

Brother, Can You Spare a Car? Seminar to Focus On Spanish Speaking

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

Some pretty interesting people show up at 123 East Avenue — priests from all over the world, frequently with axes to grind. They check in with Father Joseph Reinhart of the Propagation of the Faith, hoping to air their projects in the Diocese of Rochester.

At coffee break one sunny afternoon last week, for instance, there was a Dutch priest, Father Obe Brouwer, who runs a sort of international motor pool from a little town in the Catskills.

With him was one of his former teachers, Father Matthew Eeltink, on a vacation visit. They were on their way to Niagara Falls, as tourists.

Father Brouwer, a Mill Hill missionary, for many years in East Africa, set up the U.S. branch of the Missionary Vehicle Association (MIVA) in 1970. He receives requests for cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, then he takes to the road to raise the money needed.

"This appeal gets good response because it is specific," Father Brouwer said. "Everyone understands that a missionary can't do his work without proper transportation."

But if one were asking somebody to give him a car, would he be particular about the brand? Would he ask for something very expensive?

"They have to have what they can get serviced," said Father

Brouwer, and the price depends on local conditions.

According to the lists he showed, Father Reinhart, the archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, needed a Jeep; he asked for \$7,500. A priest working in the Dominican Republic, in the eastern half of the same island, also wanted a jeep and applied for \$3,050.

A bishop in Korea asked for \$2,000 to buy a Toyota, while a request from Zambia, in Central Africa, carried a price tag \$4,500 higher on the same car. The lower prices may reflect, of course, the availability of other funds.

Need of the money is always verified by the missionary's local bishop or religious superior, Father Brouwer said. Landrovers, Jeeps and motorcycles are much in demand, but there is an occasional bid for a river barge, or only an outboard motor boat.

The MIVA was founded in 1927 in Germany and now operates also in Holland, Switzerland and Austria, as well as in the eastern and mid-western states. The Holland branch raised nearly \$1 million in 1971.

Father Brouwer and his helpers will take their case to 70 parishes during the coming year. In 1973, under the Missionary Cooperative Plan, they were assigned 30 parishes and raised \$43,784. Two White Fathers and a Holy Ghost father work out of headquarters in Wurtsboro, Sullivan County, and Father Brouwer spends a

great deal of time on the road, "from the Dakotas to Alabama."

Father Brouwer is from Friesland, on the North Sea, where the people are bi-lingual, he said, speaking Dutch and Frisian, a Germanic language related to English.

"The Frisians speak Dutch, but the Dutch don't bother with Frisian," he said. His language here was colloquial American, his manner, relaxed yet businesslike.

Father Eeltink, 37, years a teacher, is on vacation from the Mill Hill seminary in Tilburg, Holland. It is the only minor seminary left in Holland, and that, the priests agreed, is reason enough why it should continue to flourish.

Father Eeltink naturally had to be shown Niagara Falls, and Father Brouwer, finding this long drive different from the trips his job entails, said "It's good for me to go, too; gets me away from my work."

"By time we reach Niagara Falls," he reflected, "there'll be 116,000 miles on the car."

COURIER DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal deadline is noon Thursday for articles intended for the following Wednesday edition.

A special seminar, to help parishes serve the members of the Spanish-speaking community, will be held Aug. 26-30 at St. Bernard's Seminary. Unity in Diversity is its title.

Sponsored by the Diocesan Spanish Council and the Spanish Apostolate, the five-day workshop will discuss the social conditions, educational background and cultural and religious mores of the Spanish-speaking. Its goal also is to demonstrate the necessity of maintaining cultural and religious pluralism in the Church.

Encarnacion Armas, consultant for human development, will present an overview of Spanish history and culture. She has worked in the Spanish-speaking division of the U.S. Catholic Conference and is national coordinator of the National Council for the Spanish-speaking.

Also on the program will be

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Stephen Solis, manpower specialist for Executive Systems Corporation, Washington, D.C., providing training and technical assistance to migrant programs funded by the Department of Labor.

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Sarah Child

Poor Sarah's Almanac:

—A hostess who tries out a new recipe on guests has more in common with a stunt pilot than Julia Child.

—If you want to find out how much your husband enjoyed his business trip, don't ask him. Ask the colleague who went with him.

—A neighbor who never asks to borrow anything is either wonderfully organized or was emotionally stunted as a child.

—We've changed our tune about overlong sermons the last month or so. Our church is air-conditioned. Our house isn't.

—Rejoice in the knowledge that most kids outgrow their passion for chocolate by age 35. Of course some don't.

—We've had all kinds of advice on how to keep the rabbits out of our garden including our four-year-olds which would require catching them for pets and keeping them in the garage.

—I recently took my first overnight trip away from our kids and arrived home astounded to discover the house hadn't burned down, nary an arm had been broken and worst of all — the troops didn't seem to comprehend the magnitude of what I'd done.

—I'm waiting until our youngest is in kindergarten before I take up reading long, meandering novels again. Fortunately I discovered that reading reviews of them works almost as well putting you to sleep.

—The hanging basket of ivy geranium on the back porch (our only porch actually) is a profusion of pink blossoms. I read that to keep it blooming I should administer fish emulsion and I will, I will, as soon as I find out what it is.

—Our nine-year-old wants to learn to cook. First on her list of delectables: brownies, pudding and homemade popsicles.

—In a recent three-day span one glass fish bowl, one glass canister and one glass carafe were all broken. I'm glad we don't live in a glass house. Incidentally, Fish is now living in an empty gallon mayonnaise jar with no apparent trauma.

—I bought an easy care plastic cloth for the picnic table but the only way we can get it clean is to throw it in the washer with plenty of bleach and detergent. Isn't science wonderful the way it has improved on oilcloth?

—We had a will made which was sort of a solemn thing. It seemed even more solemn when we overheard our six-year-old discussing what he'd do with his share of the loot in the event of our early demise.

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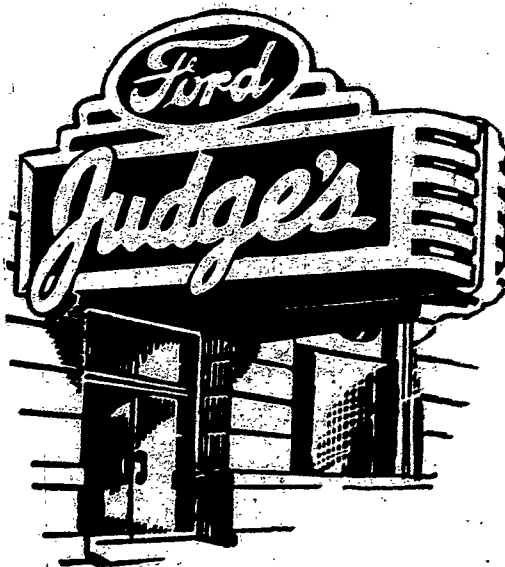
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