

SISTERS OF MERCY Santiago, Chile



Sister Doris Hamilton and members of one of the First Communion Classes in San Luis Parish.

On her first visit home, Sister Doris Hamilton, made the following observations on her work in Santiago, Chile:

During that first year, I worked with Father James Sharp, a Scottish diocesan priest who is working for the Columban Fathers for five years. Father and I minister to the needs of a Christian community in a region of San Luis parish. We celebrate the liturgy with the parishioners in a small chapel. We instruct mothers whose children are preparing for First Communion, and teenagers who are preparing for Confirmation. We also have bi-weekly meetings with the First Communion children and monthly meetings with both parents of the children. We talk about life in a Christian manner and how to make the Sacraments a real part of daily living. These "charlas", or "conversations" are prepared by the diocese and so our job consists of preparing the lessons with Chilean catechists who also help us with this education process.

When I return to Chile I will resume this work and also hope to begin some kind of "follow up" work with teenagers who have been confirmed and for whom at the moment there is no provision for further organized contact with the church.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH Selma, Alabama

Our Sisters of St. Joseph have worked for 30 years in Selma. During the past year they have had to say goodbye to Good Samaritan Hospital because of a shortage of personnel. The Sisters continue to staff the Queen of Peace School and to work in programs sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity.



During his 1972 visit to Selma, Bishop Hogan, still a teacher at heart, instructs two boys at Queen of Peace School.

SPANISH APOSTOLATE

"Mission" means "tender loving care" for the work being done in the urban and rural areas of our Diocese by the Spanish Apostolate, under the direction of Father John Dillon.

Father Dillon speaks of the work of Father Ernesto Loera, a Franciscan priest from Mexico who works with the Spanish-speaking people in Newark, Geneva and Penn Yan.

Father Ernesto says: "For many Spanish-speaking people Catholicism is deep, like marrow in the bones, but time and neglect, have left many Catholic in name only."

Father pointed out that over the seasons a bond of trust has developed as the Spanish and Mexican people began to experience the Church as one who cared enough to send a priest speaking not only their language but sharing their psychological orientation toward life experiences as well.

In this program they are finding the Church as an instrument of the Living Christ showing his love for all men and women through the sacraments, the priesthood, and the Church, wherever they may be.



Fr. Ernesto attracts younger generation to Church programs.



Food and supplies, the necessities of life are frequently needed among Fr. Ernesto's people.

RURAL AND URBAN PROGRAM

Project Friendship House (one of this year's programs) Located in Middlesex, this Center serves the areas of Naples, Rushville, Stanley, Corham and some of the Penn Yan people. Besides offering clothing, furniture and other household items, Friendship House also offers weekly sewing classes, crafts classes, legal services, welfare rights, family counseling, a Vista worker for the community, financial assistance, nutrition classes and literacy classes. It truly functions as a center for self-development.

Money given this year will enable them to provide the children of farmworkers, arriving in late May, with health kits (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, washcloth, some food and other items of hygiene).

Previously this was provided by other agencies which cannot do it this year. The migrant health problems can be very critical since living conditions are so bad. Friendship House tries to offer as much as possible to prevent epidemic sickness among the children.