



Please place your contribution in the collection at Mass on
Saturday or Sunday
May 18-19, 1985

Testimonial of Missionaries

Working and living with the people of Chile has been one of the most important conversion experiences of my life.

"The words and message of Jesus take on a new and deeper meaning when they are read and lived in the midst of poverty and oppression.

"What a privilege to be able to share life with people who have embodied the Beatitudes in their lives and walk among us as living testimonies to the words of Jesus: 'Happy the poor in spirit . . . Happy the persecuted . . . Happy those thirsting for justice . . .'

"To be touched daily by the widow who gives of her 'mite' is to know the joy of Jesus as He stood watching the woman drop all she had into the temple treasury.

"To see people lose their loved ones through the tactics of political oppressors — exile, torture and murder — and then to hear them say a prayer for the dictators, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do,' is to hear the Good Friday message prayed over and over again.

"The Chilean experience has allowed me and the Sisters of Mercy to come closer to understanding the real meaning of the Christian message: 'Whenever you do this for one of the least important of my people, you do it for Me.' Yet over and above this we have been offered an important conversion experience."

—Sister Janet Korn, RSM

"About 8% of the population is impoverished, living on or below subsistence level. Consequently, most of the people aspire primarily to satisfying their basic human needs: a steady job, their own home, education for their children, proper nutrition and health care for the families. Their situation, in many cases, is so precarious that they spend their time and energies just surviving."

— Sister Jean Bellini, SSJ, Sao Felix do Araguaia, MT, Brazil

"We are sustained by these funds, and because of this we are able to extend ourselves to those in the greatest need. We have worked with displaced rural families, the unemployed, laundry women, and other workers who are barely able to sustain their families on their small salaries. We have enabled persons to be trained as catechists, health clinic workers, and nurses. Without the funds we receive from the diocese, this kind of work would be impossible."

— Sister Ann Lafferty, SSJ

Bishop Clark will celebrate Mass on Channel 10 on Diocesan Missions Sunday at 8:30 A.M.

