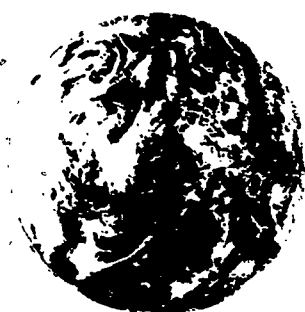


To Look Through Each Other's Eyes

"COULD A GREATER MIRACLE TAKE PLACE THAN FOR US TO LOOK THROUGH EACH OTHER'S EYES FOR AN INSTANT" -HENRY DAVID THOREAU



Logo by Maurcen Servas

Chile: 'A Ray of Hope'

By Sr. Elaine Kolesnik, RSM

In the ghetto sections of Santiago, Chile, where 25 percent unemployment is the norm, destitute families struggle to find ways to improve their lot.

"A ray of hope" for some of them is how the Operation Breadbox brochure describes a free-instruction project which originated with the "vision of a committed Chilean woman" and the encouragement of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester working in Chile.

This self-help project, which will enable individuals to learn the trade of hairdressing, is one of three programs that OBB has presented to parishes of the Rochester Diocese for consideration as Lenten donation recipients this year.

Last March, Angelina Calderon, a trained Chilean beautician who wanted to share her skills with her neighbors asked to set up hairdressing classes for 30 women in part of the chapel of her parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel of El Salto, also the parish of some of the Sisters of Mercy.

Since its start, however, her program has been struggling. Difficulties developed even after the first month: some of the women couldn't afford the necessary equipment, even such small items as hairclips, combs, brushes, scissors, etc., and had to give up the course; cold weather made the large salon difficult to work in because there was no means of heat; as some of the students advanced in their techniques, they needed



A Chilean woman acquires a marketable skill -- hairdressing.

equipment that was too costly (sinks, water heater, etc.)

To solve some of these problems, Ms. Calderon moved the salon to her own beauty parlor, but this move meant a 30 to 40-minute trip on public transportation, too great a distance for most of the participants, many of whom had small children at home. At present, only nine of the 30 beginners are left.

Ms. Calderon's dream is to open and equip a shop in a location near the participants' homes, ideally a storefront in the heart of Santiago. Approximately \$7,200 would establish the venture: rent the storefront, convert it into a salon and supply the equipment and materials needed by those too

poor to otherwise participate.

The beautician has promised 10 years of teaching; the equipment would be owned cooperatively. She envisions that the cooperative would become self-sustaining.

"The dignity of having employment" would be a tremendous benefit of this project, reflected Sister Margaret Mungovan, Mercy missionary in Chile. Even more satisfying, she says, is the fact that "acquiring a marketable skill would allow some of the poorest of the economy and better their lot.

A vision, encouragement, skill-sharing -- two worlds link and a wisp of hope emerges.

The Courier-Journal Monthly Mission Page

SSND Serves Ministry With Cherokee Nation

By Sr. Mariella McMillan, SSND

Sister Beth McGlynn, SSND, says she's always felt a call to work among the Native Americans. One compelling reason was her desire to serve the poor.

Today she finds herself ministering to the poor of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, OK.

Last year, when the general council of the School Sisters of Notre Dame decided to attempt in a limited way to meet the needs of the poor and the marginalized of North America, they called for volunteers from their congregation for a mission project in Oklahoma.

Responding to this call, Sister Beth and five other Notre Dame sisters from various parts of the U.S. met in Tahlequah this past August to begin to reach out in a new way to the less fortunate.

During the first month they were occupied with many "getting-to-know-you sessions" with the people of the town, with registration and first classes at Northwestern State University

and with home arrangements and furniture purchases from flea markets.

Currently, they're organizing religious education courses and family education programs, conducting teacher-training sessions, tutoring high school dropouts and assisting at a newly opened home for battered women.

Sister Beth has been impressed by the desire of the Cherokees to share their story and to pass on to their children the tradition which makes them who they are; however, she notes that many experience a lack of human dignity because there are few to advocate for them in instances of discrimination.

She has always admired the Native American's belief in the sacredness of creation and observes that the Cherokees are "non-possessive of creation; there is no sense of personal ownership."

They are religious people, she notes, who pray before everything they do. "Rather than asking for things, they are more concerned with thanking God for all things of creation. Asking for



Sr. Beth McGlynn

strength to serve Him in His earth is the thrust of their prayer and contemplation. They are grateful to God who permits them to be who they are."

Describing the festivities of the Cherokee National Holiday in early September, she commented: "The powwow gathered people in joyful activities and permitted us a glimpse of the traditional beautiful attire of the Cherokee People. The rodeo displayed to us Northerners the reality of Western life.

In her short time there, Sister Beth has observed that the style of the leaders is to be among the people rather than removing themselves from them; consequently she is convinced that small communities where people can "feel Church" are essential to her work in Tahlequah.

Whether in the home fields of the U.S., or thousands of miles away in South America or Africa, the diocesan missionaries enjoy hearing from home. For those interested in corresponding with them an address of the month has been made available through the missions office. This month's address is: Sr. Beth McGlynn, SSND, Jack Brown Heights, 6-A Nola St., Tahlequah, OK 74464.

Journey to Brazil — 20 Years Later

By Sr. Elizabeth Anne LeValley, SSJ (In early February Sister Beth LeValley, superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph, visited the Sisters of St. Joseph serving in Brazil. She captures a few "peak moments" of her visit in the following article.)

Twenty years ago, Sister Rosalma Hayes, SSJ, landed in Brazil as the first Sister of St. Joseph to be sent to this country. Now, 20 years later, I have had the opportunity to visit our 12 sisters and three Brazilian postulants and to know the harvest of the work of these 20 years.

During my visit we celebrated the entrance ceremony of our three postulants: Anadir Pereira da Silva, Ireny Rosa da Silva and Joana Dalva Alves Mendes. Joana Dalva and I shared our vision for the event.

I commented on the fact that within the original call of the Sisters of St. Joseph to live as vowed women religious in this congregation, we have experienced other calls. Among these was the call to come to this country -- and now our commitment to accept Brazilian women into our congregation. We know this means continued self-emptying in order that something new be born for the Church in this country."

Joana spoke: "We, too, on this journey, have to believe that the Lord will be with us always. Since He has chosen us, He will not abandon us. At times we are afraid; we imagine that we are unable to do certain things; at other times we place ourselves courageously at His disposal, believing in His presence at our side."

This celebration marks a turning point in our mission here -- our commitment to a new foundation.

Another highlight of my visit was an extended sharing with Bishop Pedro Casaldaliga of Sao Felix. He is a prolific writer and a poet. Among his books are "Mystic of Liberation" and "I Believe in Justice and Hope."



Postulants Joana Dalva Alves Mendes, Anadir Pereira da Silva, and Ireny Rosa da Silva confer with Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley, superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph, in back yard of Uberlandia convent.

We talked at length with his pastoral team about capitalism and the effects of multinational corporations on the people who have a bare subsistence living. We also discussed the mission of the Church and the relationship

of our congregation to the needs of his diocese. The pastoral team, in the initial years of their service, have been involved totally in justice issues since the people were facing violence at the hands of the wealthy. Now, as the government is less oppressive, they are at a point of building the Church in a new way -- a critical transition time.

I explained that our sisters would give him a copy of our Constitution, now translated into Portuguese so it can become incarnate in the mission of the church in this country and within our Brazilian members. I asked him if he would write in my English Constitution as a sign of my commitment to work within the Church in the U.S. My commitment is to learn more and to speak what I have observed and understood of injustice inflicted on the poor of Brazil and the other

countries in Central and South America.

His words -- from the pen of this poet written in his simple garden chapel -- speak more strongly than I the message:

Our Constitution is the Good News You, particularly, in the manner of Joseph ● just man ● forming the whole family of Jesus and Mary ● worker people among people In this whole of America that can no longer be an America of the first world and an America of the third world. In the mission of Justice, and of Hope, in the Spirit

It was a privilege for me to visit our sisters in Brazil; to taste and touch another culture with its particular way of being community and Church. Indeed it is a miracle "to look through each other's eyes for an instant."