

DIOCESAN MISSION NEWS

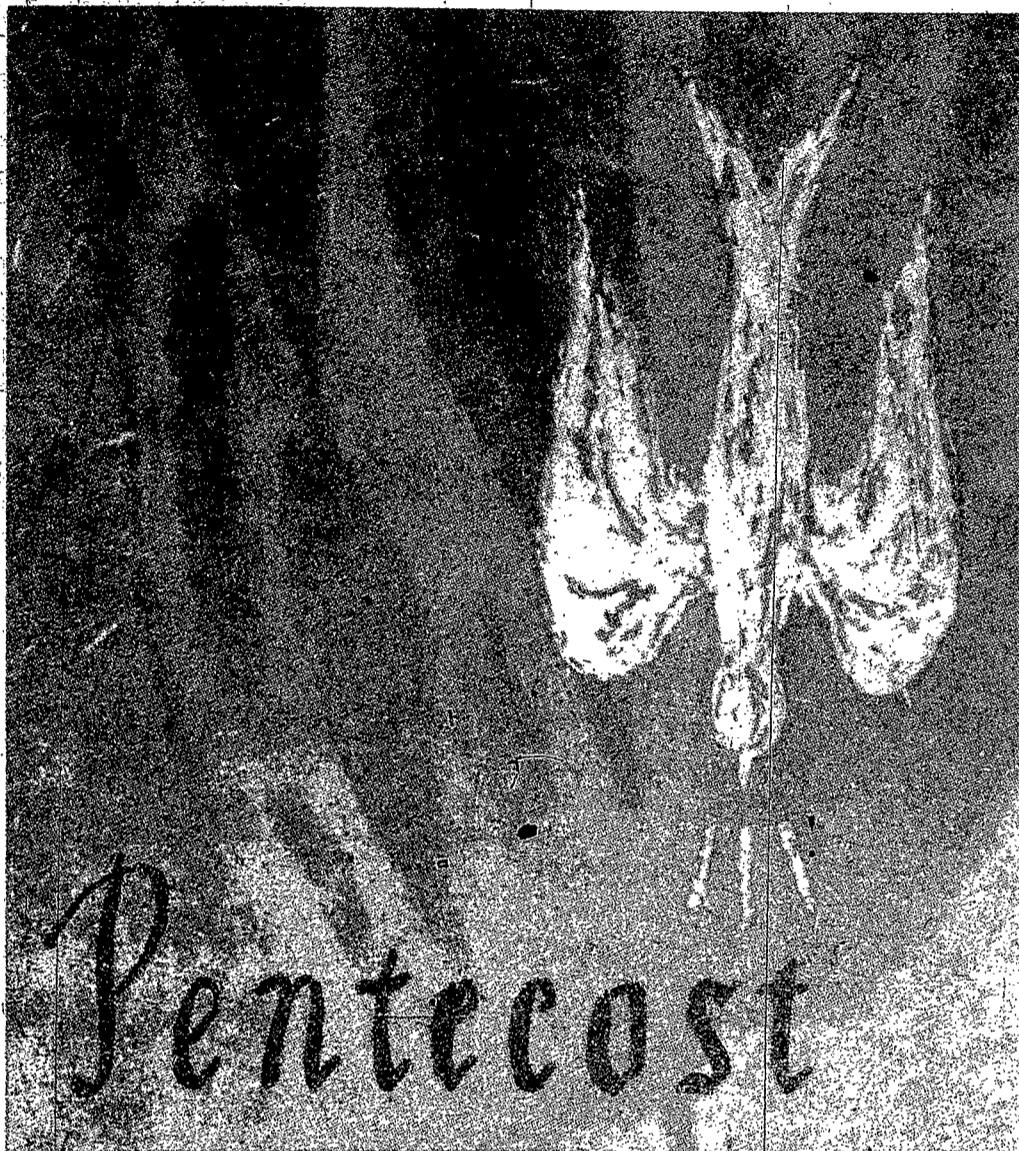
The Diocese of Rochester, New York



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Pentecost Today Means a Continuing Mission

... here are the words of our own Rochester men and women in the mission effort:

"It seems to me that the idea that "charity begins at home" is limiting the number of volunteers to foreign missions. I know the need at home is great, but if we only give of our abundance, how can we expect the Lord to multiply the fruits of our efforts at home?"

"During my years in Santiago, I strongly feel that whatever creative, intellectual and spiritual potential I may have, has been given ample space to grow. I feel I have been taught a new "value system" that I could not nor would not have learned anywhere else."

"Some of the edge of the know-it-all priest was shaved off and a greater sense of service developed. A wider understanding of Christ's mission, the Church's and of the extension of the salvation being brought about. Kingdom."

A New Pentecost in Our Own Day

Please be generous in your support of the Missions on Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18

"... Share the Love and Fire of Pentecost"

April 18, 1975

My dear Friends,

Next Sunday, May 18, will be the annual observance of our Diocesan Missions Sunday. By coincidence it is also the Feast of Pentecost which serves as a very appropriate reminder of the missionary nature of the Church which received its charter and its life-giving principle, the Holy Spirit, on the first Pentecost.

When the Spirit of God descended upon the Apostles, one of His many gifts was the gift of tongues. Men and women gathered from every nation under heaven marvelled to hear the Apostles speak in voices understood by all as they proclaimed the wonderful works of God.

Ever since that day of fire and light, the Church, aware of her missionary nature, has extended herself to every nation and people, speaking the one understandable language of the Spirit of love and leading all to a deeper understanding of the marvels of God.

The Diocese of Rochester has been keenly aware of its responsibility to share the love and fire of Pentecost with our brothers and sisters in every part of the world. For more than ten years we have labored in Latin America sharing the talents of our own dedicated Sisters, priests and laity with the Church of Brazil, Bolivia and Chile. For almost 35 years we have sent Sisters to Selma, Alabama — and that mission of mercy and love still merits our support. We have been trying, too, to do more each year to relieve some of the problems within our own diocese in both the urban and rural areas.

Our mission labors must continue. Clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, instructing the ignorant remain ongoing human needs which today have reached desperate proportions. Our mission is one of justice and not of a condescending handout to beggars. We must respect the dignity of our brothers and sisters as we strive to help them help themselves.

In the name of all who will receive hope and comfort through our offering of prayers and material assistance, I express my gratitude and extend my blessing.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

