

# San Jose Obrero . . . ... the Work Goes On

The following story was prepared by the Religious News Service Latin American desk for distribution throughout the United States. It concerns the continuing work of the parish at San Jose Obrero in La Paz, Bolivia, which was established with the help of priests and laity from this diocese.

**La Paz** — Jorge Jaime Jimenez, better known throughout Bolivia as "Jota Jota" (J.J.), is the center-halfback for The Strongest, La Paz' perennial championship soccer team. But most of the thousands of fans who cheer the All-Bolivia football player on Sunday afternoons do not know that during the week the Catholic layman is "pastor" of San Jose Obrero parish here.

For eight years the hillside parish on the outskirts of La Paz had been administered by diocesan missionary priests from Rochester, N.Y., but the priests left Bolivia in August, turning over the parish to a team of lay people with Jimenez in charge as "coordinator."

The project was approved by Archbishop Jorge Manrique Hurtado of La Paz on a two-year experimental basis, with a complete evaluation scheduled at the end of that time.

The archbishop was motivated in part by the serious shortage of priests and partly by his desire to see lay people take more pastoral responsibility for the local church. There was a year's transition period during which the Rochester priests prepared the parish for the change.

The 29-year-old Jimenez, who in features and build resembles Fran Tarkenton, quarterback of the Minnesota Vikings, heads an eight-member Parish Council which has full responsibility for the spiritual and social action programs of the parish.

Like any pastor, "J.J." has final authority on all parish questions, but he has some definite ideas on the use of authority.

"Sometimes it would be easier to be a dictator, but in the long run the democratic process works much better," he said in an interview in his parish office behind the church.

"In all our parish council decisions we try to arrive at a consensus before we act. If we split on an issue, I find it much more effective to promote more discussion rather than to settle issues prematurely on my authority. So far it has worked out fine," he said.

Father Walter Perez, a Bolivian priest who is a hospital chaplain, has been hired by the parish to offer Mass on weekends and to hear confessions. He attends all Parish Council meetings which are held on Saturday nights, but he is only an observer and adviser, not a voting member.

### AUXILIARY NAMED

**Washington, D.C. [RNS]** — A 40-year-old former seminary rector and vicar for education has been named by Pope Paul to be auxiliary bishop to Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati. Father Daniel E. Pilarczyk, a native of Dayton, Ohio, was ordained in Rome in 1959, after studying at the Pontifical Urban University (formerly Propaganda Fide). Last May, he was named vicar for education of the archdiocese and will continue in the post.

### TOTAL SOUND

The Total Sound Choral Society, which sang last week at Long Ridge Mall, will entertain this month at several other places, including St. Cecilia and St. Margaret Mary parishes and St. Joseph's Villa. The group consists of Kodak employees and members of their families.



"In the past, parish priests used to look for willing and competent lay people to assist them in the work of evangelization. In our parish we looked for a priest who had the mentality and qualifications to work with us," the soccer star said.

"Our goal," Jimenez explained, "is to form a community which is more human and more Christian with the lay people making full use of the gifts which the Holy Spirit has given us."

All instructions in the parish, preparing the people for marriage and baptism as well as youth and adult instruction, are given by a team of 25 trained catechists. Two laymen bring Holy Communion to the sick and baptize in cases of emergency. The catechists prepare two prayer services for Sunday afternoons and Thursday nights. The parish also operates a small clinic and a credit co-op.

Jimenez, a bachelor, is well qualified for his job. He com-

pleted his theology studies at the diocesan seminary in Cochabamba but was never ordained. He gained pastoral experience in two Cochabamba parishes while working at the huge Monaco shoe factory.

In Cochabamba he also began his professional soccer career with his dazzling speed and daring making up for a lack of size. Four years ago he came to the university in La Paz to study psychology.

The Diocese of Rochester continues to give financial help to the parish — \$8,000 this year, to be reduced by 20 per cent each year until the parish must support itself after five years.

Asked about the future, "J.J." said, "Our goal is not to continue forever as a parish without our own priest. Our hope is that one day the community will be able to choose someone qualified from our midst, married or single, and say to the archbishop, 'We want this man to celebrate the Eucharist with us. We want this man to be ordained.'"



Archbishop Manrique with the lay leader of San Jose Obrero parish in La Paz, Jorge Jimenez, also an outstanding soccer star.

## 2 Nominated For Academy

Two students from Rochester Catholic high schools are among 10 seniors who have been nominated for appointments to the Naval Academy by Rep. Frank Horton of the 34th Congressional District.

They are John W. Castiglione of Aquinas Institute, son of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Castiglione; and Brian P. Fink of Bishop Kearney High School, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fink.

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# GOD CALLED A STRIKE ONCE.



When the Lord led Israel out of Egypt, He halted the system of slave labor that built Pharaoh's pyramids.

And when the Children of Israel were led into the new land, their prophets commanded a just life and decent wages for the workers in the fields. And all this was done in God's name.

Today, it's happening again. The workers who put food on your table are struggling to free themselves from a feudal system, from slave-labor wages, from medieval living and working conditions.

The essence of Judeo-Christian charity is helping others to help themselves, and this is what the farm workers are asking of you. They don't want you to build their union for them; this they have already done themselves.

But the union they built is being attacked on all sides by powerful special interests — the teamsters, the growers, the largest agribusiness corporations and food store chains.

And so they are asking all those who believe in justice and decency to rally to their side.

This is when your faith is put to the test. It's not an easy thing to do, taking abstract principles and putting them into practice.

But if you believe that we are all our brother's keepers, then this is the time to prove it.

Religious leaders and laymen all over the country are showing their support for the farm workers by boycotting the fruits of exploited labor — non-UFW grapes, head lettuce and Gallo wines.

We hope you'll join them.

Put your faith to work for the Farm Workers. Don't Buy:

**Gallo Wines (any wines bottled in Modesto, Calif.); Grapes; head Lettuce.**

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