

Around the Parish

The parish is giving special emphasis to evangelization because last year's evaluation showed this area as the parish's weakest point. Now sacramental preparation is one of the parish's principle programs and the team "sees good results in more people at the Sunday Masses at 7 and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m."

Also on Sunday afternoons the children come together for recreation, classes and a movie. Catechetical training is conducted with the cooperation of sisters from the city.

A First Communion group also works in the schools with religion teachers collaborating. The parish team said it is particularly pleased with recent confirmations of 27 young people and adults. It also is conducting a parish census, mostly on the basis of religious practice.

Often classes are given in both Spanish and Indian.

During Lent, the parish had a "campaign of the crosses" wherein crosses were taken from the church into homes where paraliturgies were conducted, including prayers, breaking of bread, reading of Scriptures, dialogue and reflection. This year 156 homes were reached and, according to the report, "this is significant" because in home celebrations friends, relatives and in-laws show up who don't normally attend Mass. They emphasized that the breaking of the bread does not constitute sacramental Communion but is merely a sign a sharing love.

The parish just concluded a Good Friday stations of the cross liturgy wherein a cross was carried to the top of the hill here in the parish, with parishioners, including two women, taking turns carrying the cross.

The Social Ministry which employs six social workers has been helping families with budgets, diets, in education, attending home meetings and also working on a program for self-autonomy whereby a cooperative would be performed for products they make in the parish.

The group also has been working with Caritas, the international charitable agency, to provide food for mothers with children under six. For every 10 pesos paid for the food, 1 1/2 pesos goes to Caritas, the rest to a fund for the mothers themselves.

A young parish in an age-old setting, San Jose Obrero reflects the problems and the hopes of parishes across the world during these times of Church renewal and change. Its meeting hall, library, and the clinic in the parish are exterior examples of the ongoing work. Corporeally, this work pays off in the healing care and touch of Christianity; spiritually in the increasing numbers coming to the sacraments, as during Holy Week when seven children and adults were baptized and several marriages blessed.



Father Reinhart and Rochesterian Father James Courneen reminisce near the parish clinic. Father Courneen, whose uncle is Robert Dolan of Farragut Street, is a Maryknoll priest stationed in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. He has been in South America for 22 years. "One of Rochester's finest," is Father Reinhart's accolade.



Father Reinhart checks over the book work being performed by youngsters in the San Jose Obrero library. Special gifts from the youths of St. Ambrose parish in Rochester were used to purchase many of the books, tables and equipment in the library. Pastor Father James Marvin said the youngsters raised the money by car washes, bake sales, etc. In a separate drive, the parish collects and sends money to the parish for food in a people-to-people type program.



Silverio Aruqipa, parish mason, keeps it neat.



Dr. Rolando Vargas at work in the parish clinic.