

# Missioner Is Aided by St. Margaret Mary Parish

Thanks in large measure to the generosity of parishioners of St. Margaret Mary Church in Rochester, parishioners of St. Mbagu Church in the diocese of Mlaga, Tanzania, are pressing sunflower oil, and as a consequence are eating better and are able to care better for their skin.

The East African parish has for some time been the focus of action on the part of St. Margaret Mary parishioners; and this past fall, they were able to hear first-hand both the needs and the results of their concern.

The parish was visited by Father Roland Dubourt, the White Father missionary who is pastor of St. Mbagu, and his superior, Father Robert Chaput.

St. Mbagu is five years old, Father Dubourt said in an interview. It stretches 100 miles along the mountain ridges separating Malawi and Zambia from Tanzania.

The elevation varies, he said, from 5,000 to 10,000 feet above sea level; and the rainfall varies also, from 25 inches per year in the lower elevations to 100 inches in the upper. It is an infertile place, he said. Erosion has carried off most of the top soil.

Nevertheless, such root crops as sweet potatoes, cassava and yams do well. Bananas, too, are suited to the environment.

Father Dubourt observed that with applications of manure and chemical fertilizers, good cereal crops can be grown, among them corn, millet and wheat. Beans do well, he said, and are used as protein.

And coffee and tea are

productive enough to act as cash crops.

The population of the area is 80,000. The people are members of two tribes, the Wandali and the Walambya. "They mix easily," he said, "and intermarry. They are farmers, peasants, who till the soil with hand tools."

The standard of life there, he said, is very poor, "when we compare with our standards. But if they work normally, they have adequate food, mostly a vegetarian diet, and sufficient clothing."

There are three White Fathers in St. Mbagu, Fathers Donald McLeod and Marc Angers work as a team with Father Dubourt.

"We try to do the work that Christ started in Israel," Father Dubourt said. "We announce the Good News of salvation, but we also wish to cure the sick and give hope to the poor."

He said that his team encourages its Christian parishioners to act as missionaries to their own people. In addition, each community in the 25,000-square-mile parish elects its own leader. The leaders are then called to meet at the mission headquarters "to deepen their knowledge of the faith," he said.

The result of five years of work by everyone, he said, is 55 small Christian communities scattered throughout the area. "These communities get Mass six or seven times a year, many of which are on weekdays. On all other Sundays, the communities organize their own worship. We ask each community to

prepare young boys and girls, to teach them to serve their communities in various ways," he said.

He listed some of those ways as walking an hour and a half to meet the priest and accompany him to church, cooking a meal for the visiting priest, sweeping the floor of the church.

"From these young people we hope to get the apostles of the future, priests, nuns and lay leaders," he said.

That dimension of missionary activity, he said, has another side. "Jesus showed his concern for people. He cured the sick and gave hope to the poor. We try to do similar work."

"However, we do not want to be paternalistic givers of things," he said. "Our aim is to help people help themselves."

The missionaries encourage and help build schools and dispensaries. They teach, through the Christian communities, ways of improving agricultural output through the use of better seed, fertilizers, contour tilling and irrigation.

In addition, the team is also showing people in the area how to get sugar from sugar cane; and how to both raise firewood and stop erosion at the same time by reforestation.

"We actually grow trees in plastic bags and sell them to people at a low price," Father Dubourt said.

And, last, but not least, the missionaries are encouraging



Father Chaput, left, and Father Dubourt

the use of sunflower oil among the people. The area is well-suited to growing sunflowers, Father Dubourt

said, and an oil-extracting machine would prove a great asset.

It was at that point that the

generosity of St. Margaret Mary parishioners was most evident as they took up a collection for the machine.

## Chilean Archbishop Critical of Pinochet; Pope Urges Peace

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II has called for a return to peace in Chile, a country marked by strong anti-government dissent and a harsh crackdown by the military government on its opponents in November.

The pope also praised the "noble tradition of democratic life" which once ruled the South American country. He spoke Nov. 18 during his Sunday Angelus talk in St. Peter's Square. On the same

day a strongly worded pastoral letter was read in churches in Santiago, Chile, criticizing the state of siege imposed by the country's president, Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

The letter, written by Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno of Santiago, said the state of siege has worsened church-state relations, imposed censorship, allowed the government to raid shantytowns and allowed security forces to arbitrarily

arrest people suspected of being government opponents.

Pope John Paul said that "worrying news" continues coming from Chile.

"In remembering the noble tradition of democratic life and the Christian heritage which marks Chile's history, I hope that it is possible that serenity, concord and peace return to this country," the pope said in a 100-word statement.

Pinochet came to power in September 1973 in a bloody coup that overthrew the constitutionally elected government of President Salvador Allende, a Marxist. Prior to the 1973 coup Chile had about 40 years of civilian rule under a constitution which provided for presidential elections every six years.

Archbishop Fresno issued his letter Nov. 14 and ordered it read in churches Nov. 18.

## NE Assembly Sets Officials

Father Robert O'Neill, official of the diocesan marriage Tribunal, will speak on annulments at the fall regional assembly of the Northeast Region, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 29 at St. Ambrose Church.

According to Eileen V. Bareis, president of the region, "Since the new Code of Canon Law went into effect nearly one year ago, there have been several changes made in regard to Church annulments.

"In his presentation, Father O'Neill will share the

work of the Tribunal, answer questions and share his experience over several years of working with the Tribunal.

"All parish staff members, regional delegates, parish council and committee members are urged to attend, as well as any interested parishioners."

## Auditions Slated For Alumni Play

The audition schedule for the Bishop Kearney Alumni Theater Guild was posted last week as 1-5 p.m. and 7-11 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 24; and 7-11 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 25, in the school auditorium.

At the same time a general production meeting will be held with all prospective back-stagers.

The guild will stage "Mame" on the first two weekends in February.

The proceeds from the event will benefit the high school.

## Turkey Dinner Almost Set; Pies Needed

Geneva — The Community Lunch Program will serve a complete turkey dinner beginning at noon today (Wednesday, Nov. 21) at North Presbyterian Church, 90 Lewis St.

In addition to turkey and stuffing, the menu will include mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, corn, string beans, turnips, cider, coffee and tea. Homemade apple and pumpkin pies will complete the meal.

Much of the food has already been donated but sponsors report a need for 25 pies. Anyone interested in helping should contact Betty Sweetland, 789-8367, Carl Ritz, 789-2686, or North Presbyterian Church, 781-2800.

The program is coordinated by the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry. Last year, more than 170 guests enjoyed the dinner.



## Hispanics Gather at St. Francis

More than 80 Hispanic youths and adults attended a seminar on vocations last Saturday at the St. Francis Xavier School hall. The program was sponsored by the diocesan Vocations Office and the Spanish Apostolate. Among the speakers were Sister Veronica Mendez RCD, top, director of Hispanic vocations for the Archdiocese of New York, and Father Vidal Martinez, spiritual director for a



Hispanic youth movement in the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J. Above,

Bishop Matthew H. Clark greets some of the participants.

## Cenacle Plans Special Rite For New Year

The Cenacle Renewal Center is planning a special New Year celebration including a presentation by Father David Mura, quiet prayer time, midnight Mass and refreshments.

The program opens 8 p.m.

New Year's Eve and continues, with overnight accommodations, through breakfast on New Year's Day.

An offering of \$25 will be asked of those staying

overnight, and \$10 for participation in the evening program only.

Reservations and further information are available from the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-8755.

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