

A Report from The Good Ship HOPE

Father Daniel P. Torney, chaplain of Rochester General Hospital, is aboard the hospital-ship HOPE this summer as it serves the people of Jamaica. In this report he describes his role in the project which has been generously supported by Rochester people.

By FR. DANIEL P. TORNEY

Project HOPE in Rochester is an annual society ball or a Pied Piper-scene of thousands of young marchers on a "Hike For Hope."

In Kingston, Jamaica, HOPE is a big white hospital ship that lies tied to pier #2 at the foot of King Street, near the straw market.

It's the physiotherapy clinic, and the dental clinic for hundreds of people each week. It's "school" for hundreds of medical students, nursing students, lab, X-ray and pharmacy technicians.

It's the hospital where 22-year old Henry had intricate corneal surgery done on his eye by the professor of Ophthalmology from the University

of Iowa, and where 7-year-old David is receiving lessons in esophageal speech after the tumor in his throat was removed by a physician from the National Institute of Health in Washington.

In Jamaica the hospital staff, the facilities, and the spirit of the project truly represent hope.

The Diocese of Rochester is contributing my service of three months to the S.S. HOPE and the people of Jamaica. Apart from geographical and cultural changes this service is not unlike the service of assigning me as full-time chaplain to the Rochester General Hospital, its staff and patients.

Among the Jamaican patients the number of Catholics is small, but the number of de-

vout sincere Christians is almost universal.

The two Chaplains aboard the hospital ship, Protestant and Catholic, are fortunate in their work to be able to touch all the areas of Project Hope. They serve the patients aboard the ship, the staff who care for them, and the many institutions of the host country,—health-care facilities, social action centers, church-related organizations.

The chaplain is not here to missionize the country. A fine, but small-group of local clergy, together with a large number of Jesuits for the New England area of the USA, comprise the mission clergy of this developing nation. The chaplain is here to serve the same goals as HOPE itself, and lend his presence and service to the profes-

sional staff and patients alike.

The services of HOPE are not confined to the ship alone. Each day our doctors and nurses and technicians travel out to the hospitals in Kingston and the rural areas to work alongside the understaffed health-care teams in Jamaica. The chaplain of the HOPE is visible in these wards and clinics as well.

I have gone several times as a part of the Public Health team to do immunization in the rural areas. The bright white HOPE-van bumps along narrow twisting roads to isolated communities like Barking Lodge, and Hampton Court. There in the tin roofed shed behind Mr. Smith's store the HOPE team administers polio vaccine and tetanus injections.

The clients are mothers and babies bright in their best Sunday outfits with ribbons in their hair. They wait patiently and quietly in a long line with the usual anxiety about needles and medicine and the white-uniformed people who bring them.

They are vaguely aware that preventing sickness is their best hope because medical care for the poor who are sick is a problem common throughout the world.

My part in the team-work was to swab arms, soothe hurt feelings, direct traffic, keep supplies at hand and hand out balloons.

Two hours and hundreds of

injections later the visitors pack up their serums, their vaccines and colored balloons and head for the next village, far from tourist trails.

We were in areas which were not just poor: these towns were in another time altogether. Mothers and babies did not seem hungry or ill-clothed, just primitive. It surely must be what is referred to as the Third World.

HOPE has administered 45,000 shots to Jamaican kids and mothers since February, always in cooperation with the Public Health team who worked with us and whose job this really is. We do nothing except in conjunction with or permission of the local Jamaican medics.

The priest-chaplain is a part of this scene because he must be a part of every social scene. The Incarnation means that Christ experienced and shared the joys, hopes, frustration and fatigue of all men.

The priest who serves the modern health-care team must share with that team. He could no more wait for them to come back to the ship, than the HOPE team could wait for the Jamaicans to come to the ship.

Perhaps the HOPE trip to Barking Lodge began with a hike across Rochester last May. My service aboard HOPE began in the corridors of Rochester General Hospital. Indeed, it may have begun in the halls of St. Bernard's Seminary long ago.

5 Reported 'Solitary' In Berrigan Protest

Danbury, Conn. — (RNS) — Five inmates of the federal prison here were reportedly put into solitary confinement after calling for a "hunger and work strike" to protest the denial of parole to the anti-war Berrigan brothers.

Thomas Davidson, a spokesman for the Harrisburg Defense Committee in New York, told Religious News Service that the protest at Danbury prison involved the distribution of leaflets urging the "speedy" release of Father Daniel Berrigan SJ, and a shortened term for his brother, Father Philip Berrigan, SSJ, and a revision of parole procedures.

The Berrigan brothers, both serving terms for the destruction of draft board records, were denied parole July 28.

Among the five inmate-protesters at Danbury was Ted Glick, one of those indicted in Harrisburg with Philip Berrigan in an alleged conspiracy to kidnap presidential aide Henry Kissinger and blow up federal property in Washington, D.C. The others — David Malament, John Bach, Edward Gersh and Thomas Hosmer — are all draft resisters. Glick was convicted of raiding a draft board in Rochester, N.Y.

Besides protesting the Berri-

gan parole denial, which they said was due to their continued "strong opposition to the government's murderous policies" in Vietnam, the five called for several changes in U.S. federal parole policies.

They asked that prisoners be allowed to see their files prior to hearings, and demanded that prisoners be notified of the parole board's decision within two weeks and the reasons for that decision.

On Sunday TV: The Church

"The Catholic Church—Perspectives for the Seventies" will be the theme of a half-hour telecast arranged by the Upstate Jewish Anti-Defamation League for Sunday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m., on Channel 8, WROC-TV.

Panelists will be Father Henry Atwell of St. Agnes Church, Avon; Sister Jean Rodman, coordinator of religious education at the Church of St. Mary our Mother, Horseheads, and Dr. Robert McLaughlin, head of the philosophy department at St. John Fisher College.



JOHN RITZENTHALER

Ritzenhaler Elected to Post

John A. Ritzenhaler, comptroller of the Rochester diocese, has become an international director for the National Association of Accountants as a result of his nomination at the June 21 annual meeting.

Ritzenhaler's term as one of 100 directors will last two years. He will be responsible for reporting to the New York office of the National Association of Accountants on the educational programs of the Mohaw Valley and Syracuse chapters.

Association directors meet semiannually to evaluate the performance of local chapters, and their reports determine the awarding of the Stevenson trophy, an award for educational achievements in accounting.

After a term as president of the Rochester chapter in 1962-63, Ritzenhaler served as an international director in 1963-64.

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