

Santa Mision Opens in Geneva

Nearly 100 people gathered Sunday evening, July 28, at St. Francis DeSales Church in Geneva to embark on a special journey — the diocese's fifth annual "Santa Mision." Organized by Father Nicolas Menjivar, pastoral assistant for Hispanic ministry in the Geneva/Newark areas, the mission is dedicated to evangelization of the Hispanic community.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey officiated at the opening ceremony of the mission, which included exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, a gospel reading, music by Reynosos, a Hispanic children's choir, and the powerful preaching of Brother Rocabel Chamorro of the Congregacion de San Juan Evangelista, a Puerto Rican lay order devoted to spreading the gospel.

"The mission is in your hands," Brother Chamorro said. To emphasize his point, he shared a parable. As a preacher began to teach one day, an enemy trying to destroy his credibility approached with a dove hidden in his hands asking, "Is the bird alive or dead?"

After pausing for a moment, the preacher replied "Its fate is entirely in your hands."

Likewise, Chamorro told the gathering, the mission was in their hands. "The Lord is coming to visit you. You must decide whether to accept him or not," he said.

Also present to celebrate the paraliturgical service were Father Paul Freemesser and Deacons Carlos Vargas of St. Francis Assisi, Nemesio Martinez of Mt. Carmel, Juan Libron of St. Francis Xavier and Julio Vazquez of St. Michael's, all from Rochester.

Brother Chamorro is president of his order, more commonly known as Hermanos Cheo after its two founders. Deacon Vargas

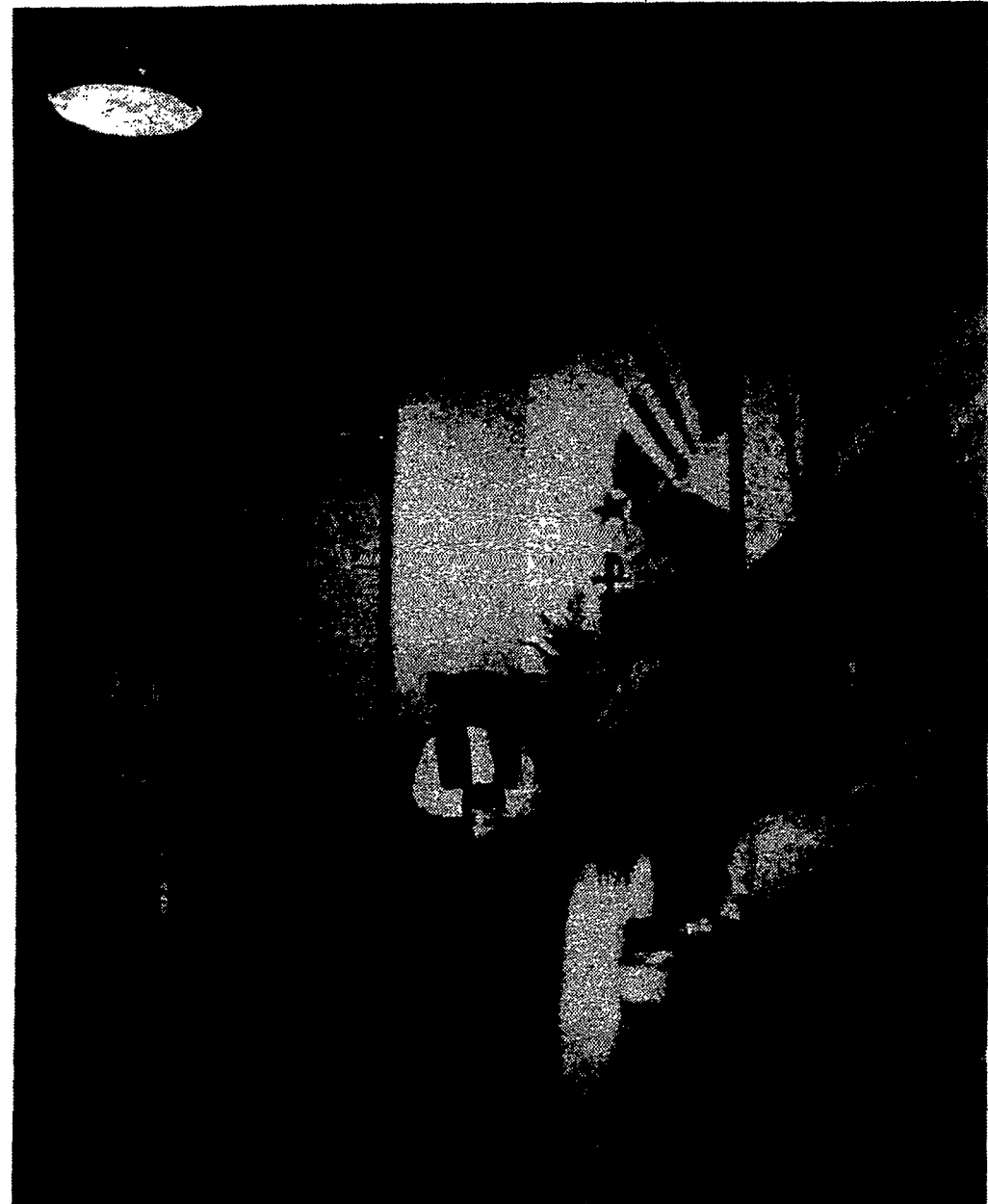
noted that it is a uniquely Puerto Rican institution within the Church of which all Hispanics can be proud.

Santa Mision will continue each night this week at St. Francis DeSales, at 7 p.m. Next week, the mission will move to St. Michael's Church in Newark on the same schedule. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be present for the closing ceremony on Saturday, August 10, at 7:30 p.m.



Teresa A. Parsons/Courier-Journal

Lily Torres, 10 (left), and Ruth Roque, 7, warm up to do their part in the opening ceremony of Santa Mision. They are two of six members of a Hispanic children's choir called Reynosos, or Triumph, directed by Jose Santell.



Father Nicolas Menjivar and several deacons prepare to lead the closing procession. At left in the pew is Brother Rocabel Chamorro, who will lead the two week retreat.

La Santa Mision Comienza

Cerca de 100 personas se reunieron el domingo por la noche, 28 de julio, en la Iglesia Saint Frances DeSales, en Geneva para embarcarse en una jornada especial — el quinto año de la santa mision de la diocesis. La mision organizada por el Padre Nicolas Menjivar, asistente de pastoral del ministerio para hispanos en las areas de Geneva-Newark, es dedicada a la evangelizacion de la comunidad hispana.

El Obispo Auxiliar Dennis W. Hickey oficio en la ceremonia de apertura de la mision, la cual incluyó: Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento y Bendición, una lectura del evangelio, música por los Reynosos (un coro de niños hispanos), y la poderosa predicación del Hermano Rocabel Chamorro de la congregación de San Juan Evangelista, una orden del laicos puertorriqueña dedicada a propagar el evangelio.

"La mision está en sus manos," dijo el Hermano Chamorro. Para enfatizar su punto compartió una parábola: "un día cuando un predicador comenzo — sus ensen — fianzas, un enemigo tratando de que los demás no creyeran en él, se le acercó con una paloma escondida en sus manos y le preguntó, "Esta paloma está viva o muerta?"

Después de algunos momentos, el predicador contestó: "su destino está totalmente en tus manos."

De esa misma forma, dijo Chamorro a los allí reunidos que la mision estaba en sus manos: "El Señor viene a visitarlos, ustedes tienen que decidir si lo aceptan o no," dijo él.

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Continued on Page 17

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