

Our Men in Bolivia

The Story of a Ball Field

By FATHERS PETER DECKMAN, EDWARD GOLDEN AND PAUL FREEMESSER

La Paz—Father Peter Deckman has arrived in Bolivia with his brother, Buz (Arthur). Buz will be with us for 2 weeks and already he has made friends with the whole staff and some of our neighbors.

We had a little party last night to welcome them back and we talked and sang songs until about midnight.

Our secretary for the clinic, Robert Tornero, is a member of a musical group, the Panchos, and they came about 8 p.m. and played until midnight. It is a real sign of the friendliness and the warmth of these people here in Bolivia and in our parish. Things like this are quite common and the people get a great deal of joy in doing them.

It is moments like these that give us hope that we, with your help, will be able to harness that spirit and generosity and bring human dignity to all the people of Bolivia. Fr. Pete will resume studies and then work for a few months in a colonization project in the jungle area in the north of Bolivia. It is in this area that the mighty Amazon River begins.

Our recreation area for soccer, volleyball and basketball is just about finished. The U.S. government donated \$1,000 and the parish paid the rest. We are lining the walls with cement now and that should be finished soon. It is a place where the youth of the parish can congregate, play sports, hold dances and reunions. We dedicated the area with a big party in which there were firecrackers, drinks, even a little champagne, candy and cookies for the children. A good time was had by all and once again that spirit of friendship was quite evident.

This month we will have a tournament for the youngsters of the parish in kind of a little league set-up.

Building the field taught us a very important lesson about the failure we adults experi-



St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church is staffed by Rochester Diocesan priests.

ence in attracting youth to our midst. Last Sunday one of the priests was leaving to help out the Maryknoll parish at San Pedro and there were about 50 youths waiting at the gate to play soccer. There was a Mass going on in the church at the time but it was mostly older men and women and little children. Why do the youth come to the parish to play sports but do not feel the necessity of joining the others in religious worship? The only answer that we could think of at the time was the fact that as yet we

need to communicate to the youth that the Christian community is for them too. Evidently our example is poor so far, for this same situation is true in the USA.

Let us pray for one another that we will soon be showing the youth that they are missing something by not joining us in worship.

This is our hope and prayer. May all of you have a good Lent and let us hope that Easter brings us all a real sense of Christ's presence in our midst.

St. Agnes Sets Relevance Day

A student committee, organized by St. Agnes High School students Yolanda Pelle and Valerie Evans, is planning a Relevant Education Day for March 22.

The students and their teachers will explore the theme of "Dignity of Human Life".

About 20 speakers, including Board member David Branch, Clarence McDowell of FIGHT, Flora Fay (Wade from NOW) and the Rev. Franklin Florence will present a variety of views on the topic from their own perspective.

It is hoped that this and subsequent relevant education days will give the students and teachers at St. Agnes a wider view of pertinent issues and an opportunity to formulate and articulate their opinions as good citizens and Christians in a changing society, according to Sister Carol Cimino of St. Agnes.



Planning for the St. Agnes Relevant Education Day are (l.-r.), Betty Thorne, Valerie Evans, Yolanda Pelle, Sharon Surhoff and Mary Ann Geary.

Catholic Relief Workers Aiding Flood Victims

Wheeling, W. Va. (RNS) — More than \$21,000 in special donations was received by the Wheeling Catholic diocese for relief of flood victims in Logan County, but more funds are needed to aid in relocation of thousands whose homes were washed away, it was disclosed here.

James Mauck, executive director of Catholic Charities, is

coordinating all funds received by the Wheeling diocese for victims of the recent disaster in southern West Virginia. He made a personal tour of the area where more than 100 persons were killed; 50 are still missing, and 4,000 are homeless.

A score of small mining communities were wiped out in the Buffalo Creek area after a slag

dam broke and unleashed raging torrents into the valley below.

Mauck said three Catholic Charities case workers on the scene reported that food and clothing are in abundance for flood victims. But they indicated that funds for resettling and rehabilitating flood victims are needed.

The case workers, assigned

'Auschwitz Bishop' Speaks at De Sales

By NANCY MANEY

Geneva — "Don't get the idea that this is a Social Security number," Brother Stan said as he showed us the number, 12988, tattooed on his arm.

Brother Stan-Marie Kolowski, of the Capuchin Franciscans, was born in Warsaw, Poland, the son of American parents. He stands about 5 feet 4, is muscular and looks to be in his mid-fifties. He is possibly the only Catholic Brother in the U.S. who experienced the tortures of Auschwitz and is alive today to tell of them.

Brother Stan was visiting De Sales High School to tell the students of his experiences of four years of concentration camps run by the Nazis. The lecture was sponsored by Student Council.

Altogether, Brother Stan was in five camps, and though he was humorous, the descriptions of his life in the camps and the tortures he suffered were appalling.

A psychiatrist by profession, he has worked with Victor Frankl in studying the psychological aspects of WW II and the people who ran the concentration camps in Germany. He works now as a vocational counselor in Beacon, taking time off to speak to students of his experiences.

At Auschwitz, Brother Stan organized secret religious services which were never discovered. He became known to

the prisoners as the Bishop of Auschwitz.

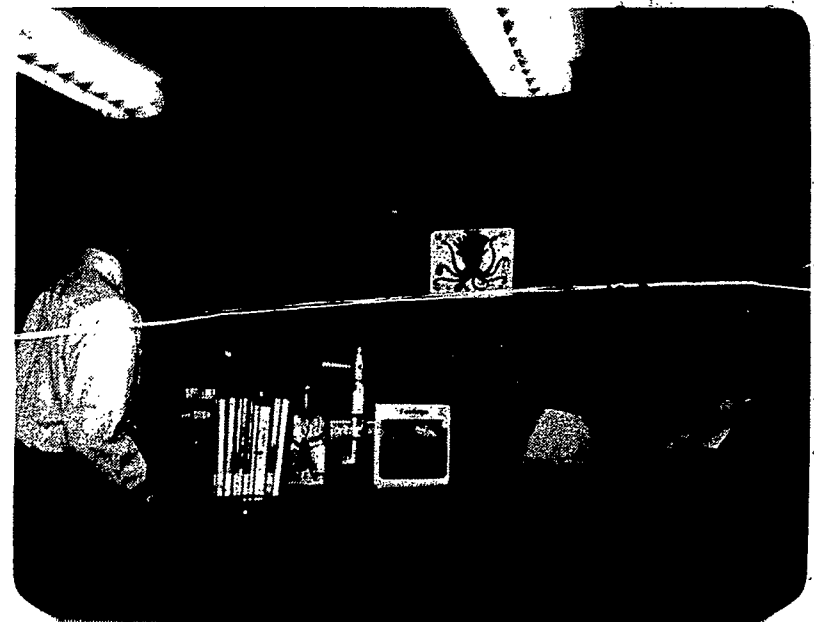
"Religion," Brother Stan said, "makes you independent. It gives you something to look forward to." That is why the Nazi officials decided religion had to be abolished, he said.

He described Hitler as a below-average man who understood the ambitions of the German people to become a powerful nation.

Brother Stan spoke of Hitler's "relocation" of the Jews. Relocation soon became a word of horror. It meant leaving home to be sent to a concentration camp.

The speaker told about the last concentration camp he was in. The Allied troops were approaching and the Nazis had fled the camp, leaving the prisoners locked inside. When the troops looked over the walls they were stunned by what they saw. The men inside were mere skeletons in appearance. The troops had arrived about 5 p.m. Brother Stan had been scheduled to be executed at 7 p.m. When he was released from his imprisonment, he weighed only 67 pounds.

To end his talk Brother Stan gave the students a few words of advice. "I'm not here to push you to Heaven, if you don't want to go. That is your own decision. And if you wish to go, don't be 'good guys.' The world is tired of good guys. Be heroes."



Learning Festival

Students at Guardian Angels School look over materials for a Learning Festival slated at the school through Sunday, March 19. Profits from the festival will be used for library. The students are (l.-r.) Jeff Talbot, Jeffrey Head, Maureen Scanlon and Patty Kamienski.

CSC Re-elects Macaluso

Citizens for a Decent Community, at a meeting Feb. 24, elected Michael Macaluso Jr. of 222 Chili Ave. to his second term as chairman. The anti-obscenity group also elected the following officers and board members:

Vice-chairmen, Clarence Carman of 285 Wellington Ave., Fred T. Pompeii of 276 Dart-

mouth St., and William P. J. Grady of 439 Rockingham St.

Secretary, Anne Blankfield of 143 Maxwell Ave.; treasurer, Mary Ann Smith of 123 Sherwood Ave.; executive board, Gertrude Newberry of 160 Azalea Road, Dr. Gerald Ekert of St. Mary's Hospital, Dr. Anthony Strazzeri of 43 Lansdowne Lane and Lewis L. Dollinger of Pittsford.