



Sr. Maria Cobos carries on a discussion with Ismael Ramos.



Father Golden, looks over family photos with Jose Ramos, Ramona Santiago and Silvia Serrano, left to right.

Text by Bonita Baldwin
Photos by Susan McKinney



Father Dillon



Sister Irene Lara, left, and Sr. Annette Truby listen attentively during a meeting.

Spanish Community

...e of the Consejo will be to com-
h-speaking Catholics. The Spanish
ed, but not assimilated, into the
e are all brothers and sisters in Christ
ationality," Ismael Ramos observed.

...omes to the States from Puerto Rico,
ination; usually for the first time in
said. Races are so mixed in Puerto
little discrimination. Candido Colon
here for over 20 years. Although he
y, he understands that many Puerto
el low" when in groups with English-

...ming from Puerto Rico often suffer a
; to Colon. They don't find what they
ie American Church. Ismael Ramos
icans don't express their religious
y. Also, life here is much freer and
ity for enjoyment, Ramos continued,
apped in their jobs and money and
s. In Puerto Rico life consists simply
Sunday Mass.

...are offered weekly at six Rochester
s Church in Newark, and St. Francis

DeSales Church in Geneva. Home masses are also celebrated.

It was a few bilingual couples visiting English prayer groups that introduced a small group of Spanish parishioners to the charismatic movement. Once a week at St. Francis Xavier, 50 to 75 people pray together in Spanish. Jose Ramos, one of the leaders, said that the people are spiritually hungry. Religion for some begins and ends with Mass and they feel dead inside, but the charismatic experience is filling many with new joy and love for Jesus.

Father Golden said he feels the people ought to be able to worship in this way and added that a healthy charismatic experience is a way of reading the scripture and praying that leads to a greater commitment to God and the community.

The prayer group at St. Francis Xavier decided that their children were not receiving adequate religious instruction. They started a family Bible study night, with classes for all ages. Father Golden and some of the Sisters of Guadalupe assist in this program, but they do not see themselves as leaders. Father Golden said, "We're there to teach, encourage, support, but the leadership and organization are coming from the people themselves."



Sr. Soledad goes out into the community as part of her ministry.



Goyita and Gabino Santiago pause for a picture during Sr. Soledad's visit.