

COURIER-JOURNAL NUESTRA VIDA

San Miguel/St. Michael's

En el 1835, el censo demostró que la nueva ciudad de Rochester estaba habitada por 600 residentes alemanes. Como sucede a todo grupo minoritario, el "establecimiento demostró una actitud belicosa." Los alemanes se toparon con un Rochester "Yanqui" y protestante.

Los líderes de los grupos alemanes alentaban a los residentes a no olvidarse de su idioma y su cultura alemana. Los sacerdotes alemanes estaban convencidos de que si conservaban el idioma, conservarían así su fé católica.

Miembros de las parroquias ya existentes de San José y Santísimo Redentor observaron que había la necesidad de ubicar otra iglesia mas cerca de estos grupos de alemanes.

Una fructífera campaña de parte de la comunidad logró la recaudación de 6,000 dolares. Varias familias hipotecaron sus casas para poder aportar cantidades máximas. Estos esfuerzos lograron que se construyera la primera iglesia de San Miguel, y que se trajera de Alemania el sacerdote redentorista P.F. Pascalar. San Miguel se convirtió en la iglesia nacional alemana del sector noreste de Rochester. Las devociones y los sermones se conducían en alemán.

El crecimiento constante de la parroquia creó la necesidad de una iglesia mas amplia que también le diera cabida a la escuela. Fue en el 1890 que se celebró la primera misa en la nueva iglesia.

Las hermanas de Notre Dame, famosas educadoras, tuvieron la responsabilidad de la educación de los jóvenes. En el 1973, las hermanas se despidieron de su parroquia luego de servir por 99 años.

Dice el Rev. Benedict Ehmann, párroco de San Miguel de 1961-1974, "la venida de los hispanos se debe considerar un envío de Dios y San Miguel debe ser el faro que dá la bienvenida a los visitantes."

Estas palabras provienen de un sacerdote que bajo sus propios esfuerzos y economías, tuvo la iniciativa de aprender el idioma español en cursos nocturnos de la Universidad de Rochester /Universidad Católica de Ponce, Puerto Rico. Tuvo este celo pastoral de aprender español no solo para comunicarse con los hispanos, sino para poder abogar por sus derechos; en muchas ocasiones hizo de intérprete en las escuelas públicas y en agencias de servicios sociales. Maria Reyes fué empleada por Padre Ehmann como secretaria de habla hispana y asistente al Padre en la reparación de candidatos al bautismo, Matrimonio y catecismo. La nueva "minoría" de San Miguel hablaba español y deseaba sus

Misas en su idioma. Así fué que en el 1967 se comenzó la tradición de celebrar una Misa dominical en español. La música de los servicios religiosos también sintió el cambio que ocurría en la parroquia. Lillian Karnes, quien ha sido organista oficial de la parroquia por 30 años, introdujo en la liturgia himnos y cantos en español.

En el 1968 las Hermanas Misioneras Guadalupanas de México iniciaron su labor sobresaliente de ayudar y guiar a los feligreses hispanos.

Después de cinco años sin programas de educación religiosa para niños, la Hna. Edith Lugo y Padre John Dillon, nuevo párroco de San Miguel, lograron que 86 niños hispanos recibieran la primera Comunión en un ambiente religioso y festivo.

Es evidente que la labor de amor hacia los hispanos iniciada por Padre Ehmann, es reanudada por Padre Dillon quien ya ha demostrado amor e interés hacia la comunidad hispana de San Miguel.

Mi-gu-el.
¿Quien es como Dios?

In 1835, a year after Rochester was incorporated as a city, a local census recorded 600 German Catholics as residents. Definitely minorities, they reasonably felt they were not welcome in a community controlled by Yankee Protestants.

Leaders in the German communities began encouraging their people to hold on to their language and culture. Their priests were convinced this would help them preserve their faith.

Members of St. Joseph's and Holy Redeemer parishes saw the need for a church nearer their homes. A fund drive in 1872 produced \$6,000, with some families even mortgaging their homes in order to contribute more.

In 1874 the first church was dedicated and Father F. Pascalar, a German Redemptorist, was appointed permanent rector. St. Michael's became the German national parish for the northeast sector of the City. Devotions and sermons were always preached in the German language.

In 1875 additional land was bought. The church was too small for this growing parish and the school on the second floor of the church building was inadequate. The School Sisters of Notre Dame labored against tremendous odds to teach the youngsters. With their knowledge and experience in education, they were completely dedicated to the children of the parish. This dedication continued until 1973 when the nuns left after 99 years of service to the community.

St. Michael's was founded by a few poor immigrants. It knew its days of pride, wealth and glory. Now, it is once again among the poor. In the words of Father Benedict Ehmann, pastor of St. Michael's from 1961 to 1974, "The entrance of the Puerto Ricans into the St. Michael's family should be considered a God-sent movement. St. Michael's must stand as a beacon welcoming the newcomers."

Such are the words of a dedicated pastor, who on his own initiative enrolled in the Spanish languages at the University of Rochester and the Catholic University of Ponce, P.R., in order to assist the Spanish families who had moved into the formerly German neighborhood. In his desire to carry his pastoral ministry to his Spanish flock, Father Ehmann's knowledge of the language was useful not only to communicate with them, but also to intercede for their rights. On numerous occasions he was their interpreter, in the public schools and well as in the social service agencies.

Maria Reyes became his Spanish-speaking secretary, thus reinforcing Father Ehmann's sincere dedication to the cause of the new-comers.

In the early days, German was the common language. In 1967 many of the new parishioners were Spanish-speaking, the vast majority of them Puerto Ricans. They desired their own Mass in their own language, and beginning that July 30, a Sunday Mass has been celebrated each week in Spanish.

Lillian Karnes, the official organist at St. Michael's for 30 years has introduced Spanish hymns into her repertoire, thus enhancing the religious services.

Since 1968, the Missionary Sisters of Guadalupe arrived from their native Mexico and have been doing an outstanding job working with and helping the Spanish speaking residents.

After five years without religious education programs for the children, 86 Spanish-speaking children received their First Communion under the tutelage of Sister Edith Lugo and Father John Dillon, present pastor.

It seems that the labor of love that Father Ehmann brought to the Spanish community is being resumed by another priest whose interest in the Spanish people is evident at St. Michael's Parish. Mi-cha-el. Who is like God?



PROCLAMAD EN CADA LENGUA

Campana Católica de Comunicación



"... y quedaron llenos del Espíritu Santo y se pusieron a hablar idiomas distintos en los cuales el Espíritu les concedía expresarse." HECHOS 2:4

Dé Generosamente a JUNIO 13-14

Campana Católica de Comunicación



CYO Schedules Swim Program

The Catholic Youth organization has scheduled its annual series of swimming lessons for Tiny Tots during July and August at neighborhood pools. Red Cross water safety instructors and Red Cross supervisors will supervise training.

The CYO needs donations of the use of pools for the program. They must be inground, large enough to accommodate small groups of children and available for about two hours a day for a two-week period. Anyone

interested should contact the CYO at 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, or telephone 454-2030.

Eight sessions are offered for a \$20 fee.

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