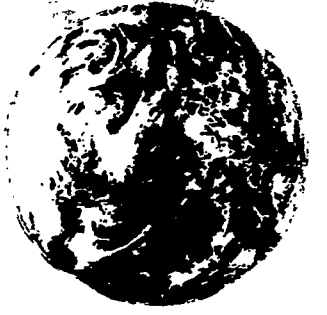


To Look Through Each OTHER'S EYES

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



Logo by Sr. Maureen Servus RSM

Move from Selma, Ala., 'Challenging' for SSJs

On Sept. 30, Rochester Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Mary Maloy, and Sister of St. Joseph of Carondolet, Sister Kathleen Stack, moved from Selma to Pine Apple, Ala. Rather than drive the 40 miles from Selma to their work in Pine Apple each day, they decided that it would be better to move closer.

Pine Apple is a town of 340 which is still experiencing the effects of the failure of the local bank in 1967.

Sister Mary's work is mainly outreach from the rural health clinic. She provides transportation and sets up educational programs -- a film series on health topics, a summer tutorial program, and a family life education series for seventh and eighth graders.

"Generally," she comments, "outreach means anything that is not the duty of the doctor, nurse, or book-keeper." This includes negotiating with the Board of



Rochester Sister of St. Joseph Mary Maloy, left, visits Alberta McWilliams as part of her outreach work from the health clinic in Pine Apple. "Our work is very personal, encouraging and challenging," writes Sister Mary.

Education to set up a dental flouride sealant program, getting boxes of clothes from Selma and making them available at the clinic, helping people get in touch with agencies for welfare, social security, food stamps, and the like.

The two sisters have felt warm hospitality since their arrival, already having been invited to attend several religious and social functions.

Sister Mary speaks of her experience attending the Sunday service at the

Macedonia Baptist Church: "One of our clinic ladies, who is a missionary in the Church, gave the sermon. It was a 'first' for their church. The minister explained that he believed that the Lord was speaking through this woman. In typical Black Baptist style, she spoke on what it means to be a Christian. The congregation responded, 'Amen! Praise the Lord! Yes! Well! Thank you Jesus!' It was a powerful experience of prayer for Sister Kathleen and me."

Address Of the Month

Sisters of St. Joseph
Box 12
Pine Apple, Ala.
36768

Prayer to Obtain Food and Work written by a Chilean

*Oh, Mary, humble woman, mother of workers, listen to our troubles and come to our aid.
You lived in a worker's home in Nazareth. Your spouse and your son were carpenters. You understand the anguish in which we live day after day.
We have no work nor money. The table is empty; there is no daily bread.
Our children are crying from hunger; they faint in the classrooms. We suffer every kind of sickness without being able to buy medicine.*

We're caught in a bind; we can't make payments for electricity, water or rent; at the neighborhood store we're no longer permitted to charge. The atmosphere in the house has turned cold; there is no more laughing or demonstration of affection. Our nerves are on edge; we're tired of so much suffering; we quarrel among ourselves; love has disappeared.

In our desperation, we come to you, good Mother, so that you will speak to our all-powerful God in our favor. Tell our heavenly Father not to forget the poor, the hungry, the abandoned. We are His children. We are not asking for alms; we have a right to work. How long must we continue to walk the streets all day begging bread and looking for odd jobs just to survive?

Virgin Mary, remember all that you lacked in your home in Nazareth. Help us to find work and restore our dignity. Teach us not to be egotistic nor to be wrapped up in our own problems, but to struggle without fear so that all workers may be united.

Grant that our brothers and sisters who today have work and are not suffering the scourge of unemployment may help us by being in solidarity with us. Touch the hearts of those who govern us; change their economic plans which are creating such poverty. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

Sister Margaret Mungovan, Mercy missionary in Santiago, Chile, comments on the above prayer:

"This prayer, widely used in community gatherings, indicates very well the conditions in which the vast number of Chileans who live in the teeming areas of poor find themselves. There are families who go for two or three days at a time without eating. One of the couples preparing their child for First Communion hadn't been showing up at the weekly meetings. When we investigated, we learned that the wife was going out at 5 a.m. each day to areas on the far side of the city to search through the rubbish to find castaways that might be repaired by her husband. Then they tried to sell such things at the open market. They

were ashamed to admit this, and the wife said that at her first experience of going through the rubbish cans, she cried from the humiliation. Both spouses are in poor health. The husband suffers from an ulcer but can't buy the milk he needs to relieve it.

"As is evident in this case, the poverty isn't caused by laziness, which some people falsely believe, but by an economic system beyond their control. Many professionals and skilled workers have had to lay aside their talents and enroll themselves in a form a what almost amounts to slave labor since they receive less than \$50 a month for demeaning work. For how many days can a family of five or more be fed on that -- without taking care of any other necessity?"

"The weak discover that they can make themselves strong and invincible by uniting -- uniting not to attack others, but to defend themselves and their rights as human beings. For those rights do not arise from political power nor from mere military strength, but are the gift of the Creator...Holy breathing of God, I feel You stirring."

— Dom Heider Camara
Bishop of Recife, Brazil

The Tabasco Experience

During July this year, Tom and Germaine Knapp and their four children -- Matthew, 14; Maria, 12; Mark, 10; and Elizabeth, 8 -- served as part of the Rochester summer missionary team in Tabasco, Mexico. The following pictures and words by the Knapp children tell the story of their experience.



We went in during the afternoon (1). Some people came up to the road to help us carry our stuff down the mountain and over the river. The next day we moved everything into the "Casa del Maestro" (teacher's house) where we lived (2). Lots of kids came to see us. These two little boys (3) lived next door in a bamboo, one-room house like the rest of the families. They were curious about us. Our good friend, Jesus (4), took care of his little brother and niece while the fathers worked in the fields and the mothers washed clothes and cooked over an open fire. (5) Maria, left, and Elizabeth bathed in the stream and washed clothes on the rocks like all the other girls and women did. We cried the day we left because we had made so many friends. Nearly all the people in the rancharia (6) came to the river to say goodbye.

