

Brazil

Continued from Page 1

The sisters are working on projects to provide filters for the drinking water to fight the disease. Sacred Heart Cathedral parish gave this project impetus when it sent \$500 which was used for filters.

Sister Katherine explained that the filters cost about \$10 each and whenever the sisters can come up with a sum of money, the local government supplies matching funds. The family also contributes, being charged about 80 cents a filter, a qualification to help them maintain self-dignity.

"Each family also is required to attend three meetings," said Sister Katherine, "at which Sister Christel tells them ways of coping with the worm problem. After the meetings they receive a certificate saying they meet all requirements and get the filters."

The filter is positioned on

the source of the drinking water at the homes.

Another special program in which the sisters participate is the Quilo Campaign whereby 28 women from the better section of Sao Simao canvass some 2,000 homes to collect food for the poorer families. Last month the women collected 1,600 kilos of beans, rice, macaroni and flour to help 40 to 50 families. Each recipient family must attend a meeting to receive the food and the sisters use the opportunity to give lessons in hygiene and child care.

On the spiritual side, the sisters help run catechetical programs. Just completed in Lent was a special project, "Begin in Your Home." The program was begun 13 years ago and is conducted across Brazil in Lent.

Sister Katherine said that the campaign was to get "neighborhood groups to pray and reflect in their own homes, including

meditation on the Way of the Cross. At the eighth station, we stopped for questions geared to life in the family.

"We have a similar program at Christmas time. We follow up by having leadership meetings for all who want to continue in a Bible reflection group. The program ran weekly during Lent and for nine successive days before Christmas."

But although the catechetical training, the self-help programs, the cooperatives, the medical care and concern, food distribution are integral parts of the work of the missions, the principle story here as all over is with the people.

It is Gerald, a fifth grader in Itaguacu, whose education is supported by Rochesterians, who painstakingly learned an English phrase with which to greet Bishop Hogan and his party. When the group arrived at his simple home, Gerald

appeared in the doorway, "Good morning, my name is Gerald" was his proud greeting.

It is Dona Maria da Souza who runs an outdoor laundry on the Rio Claro. The old lady daily climbs down a steep cliff to the riverside to do the laundry, then carries water back in a can to "shower" after work.

It is Dona Lazara who sent a photo of herself to Pope Paul VI, asking for his return. She received a letter from the Vatican indicating a photo was enclosed but someone had forgotten to enclose it.

"He probably ran out of pictures," was the laconic acceptance of the old lady who couldn't read the letter.

It is Bishop Hogan giving Dona Lazara his zucchetto (skullcap).

It is Dona Neusau Domtijo de Sa from the better section of Sao Simao



Dona Neusau Domtijo de Sa explains the quilo campaign whereby well-off and poor families work together to collect food for the needy. Listening are Bishop Hogan, right, Father Reinhart, left, and Sister Katherine.

who directs the quilo campaign.

But mostly, from a Rochester viewpoint, it is the sister-missioners themselves, undaunted by the misery, who share their

lives and hope with the forgotten in these backlands. And whose good cheer, fortitude and hope becomes as contagious as the diseases affecting the simple people they serve.

'No One Line Prevailed'

Continued from Page 1

next to mine. Here's what I typed...The excitement has already begun. The staff in the press area is of the feeling that this is a big meeting. There is an experiment going on media-wise, with a satellite being utilized to bring special coverage of the meeting to over a million and a half Catholics throughout the United States on cable. The Call to Action resolutions regarding the ordination of women, the question of communion in the hand are among the topics causing all the early buzzing.

Bill Ryan, information person on the staff, was walking about making us feel very welcome. I met Bishop Leipzig of Baker, Ore., 82, and retired since 1971. He remarked that Rochester had been in the national news, the NCR and the Wanderer, and wondered if it wasn't a curse to be reported on by either!

Later in the day, at the first press briefing, we received a communique telling us that all the sessions, including the group discussions on the Call to Action documents would be open to us. Meanwhile, Dr. David O'Brien, Frank Butler and others from the original Ad Hoc Committee for the Bicentennial began to appear. Then we heard that communion in the hand would be discussed in open session, and copies of the agenda arrived on the table for distribution.

The conference began promptly at 9 a.m. with a concelebrated Mass in the small ballroom of the Palmer House. Archbishop Sheen was among the cardinals in the procession of celebrants walking in front of Archbishop Bernardin, the presiding priest at the Eucharist and the conference. I note that communion is received both on the tongue and in the hand by bishops and attending priests, sisters and laity.

At 10:30 the bishops gathered in the large assembly room (the general ballroom) and began their lengthy agenda. Archbishop Bernardin read a telegram from Cardinal Dearden, hospitalized last week with a heart attack. There was a moment of profound

silence, knowing his commitment to the issues of this meeting. He sent greetings and wished all the Bishops God's blessings in their deliberations.

Archbishop Bernardin then gave his address, a message calling for unity amidst the diversity of points of view, an appeal to all to be good listeners as well as to remember their role as guarantors of the faith, and to seek to be like John Neumann, an American bishop who was a real saint...a "difficult combination."

By the end of the press conference at 1:30, three questions were on my mind...what action would the bishops take to insure accountability for followthrough on the Call to Action resolutions?; would they come down strongly on possible departures from Church teaching or choose to promote authentic search in all the areas where questions have not been answered or scarcely explored?; what of the elusive excommunication penalty for divorced Catholics?

At the afternoon discussion on justice in the Church, the bishops spoke very carefully about optional celibacy, mainly reaffirming the Holy See's teaching of 1971. On the ordination of women, there was little discussion. One bishop remarked that the question of altar girls has become impossible. He told of a woman distributor of communion who asked him after Mass one day why she could give out communion but wasn't allowed to hold the paten!

They spoke encouragingly of new roles for women in ministry and wanted to uncover new ways of service and leadership while respecting Church teaching on these questions. I began to see just how sensitive they were to the need for a balance between the divergent voices of their people and the voices of the universal church authority. It is no simple matter to settle. I felt some of the weight of responsibility pressing down on them.

Wednesday morning the statement on the American Indians was debated. Some spoke passionately from their experiences with In-

dians being on reservations and in the cities. Others seemed remote from its urgency. As they listened to the ones who rose to speak, I began to understand how they must have to weigh the pastoral experience they have in light of that of their brother bishops. In the end there was solid support for the fine statement.

The moment for discussing communion in the hand was now at hand. The lights of the CBS camera roamed across the hall and stopped on whomever was speaking.

One light moment was a gift of Cardinal Carberry. He produced a telegram from the Vatican. It seems that a photograph in the previous week's *Observatore Romano* showed Pope Paul with a chalice in one hand and placing something in the hand of a young boy. The Cardinal telephoned Rome to find out if the Pope was giving communion in the hand. The Cardinal then proceeded to read the telegram from Archbishop Benelli which assured him that the Holy Father was giving the boy a rosary. He submitted the telegram as "Exhibit A". This invited a series of replies from Cardinals Manning, Cooke and Shehan, who spoke in favor of the practice.

As I asked myself why this discussion was so intense and extended, Archbishop Quinn of Oklahoma City, Okla., went to the microphone and gave a fine answer. We're all concerned, he said, about the respect for the Eucharist that must be maintained and fostered. Not to have this practice, already approved in 53 countries is giving cause for disrespect. We need to provide a thorough teaching to our people on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives, review our sense of the sacredness of this gift, and explain the meaning of this option.

Thursday's discussion on the Call to Action resolutions was the high point in many ways. What response would the bishops make? Many had received the results of our own consultation here in Rochester. Bishop Hogan told me of several who thanked him for the materials, and commended

him for the pastoral effort to consult.

The discussion would have issues that polarized the Church; there were matters of great concern around which everyone could rally. How to steer a steady course through this?

Eleven (11) pages of amendments were developed by the bishops to the draft document they were considering as a preliminary response. The amendments were of various kinds; some improved the wording and style; others strengthened the authoritative role of the bishops; still others added a pastoral sensitivity to the anguish of people whose lives were being affected by injustice; finally there were those that toughened the document, calling for greater accountability.

No one line of thought prevailed. Every side modified the document. The result is a statement that truly reflects a "preliminary response" of the whole body of bishops. It encourages some developments, it cautions against others, and it invites continuing dialogue on many things. The Church leadership must teach and it must listen.

Mooney Explorer

Allan Fairbanks, a Cardinal Mooney senior, is President of the Monroe County Firematics Explorers. He is intensely involved along with fellow coordinator, David Greely from Syracuse in promoting and organizing a National Emergency Service Association whereby firematic and medical explorers would be trained and then work with law enforcement and fire departments during large scale emergencies.

Besides this endeavor, Al is kept busy with his duties with the Barnard Fire Department and the three and four nights he spends at the Boy Scout Center sharing his firematic knowledge and experiences with the scouts. He is also a member of Mooney's Action For People Association.

Intending to be a fireman, Al hopes to take the special courses offered at the University of Maryland.

Panel to Discuss Capital Punishment

The St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild will discuss "various perspectives regarding capital punishment," at its annual membership meeting beginning at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, May 16.

The meeting, held at Becket Hall, 75 Fairport Rd., East Rochester, will feature a panel discussion consisting of "speakers' comments and audience participation," according to a release by the guild.

Panelists for the discussion are: Father Clarence Gardner, chaplain at the Auburn Correctional Facility, the Honorable John J. Conway, Supreme Court Justice, the Honorable Donald J. Mark, County Court Judge, and Charles F. Crimi, prominent criminal defense lawyer. John L. Greisberger will serve as panel moderator.

Robert J. Edelman, president of the guild, noted that "although there had been no prior state executions in the United States since 1967, nevertheless, the single highly-publicized execution of Gary Gilmore in early 1977 by the State of Utah and the unusual suicidal aspects of

Events Set At Cenacle

Events scheduled for the remainder of the month of May at the Cenacle include a Scriptural Retreat led by Father Sebastian Falcone, May 13 through 16.

"The Person Who Prays: You" is the title of a lecture to be given by Sister Evelyn Bailey on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. A Eucharistic celebration will follow the lecture.

A Family Day will open on May 22 with a 10 a.m. Mass celebrated by Father William Trott. Luncheon, discussions and prayer are featured during the day which closes at 3 p.m.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Cenacle will be observed on Saturday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m. when Father Charles Lavery will celebrate Mass. A reception will follow.

the case has created a renewed interest in the issue of capital punishment."

The public is invited to attend, and light refreshments will be served.

Black Bishop To Get LLD From Bona

Olean — Bishop Joseph Lawson Howze of Biloxi, Miss., the first black to head a United States diocese in this century, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree May 22 from St. Bonaventure University. The prelate completed his studies for the priesthood at the university's Christ the King Seminary, in 1959.

Before embarking on his church career, Bishop Howze was a science teacher in Mobile, Ala. He was auxiliary bishop of Natchez-Jackson, Miss., for the four years preceding his appointment last March as ordinary of the newly formed Biloxi see.

BREAD WALK

A 10-mile Bread Walk in Greece will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 15, at Arcadia High School and end with a celebration at Mother of Sorrows. Walkers hope to collect \$15,000 from sponsors for distribution among agencies that concentrate on the hunger problem.

The project is sponsored by CROP, an agency of Church World Service. One quarter of the proceeds will be used locally, 15 per cent of the amount going to Greece Greece Meals on Wheels and Nutrition Program, five per cent to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality and five per cent to Church Women United.

PREKINDERGARTEN

St. Boniface School, Whalin Street at Gregory, proposes to add a class in September for children who will be four years old by Dec. 1. Details and registration blanks may be obtained by calling 271-6370.