

Chile

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Sister Kay Schwenzer of Holy Trinity, West Webster, plays around a similar theme when she says:

"It's hard to adjust to a totally different culture. The language is not the easiest but I feel more competent than I did four years ago. It's an example of the constant learning, questioning and being open which has helped me grow in patience and humility.

"The Chilean way is not the North American way! When I first arrived I thought in terms of accomplishment, productivity and having something to show for your time and effort.

"And yet I cannot point out those things. But with our presence we have been able to share whole aspects of what the Church is."

"I feel that I have grown as a person, that I have received much more than I have given. I have been evangelized; this experience has given me a greater desire for prayer and reflection. My hope is to bring this to my relationship with our people."

Sister Kay works principally with young people in the neighborhood. She was kind enough to arrange for Sister Janet Korn, Pete and me to have a session with a group of young people. With a very kind touch she arranged for us to have this on a leisurely morning stroll to the statue of Our Lady of Cristobal. This is located on a high hill and affords a magnificent view of Santiago. I shall remember that walk for a long time.

Sister Janet Korn is from Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish. (In her class from Sacred Heart School, Class of '52 are Sisters Peg Brennan, S.S.J. and Alice Cooney, S.S.J. and Fathers John Mulligan and John Reif. Wow! — what a group!)

She is kind enough to share these thoughts about her experience with us:

"I taught for three years at Saint Thomas the Apostle and Our Lady of Lourdes, in Elmira before coming here in 1965. My work has been principally in family catechesis, home visitation, liturgies and sacramental preparation. Last year I helped form a center for pastoral reflection.

"Over and above formal work our most important activity is knowing and sharing life with the people with whom we live. We share their hardships, struggles, joys and most of all their faith. This year I plan to return to Rochester to work at least for a few years.

"This has helped me a great deal to reflect on my experience.

"I have seen hungry men give food to others; thirsty women give water; people in ragged clothes, give what they have. It is so easy to find Christ in them. That has to change us.

"Latin American women are extremely dedicated. In a quiet, unassuming manner they give their lives day in and day out for their husband and children. How often they remind me of Mary — so little spoken of in the gospels. Everything she did was to make her Son great.

"She did nothing for herself or her own importance. She lived for others and not for herself.

"I'd like to thank you all for your generosity, especially the people of Sacred Heart who have sent their penny



Sister Janet Korn, foreground, joins the bishop and Father Deckman in some light refreshment with children of the parish.

collection so often. Also, thanks to all at home who have literally kept us alive down here and make it possible for us to serve others."

Sister Jane Kenrick is proud to say she is from Ithaca. She laughs easily and is blessed with the kind of gentle nature which relaxes those in her company. Some of her thoughts follow:

"I came here in December, 1966, so I have been around for awhile. Many things have happened. We have had a Christian Democrat president, a Marxist president and a military dictatorship.

"At present the political and economic situations are very bad. People are oppressed, there is little work and high unemployment. The young people are frustrated when they leave high school there is little possibility of a job.

"In terms of Church: the change of Vatican II has been difficult, but the Church in Chile is exciting. The Church is the voice of the voiceless. Every day the military government criticizes the Church and every day the Church speaks back.

"I work in three neighborhoods. One is composed of city workers — garbagemen and gardeners, etc. They are very poor; they make \$100 a month but they are the richest people we work with.

"The second neighborhood is of street market workers.



Sister Jane Kenrick, second from left, watches as Bishop Clark anoints a hospital patient.

In the third most of the men are in jail. But the people are generous, kind and very gracious.

"I work with a group of young people, about 12, interested in the priesthood and religious life. This is quite wide-spread around Santiago. I ask you to pray for us because I think this is an important responsibility towards our young people, whatever their location may be."



Bishop Clark and Sister Jane chat with some parishioners.