## COURIER-JOURNAL

## CONTRACTOR STREET Incompage Divis

## Brident

The Diocese of Rochester is looking for people to send to the mission in its "sister" Diocese of Labasco, Mexico and starting this month those who have already experienced mission life high in that mountain jungle are spelling, to groups throughout the area.

"I just wanna yank people down from Rochester; and take them down to Mexico and say, "Look here is the Church, here is the Church alive," Sister Carob Cimino said last week

Sister Carol and her co-congregationist in the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Mary Ann Mayer, have just returned from a month in the Tabasco mission, as adjuncts to the permanent team of Rochester missioners there.

"And the Church is alive because the 'people' want it to be alive," she said, constantly citing the efforts of the "barefoot campesinos (peasants)" to make the Gospel vital in their daily lives.

The Sisters and the family of Thomas and Germanne Knapp were the first diocesans to work as temporary missioners under the direction of the permanent team established from here last year: And they have returned to Rochester to encourage area.

persons with good health and a knowledge of Spanish to ign on with the effort

"The area is remote, isolated," Sister Carol said last week. "You don't go there for a vacation. There was no electricity or plumbing. And you know what it's like in the jungle at night? It's dark."

In addition, the Sisters said, there are scorpions and snakes.

And rain-swollen rivers; wet, slippery mountain trails the width of a loaf of bread; 115 degree temperatures with tropical humidity: "It's just plain dangerous, just treach-erous," Sister Carol said.

And yet, "It's the most exciting thing, because the most alive thing there is the Church."

"And the people realize that unless they breathe life into the Church, they're not going to have a Church," Sister Mary Ann said

"When you look at their lives, they don't have anything no heat, no running water. The volcano destroyed two

there was just a little segment withbuild Sister Carol agreed: The dog and town. There was a dot of caro

town. There was a slot of, cashing and sold ball. nothing." Sister Mary Ann; an eight year velocity of the SM missions in Brazil and a former temporiry addite (singled on with this year's summermission berefile) (singled on with the second on the provide) (singled on the second of the second on the second on the second of the second on the second of the second on the second of the second of the second on the second of th would give me a real minister experience." And so, this year, "we really honkered down, she in the campointos"), houses, and were entirely dependent on the

community," she said. If wath wonderful experience?" Since Many Ann Haras the people really seemed to welcome the fact that we were

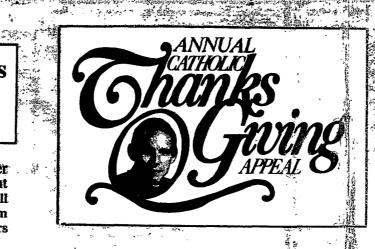
The Sisters tell stories of being invited to dinice is g, the chicken and A State Arrows A sale Arrows Milling Arrows

Sister Carol said: Nevertheles, it was not the bospitality, for these faith the people., which most impressed the Sisters Both of them clied a celebration of the Word, say ught as 7 rem. The church was duly every main the hughlight remay maken. Attending with women curching behaves the be-see

**Division of Urban Services Migrant Farm Camps** 1983-84

Respecting her seniority and responding to her warmth and charm, the Mexican migrant farmworkers in the camps around Brockport call Sister Maria Cristina "Madre", the Spanish term for "mother." "She is the only one of the sisters who is given that title," says Sister Maria Ines. In her 12th year of ministry in our diocese and

at an age when most people are retired, Sister Maria Cristina still drives an average of 50 miles a day making her rounds at the camps. She is a member of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit who minister to the influx of Spanishspeaking Catholics that came to our diocese at the invitation of Bishop Sheen, and they have become an essential part of a ministry that reaches out into Livingston, Monroe, Ontario and Wayne counties. The other six missionary sisters minister to 10 parishes in the city of Rochester where there are significant numbers of Hispanics. "Every year there are different people in the camps, but even when we first meet, it's like we have known one another for a long time," Sister



Maria Cristina says with surprise. Anyone who meets this enthusiastic sister who radiates happy ness and charm can readily understand why people





quickly feel that she is an old friend. 17.7

Sister is alarmed by the change in the religious practice of these Mexican-Americans, \*For the first time I am meeting Mexican farmworkers who are Jehovah's Witness and Pentecostals," she reports. "This year other religious denominations are coming to the camps with buses and station wagons with large speakers that play music to get the peoples' attention. Religion which once united these people is becoming devisive and other denominations are making inroads because these people are out of touch with the Catholic Church, \*\*

The families arrive in April or May and star through November. The first thing Sister Maria Cristina does in the Spring is to go from camp to camp taking a census of the families. Once she determines peoples' needs, she begins a sacramental program. She regularly prepares families and individuals for Baptism, First Communion and marriage. "For some of the families I am the first contact they have with the Church," Sister Maria. explains. "Even in Texas they live in camps 50. they don't have any formal experience of parish or of a regular sacramental life."

Sister Maria Cristina is quick to acknowledge her many dedicated helpers. The priests with the Spanish Apostolate celebrate the sacranients, S Michael's Parish in Rochester provides her with a Spanish choir, and Josephine Otero and Mercede Franco regularly accompany her to the camps. Since they are serving communities with limited financial resources, the seven Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit are entirely supported by the people of our diocese through the Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal.

Thanks Giving Appeal Their corder = from Guadalupe, Mericol-regards Rochester as a foreign mission. I just hope that these Missionary Sisters will communitor recognize our anission territory right here in the Diocese of Rochester " commented Pather John Mulligan, diocesan director of the Sisters serve We could not do the job without the sisters serve We could not do the job without them Sister Maria Cristina sums and doin anonome this way. "I get west dissound using more phone this way. "I get west dissound using more phone don't respond, but the love of God theps, no going."

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