

# Mission to Tabasco

By Lourdes Perez-Albuerné

¿Buenas tardes, como estás? There is a group of six persons who greet each other this way every Sunday as they start their Spanish conversation class. They have been learning Spanish since April in preparation for their three weeks of missionary work in St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Tamulté, Tabasco, Mexico. Barbara Fagin, Susan Novak, SSJ, Mary Thompson, Paul Thompson, Mary Lou Mitchell, SSJ, and Deacon Paul Tomasso are the members of the missionary team. They have been working with Hermana Edith Lugo of the Misioneras Guadalupanas, the Mexican Sister who serves the Hispanic Community of our people. The language, together with their own personal skills and the development of the team into a living community, will hopefully make them ready to leave July 2 for their three weeks of mission in Tamulté.

The three-week mission to Tamulté is one more step in the development of a long-range relationship of mutual enrichment between the Dioceses of Rochester and Tabasco. This relationship, which started four years ago with the sponsorship of the cow and plow project, has now developed into both Dioceses being declared Sister Dioceses by Bishops Clark and Garcia. This was agreed upon by both bishops last January when Bishop Garcia visited Rochester at Bishop Clark's invitation. Another part of this mutual enrichment process will happen during the month of August when Father José del Carmen Gómez (Father Carmelo) will be in

Rochester to participate in the missionary exchange program under the auspices of our Diocesan Mission Office. Father Carmelo will also carry out an enrichment program for the leadership of the Hispanic Community and those who minister to them. This program was developed by the Spanish Apostolate Board. Father Carmelo is no stranger to our Diocese; he spent the summer of 1977 working with the Spanish Community and is well remembered there. Our parishes know him as pastor of San Isidro Parish, Macuspana, where we have sponsored Operation Breadbox projects.

Our area of mission, Tamulté, has some similarities with our well known area, Macuspana, in that its parishioners are mostly Chontal Indians. Other similarities are the number of persons it serves, 30,000, and the 16 rancherías (small rural communities) under its jurisdiction, and the fact that the Indians are also subsistent farmers using corn as their main crop. But there are also some differences between the parishes. The Tamulté community had not had a priest since the late 1930's until Father Lucas Partida, their present pastor, came two and a half years ago. The kind of land is also different; Macuspana is slightly hilly, while Tamulté is basically lowlands with a high water table and is filled with waterways which serve as its major means of transportation. The "cayuco" (a canoe made by hollowing a tree) is its river boat. Most of its productive land can only be worked during the dry season.

The missionary team has been asked to work in the areas of catechesis, rural development and health. Our

work will be carried out in accordance with the diocesan pastoral plan and the integral social development plans will be under the auspices of CICCOCODET (the social development arm of the Diocese of Tabasco). The catechetical work will be carried out with children, young adults and the leaders of the biblical encounter movement. Rural development will consist of helping with the construction of a silo to store corn for the community, the development of communal vegetable gardens and the initiating of pilot-home vegetable gardens. This last project will try to engage women in carrying out this effort and will also use the opportunity to teach better hygiene and food preparation techniques. These rural projects will be guided by CICCOCODET's agricultural technician. In the area of health, we hope to provide the start of a project which will establish a "botiquín" (pharmacy) in the community and some basic education in the areas of nutrition and preventive health.

Financial resources to carry out this mission have been derived from the religious congregations of the SSJs and RSMs, from selected parishes and from the Office of the Propagation of Faith.

Our missionaries have devoted many hours of their time preparing for their missionary work and hope to serve not only the people of Tamulté, but also our own diocese. Once they return they will try to enrich us with their experiences and new insights gained while serving the rural, third world community. They are looking forward with excitement to this opportunity and ask for your prayerful support during their time in Tabasco.

# Source of Stability In Our Lives

When you think back over the men and women you have known, you can probably identify a number who seem to maintain a remarkable stability in their lives.

Such people seem to have a built-in gyroscope which enables them to compensate and maintain direction when they encounter success and joy or failure and tragedy. They even manage to maintain a sense of tranquility and direction in the monotonous routines of life — the monotony which drives other people to search frantically for escape.

In my experience, this stability seems to come from a very deep, unshakable conviction about one or a few basic judgments about life, usually religious judgments.

To the extent that I achieve such stability (my gyroscope occasionally needs time to start functioning) it seems to rest on one very deep religious conviction.

Somewhere I assimilated the judgment that my primary responsibility is to make myself available for



Fr. John Reedy

Looking for the Lord

whatever use God wants to make of me at this particular time.

This calls for sensitivity to God's invitations expressed in the opportunities I encounter, particularly the needs of people who come into my life.

But it also provides a different perspective on the success or failure of my efforts. I don't see the ultimate results as depending on what I achieve or fail to achieve. Those results, I am convinced, lie in God's providence — which can certainly make up for my limitations.

A psychiatrist would probably see this as some kind of a defense against accepting final responsibility for my actions; some theologians would criticize it as a simplistic view of God's

intervention.

These opinions don't make much difference to me. This is a religious conviction which lies very deep in my response to life. It's not the sort of judgment which is vulnerable to logical arguments.

It doesn't mean that I am unable to recognize mistakes and failures in my actions. Plenty of them are all too obvious. Nor does it mean that I can cushion my conscience to avoid demands that are made on me, using the excuse that somehow God will take over for what I fail to do.

Those responses determine how well, how fully I live my life — and for me that's important.

But I find a source of peace and tranquility in

realizing that those disciples whom Jesus called, to whom He gave His love, were not chosen as efficient achievers, as models of wisdom and virtue.

He called them to respond generously and openly according to their very human abilities. He asked them to be open to the Spirit, to allow God to work through them. They might see good results from their efforts; they might not. Their faith was to be in God, not in their own accomplishments.

I try to convey this conviction to parents who are bewildered and hurt when they see their children making decisions which seem to be serious mistakes.

I try to convey it to people who have worked hard for a good cause which now seems to be in ruins.

I try to convey it to older people who look back over their lives and say, "But I can't see anything that I accomplished; I just tried to live as well as I could."

That's the point! That's all the Lord asks of us. An employer might ask for

measurable accomplishments; voters might demand results from their office-holders. But part of the good news revealed by Jesus is that our God is a Father, not an employer, not an electorate, not even the kind of judge we know in our courts.

I'm never sure that I succeed in getting across this conviction. My gyroscope allows me to live comfortably even with that uncertainty.

I try to give witness to my faith; the gift of faith comes from God.

# Looking Back . . .

75 years ago this week — Edward L. Hearn was elected supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus at its 23rd annual convention in Los Angeles . . . And we noticed that in the ears of the nameplate on Page 1 a challenge is offered. At the top left the statement: "Circulation larger than any Catholic weekly in Rochester." And in the right ear, "\$100 reward to anyone who will disprove the statement." . . . And those were the days when Ontario Beach Park was flourishing. "Twice daily" the Ladies Orchestra of Boston, Mass. was entertaining vacationers who were staying at such beach hotels as Hotel Ontario, Point Pleasant Hotel, Bay View Hotel, and our favorite, Birds and Worms Hotel. And nearby was the Glen Edith Hotel, surviving to this day.

50 years ago this week — The big news of the week was the opening of the Carmelite convent on Saratoga Avenue. The sisters came here from Philadelphia and only two were identified in the story, Mother Beatrice, 84, and her assistant, Sister Ignatius. A Page 3 headline announced: "Thousands at Field Mass In Holy-Sepulchre Cemetery Auspices Knights of St. John." Several thousand attended the annual field Mass of the Knights which displayed 11 uniformed commanderies. Another headline heralded the planned cornerstone-laying of St. Margaret-Mary parish school at "the foot Rogers Parkway, Stop 4 1/2 on Summerville Blvd.

25 years ago this week — Things haven't changed an awful lot department: Page 1 headline: "Peron Ousts Prelates from Posts, Terrorism Hits Church in Argentina." Also on Page 1: The Rev. John W. Kelly was named principal of Aquinas Institute. And in Omaha, Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan placed the Airport Drive-In Theater off limits for 90 days because it showed the movie, "The Son of Sinbad."

10 years ago this week — Anniversary of sorts? The Page 1 lead story declared, "Lay people and Sisters may soon distribute Holy Communion in parishes where extra help at Communion-time will cut down the prolonged ritual required to give the Eucharist to a large congregation."

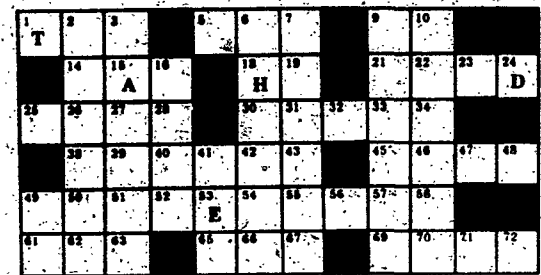
And out in Delano, Calif. "Cesar Chavez praised more than 250 religious and lay leaders for practical help religious groups have given in solving disputes between farm workers and growers."

And another sign of the times: "30 Priests Join Fast for Peace." At the the time the war was the one in Vietnam.

# Sunday Scripture Quiz

I. Gospel Reading: Lk 9:18-24 — The curious and the wonderers look at Jesus.

Below is a key passage from Sunday's Gospel reading. You can determine what this passage is by finding the answers to the questions below the puzzle and then putting the letters in their appropriate box. The first one is done for you.



- 1. Jesus overcame this: **D E A T H**
- 2. Experience pain: **5 41 30 52 63 32**
- 3. Rubs out: **72 42 22 27 3 71**
- 4. A meal: **67 55 7 39 38 89**
- 5. Wrongdoings: **49 23 47**
- 6. Exceptional: **58 34 85 16 61 9 50 28**

Based on scripture readings for Sunday, June 22, 1980, C Cycle.

Following are key passages from Sunday's scripture readings. Fill in the missing words.

II. First Reading: Zec 12:10-11 — They shall wonder about the one "they pierced."

Phrase: I will \_\_\_\_\_ out on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and on the inhabitants of \_\_\_\_\_ a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ shall look on \_\_\_\_\_ whom they have \_\_\_\_\_ through.

III. Second Reading: Gal 3:26-29 — Our humanity is endowed with divine adoption.

Phrase: Each \_\_\_\_\_ of you is a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ because of your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ \_\_\_\_\_ All of \_\_\_\_\_ who have been \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves with \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on Page 15

- 7. Buys things: **45 6 66 19 48**
- 8. Feels solid: **51 63 54 35**
- 9. Excavate: **40 31 57**
- 10. Lives in water: **10 70 31 2**
- 11. File suit: **33 26 43**
- 12. A person: **14 46 86**

Passage I words: dig, suffer, stand out, man, death, firm, sins, sue, fish, erase, money, dinner.  
 Passage II words: David, petition, him, pour, Jerusalem, thrust, house, grace, they.  
 Passage III words: Jesus, God, Christ, him, clothed, one, baptized, faith, you, son.