



In terraces carved high on the slopes of the mountains of Benguet a priest is planting fruit trees. And in so doing, he is helping the Filipino natives of the area, many of whom are "pagans, many Jehovah's Witnesses," to see firsthand the workings of the Gospel.

Philippines for the past 22 years.

Depending on the altitude of the plantation, Father Waterschoot grows apples, pears, plums, peaches, mangoes, avocados and papayas.

And, in some measure, the project is able to continue because of Rochester diocesan. Father Waterschoot is the recipient of funds from diocesan Operation Breadbox.

The priest is Father Jose Waterschoot, a Belgium-born missionary who has been working this territory on a northern island of the

The temporal benefits of the plantations include a reduction in unemployment, diversification of cropping, a more balanced diet for people of the region, and a cash crop, he said.

The priest was in Rochester recently, on the return leg of a trip home to Belgium. While here, he toured the Geneva Experimental Station, known around the world for its development of fruit

cultivars, and spoke to diocesans about his work.

Also while he was here, he was introduced to "Ana," a new, dwarf, August-bearing apple, a variety which does not require the degree of chill normally associated with apples for them to ripen well. He hopes to find sufficient stock of "Ana" to plant in Benguet.

The plantations project covers all of the production

cycle, from providing trees, through teaching farmers how to maintain them, to giving marketing help.

The project also tries to teach as much "organic" technique as possible, the priest said, from the making of compost to harvesting. Natives give one day of labor a month and in return gain the education offered, planting stock and in-field assistance. In addition, Father Waterschoot said, ancillary services such as

language and sewing classes are given through the project.

The priest quickly dismissed questions on the relationship between the Marcos regime and Philippine missionaries. "The government doesn't affect us at all. The president or first lady don't interest us at all. We're very happy doing what we do." He said the government neither helps nor hinders his missionary activity.

Philippine Missioner Celebrated at 75 Years

Word was received last week that Rochester's Father Leo Welch, SJ, has been featured in a column by Father Miguel Bernad, SJ, in the Philippines Daily Express, a daily newspaper in Manila.

Father Welch is a missionary in Malti Malitbog, in Bukidnon, the Philippines; and, as Father Bernad describes him, is a "septuagenarian on a motorcycle."

The column was relayed by Father Welch's sister, Sister Christina Welch, SSJ, former communications officer at St. Agnes High School, who is now involved in the Literacy Volunteer program and who has a pastoral ministry to the elderly.

"Father Leo Welch is 75 years old," Father Bernad

wrote. "But you would never believe it when you see him riding his motorcycle on the road between the city of Cagayan de Oro and his mission station in Bukidnon Province called Malitbog.

"Malitbog is situated in a canyon, and years ago, before the road was built, the people had to climb down the face of the cliff and then cross and recross the river that meanders along the canyon floor."

The priest explained that the road was built about 20 years ago, and has made it possible "for the people of the isolated canyon to bring their sick to the hospitals in Cagayan."

Father Welch, he said, "has been instrumental in bringing a number of sick people to the

hospital. He cannot bring them on his motorcycle, so he hires a jeepney so that the sick can be transported in a stretcher. He very often also has had to contribute to the hospital bills."

The priest related "an amusing (but dangerous) incident" which occurred only recently:

"In one of (Father Welch's) mountain villages (the Malitbog parish includes 36 barrios), a woman gave birth; she had twins, but only one child could come out; the other would not. After many hours of labor, it was decided to bring the woman to the hospital in Cagayan. Again, Father Welch arranged for transportation and for part of the hospital bills. Eventually the second child came out, 12 hours after its twin. This may

be a case for Ripley: twin children, of whom one was born one day in one province, and the other the next day in another city."

The Rochester Jesuit was born in 1907 and entered the Jesuit novitiate of the Maryland-New York Province in 1924. He went to the Philippines for the first time in 1929, and there he taught mathematics at the Ateneo de Manila until 1932 when he returned to the U.S. for theological studies.

Father Welch was ordained in 1935 and a few years later returned to the Ateneo as a member of the scientific staff of the Manila Observatory. He spent some of the war years in a Japanese concentration camp.

After the war, Father Bernad said, "he decided that

mathematics and the scientific life were for younger men, and he volunteered for missionary work in Mindanao.

"Today, 75 years old and 58 years a Jesuit, he is the lone priest in a widespread mission station that requires much traveling on foot and by motorcycle. He looks, however, as if he has 25 more years of active missionary work ahead of him."

According to Sister Christina, "Many, many

people of the diocese — the people of Leo's home parish (Holy Trinity in Webster), in a special way — are largely responsible for his having the means to do what he is doing in Malitbog and the 36 surrounding barrios."

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St. Bridget to Host Extravaganza

St. Bridget's Church will host the 12th annual Cultural Renaissance/Gospel Fashion

Musical, 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13.

In addition, a special guest appearance will be made by the Bright Clouds Gospel Group.

recognized. A donation of \$10 per person is asked for tickets which enable the holder to vote during the program. Tickets are obtained from St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14605; information is obtained by calling Minister Laurance Lee Evans, (716) 275-0379, or Mrs. Rose Barrows, (716) 454-4236.

The event, a talent show, is endorsed by the diocesan Office of Black Ministry, and is sponsored by St. Bridget's, First Community Interfaith Institute, the Star Gospel Singers, the Wonderland Spiritual Singers, and the Children's Fashion Hour.

Prizes will be given for the best gospel, outstanding cultural, and spiritual performances. Individual talents and other talents will also be

St. James Sets Valley Show

Waverly — "Holiday Spotlights" is the theme for the St. James Parish 5th Valley Christmas Show Nov. 13 and 14.

Some of the participating stores are Bob's Cycle Shop, Bob Pross' Home of Sylvania, Plants 'n' Things, Bethel Sales (fabrics) and Balloon Creations, all of Sayre.

Athens; Agway, Athens; Mary Kay Cosmetics, Wyalusing; Princess Line, Wyalusing; DeHart's Country Bridal Shop, Barton; John H. Murray and Sons, South Waverly; Kennedy's Country Heating, East Smithfield; and CA-RO Corp., Chemung.

The event will run from noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, and from noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14, at the Ingersoll Rand Club in Athens, Pa.

Joyce's Macrame, Charm Pools and Tractors, Hair Affair Unisex Salon of Waverly.

Proceeds from the event go to St. James' School in Waverly.

And Ackley Travel,



Diabetes Award Winner

Yolanda Ascione, 13, an eighth grade student at St. Helen's School, Gates, was awarded first prize in the Diabetes Control Foundation's Science Fair contest. Her entry consisted of a report and poster exhibit explaining the differences between hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and hyperglycemia (high blood sugar). Ms. Ascione received a Certificate of Merit from the foundation as well as a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond at a school assembly Oct. 20.

Merchants will give the public the opportunity to view what they have in their stores so they can stay in the Valley

Santa Claus will be on hand for the young children, who are encouraged to bring their letters to him. Homemade refreshments will be available through the St. James Home School Association, and will include soup, pies, hot dogs and beverages.

There is an admission fee of \$1 for adults; children are free when accompanied by adults.

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