



Bishop Matthew H. Clark and the community of Mexiquito, one of the eight rancherias the Rochester diocesan mission team serves.

Mexican Mission

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readers could ask their parish to include them in the prayer of the faithful and offer personal prayers. They need to know that we support their work, so drop them a letter every once in a while, you might not know them but they serve in your name, so encourage them. Their address is: c/o Pbro. Albino Hernandez, Apartado Postal #15, 86870 Tacotalpa, Tabasco, Mexico. Try to keep updated on their activities. We will keep you updated through the new monthly missionary page in the Courier-Journal.

On Sunday at the closing liturgy which more than 1,000 persons from all the rancherias participated, Bishop Clark publicly thanked our missionary team and told them how proud he was of their work. His words, in our name were representative of our true bond with them and the people of Tabasco. Our Lord has blessed us generously by having them represent us and extend our ministry to the people of our sister diocese of Tabasco.



Bishop Clark passes out candy to the children.

Becket Hall

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John Fisher College.

Interviewed late last week, Fathers Schwartz and Valenti said the building costs would be significantly reduced at the new location, but exact figures were not immediately available.

The move was prompted, in part, by Fisher's need for space for an increasing resident population.

Both Father Schwartz and Father Valenti quickly added, however, that the occasion has enabled the diocese to more accurately assess vocational needs and to generate more satisfying solutions to the contemporary problem of attracting men to the priesthood.

"We see it as a creative option," Father Schwartz said. He noted that men pondering whether they have a vocation to the priesthood are often assumed among their peers to be definitely

pursuing that goal. And the status of being a seminarian is frequently a stigma.

He characterized those assumptions as "not really the reality of the situation."

The move and its concomitant shift in emphasis, will serve to distance the individual from both of those assumptions, he said.

The new Becket Hall will serve as a "discernment house" with individually designed programs, Father Schwartz said. School age men in the new Becket community will have their choices of the several area educational institutions.

He described it as "a formation community" in which men can experience the life of the priestly fraternity; "and can experience Catholic Christianity, a sense of Church, a sense of ministry and its prayer life."

"This is clearly not a college seminary program," Father Valenti said.

"Obviously we're serving a wider audience as a discernment program, and we expect it to have a wider appeal."

"A number of men will opt for this," Father Valenti said, noting that in his position as vocations director he has spoken with several prospects who would not enter the old Becket Hall program.

The new programs will be "uniquely tailored to each person's needs, designed to help him experience the Lord more deeply in his life," Father Schwartz said.

Both men expressed their enthusiasm over the recent developments. "It certainly is a step in the right direction," Father Valenti said.

The move will be the fourth for Becket Hall. The institution was first sited at the former Walter Todd home on East Avenue. Two years later the institution moved to its own building on grounds adjacent to St. John

Fisher College. In 1980, the diocese sold that building to Fisher; and the residents moved into yet another building on the campus.

From the first Becket Hall was seen as representing "a radical change in the seminary system of the Diocese of Rochester," according to a 1967 report by Father Louis J. Hohman, then rector. The institution had been founded two years earlier under the direction of then Msgr. Joseph L. Hogan.

Black Vocations Workshop Theme

Brother Robert Smith of Chicago, a Capuchin, and president of the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association, will be key speaker at a luncheon-workshop on Black Vocations beginning at noon, Saturday, Feb. 11, at the YMCA Downtown, 175 N. Clinton Ave.

Brother Robert will speak on "Taking a Walk Where Other People Choose Not to Go." Following lunch, Brother Robert will conduct a workshop on vocations and the opportunities they offer for black Catholic youths.

Brother Robert has a BS in Criminal Justice and is certified basketball official in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. He has a second degree black belt in Hapkido/Karate. Among other colleges, he attended St. Bonaventure University and Catholic University of America.

His experience includes teaching social studies, martial arts and basketball. He has been a loan officer, a parole officer and chaplain at a county detention home. He has lectured at universities, churches, schools and community centers around the country. He is a vocation counselor for the Capuchin order, a member of the pastoral team at St. Justin in Chicago and a member of several Capuchin commissions.

During the intermission,



Brother Robert

members of the Office of Black Ministries Youth Ministry will perform a musical selection.

The workshop is sponsored by the diocesan OBM in conjunction with the diocesan Office of Vocations, Urban Services Division, the OBM of the Syracuse diocese, and the Syracuse vocations office.

Cost will be \$2 per person. Further information is available from 328-3210, exts. 268, 269, 295.

Correction

Delegates to the Diocesan Pastoral Council are, by recent constitutional change, elected on an individual basis. Information in a story last week did not contain that change.

JOSEPH G. DEMARIA
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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