, Loyola University, Institute of Pastoral Studies, Chicago.

Savannah — newly elected Altar and Rosary Society officers at St. Patrick's include Mrs. Herman J. Hall, president; Mrs. Michael Petrosino, vice president; Mrs. Thomas Thurston, secretary, and Mrs. Rudolph Sangiacomo, treasurer.

Auburn Knights Elect Officers

Auburn — Auburn Council 207, Knights of Columbus, recently elected these officers.

Joseph P. Cuddy, grand knight; Francis L. Youtt, deputy grand knight; Douglas M. Cameron, chancellor; Frank T. Salata, warden; Jeremiah W. McCarthy, recorder; Harold McDonald, treasurer; George B. Shamon, advocate; Carl Petrosino, inside guard; Peter Borza, outside guard, and Raymond W. Glancy, trustee.

JULY 4 BREAKFAST

Conesus — St. William's Church will sponsor a breakfast in the Conesus Legion Hall from 8 until 11:30 Sunday morning, July 4.

Courier-Journal

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or write

CAMP SECRETARY

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Wednesday, June 30, 1971

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