

Homeless Shelter

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week the city's planning commission rejected the Rogers' request for a permit that must accompany the required improvements. "We have to find out how to get these different parts of the city to agree," Dymkar said.

Garrison and Dymkar said they hope to meet with city officials this week to resolve the zoning problem, and also intend to contact neighborhood organizations to explain their project. When asked what his next step will be, Gantt replied "I intend to fight this. We will wait and see what their next step is."

"I do not even believe that most of the parishioners understand what's involved," Thomas said. He and Gantt attended the open meeting when parishioners voted 199-3 to make the purchase. "They have the \$172,000 (the purchase price of the property) but where's the other money coming from? How can a poor parish come up with that

kind of money?"

At best, the conflict is between faith and skepticism. Gantt asserted that the church intends the purchase as nothing more than a business deal hiding behind the parishioners' good intent to help the homeless.

"It seems outlandish from a practical standpoint," Thomas said of Corpus Christi's proposal. "Why don't they use the money to build an addition to the church or build a new building? What do they need those lots for?"

Dymkar admitted that the church doesn't yet have the additional \$100,000 to renovate the building yet. But she noted that the money to purchase the property came very quickly. Responding to Thomas' skepticism, she simply said "what he calls naivete, we call faith."

Santa Mision: Building Community

By Teresa A. Parsons

Brother Rocabel Chamorro believes that success in a mission is not measured by numbers of people, but by their interest in the singing, the preaching, the message. "I'd rather preach to 10 interested people than 100 who are not," he said. Brother Chamorro, a member of the Congregation of St. John the Baptist from Puerto Rico, has been the featured guest at Santa Mision in the Geneva and Newark during the past two weeks.

"People come at first out of curiosity," he remarked. "On the first night, there are distances between the people and preacher, among the people themselves, and between the preacher and people. All are unknown to one another."

But by Saturday night, August 10, when the mission closed at St. Michael's Church in Newark, the distance had considerably narrowed. During his closing address, Brother Chamorro and those who gathered were a picture of unity, laughing together one

moment and with tears in their eyes the next.

Another special guest, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, celebrated Mass for the nearly 200 participants, assisted by Father Edward Steinkirchner, St. Michael's pastor, Father Nicolas Menjivar and Deacons Julio Vasquez from St. Michael's in Rochester and Nemesio Martinez from Our Lady of Mount Carmel. At the sign of peace each and every individual and family came forward to greet the bishop and ministers at the altar.

Santa Mision responded to an exclusively Puerto Rican tradition, the lay order of preachers, nicknamed Hermanos Cheos, to which Brother Chamorro belongs. Father Menjivar explained that a missionary or preacher is not expected to be a priest in the eyes of Puerto Ricans, but to dedicate himself to preaching alone.

"The Puerto Ricans are an active people — hot blooded," Brother Chamorro added. "They like their preachers to speak with energy, to be very convincing and physical, with enthusiasm."

Haciendo Comunidad

El Hermano Rocabel Chamorro cree que el éxito de una misión no se mide por el número de personas que asiste, sino por su interés al cantar, la predicación y el mensaje. "Yo prefiero predicarle a 10 personas que estén interesadas en vez de a cien que no lo estén," dijo el. El Hermano Chamorro, un miembro de la congregación San Juan Bautista en Puerto Rico, ha sido el invitado destacado en la Santa Misión en Geneva y Newark durante las últimas dos semanas.

"A principio la gente viene por curiosidad," comentó el. "La primera noche hay distancias entre la gente y el predicador, entre la gente misma y entre el predicador y la gente, se desconocen unos a otros."

Pero ya para la noche del 10 de agosto cuando terminó la misión en la Iglesia

San Miguel en Newark, la distancia había disminuido considerablemente. Durante su discurso de clausura, el Hermano Chamorro y los allí reunidos eran un cuadro de unidad, riendo juntos en algunos momentos y con lagrimas en los ojos en otros.

El Obispo Matthew H. Clark, otro invitado especial, celebró la misa para casi 200 participantes, ayudado por el Padre Edward Steinkirchner, pastor de la Iglesia San Miguel, el Padre Nicolás Menjivar y los Diáconos Julio Vásquez, de la Iglesia San Miguel de Rochester y Nemesio Martínez de la Iglesia Monte Carmelo de Rochester también. Durante el signo de paz personas y familias se acercaron al altar para saludar al obispo y a los ministros.



Sunday Evening

A quiet, leisurely look back at this week's calendar on this lovely summer evening puts me in touch with persons of all kinds who are food for my life.

I remember them now as individuals who, through the faith and love they bring to daily living, are part of the ongoing renewal of the world. They are people who help me look beyond the surface of reality to its depth; who make me attend to lasting values when I can be caught up in passing things; who point to the lustrous when I can so easily be fixed on the dreary.

Another way of expressing this theme — and describing their gift — is to say that they are people who, by the way they live, help me to appreciate the beautiful opening prayer of today's Eucharistic liturgy: "God our Father, may we love you in all things and above all things and reach the joy you have prepared for us beyond all imagining."

People who have such a gift — and I hope you can name some from your own experience — are able to appreciate for themselves and share with others ordinary experiences which raise hopes and expand the spirit. At the same time, they have the capacity to see and to help others to perceive seeds of new life even in moments of suffering.

They are unafraid of their own weakness because they appreciate it as part of the human condition and as a vessel for the Lord's power.

Such individuals have no need to dominate or to be in charge. Their knowledge that we are all totally depen-

dent on a magnanimous God leaves them free and anxious to serve.

Their preference is to share rather than to amass; to praise rather than to criticize; to invite rather than to impose; to free rather than to impose borders on others.

They are confident in the abiding presence of the risen Lord among the people He loves so dearly. This confidence allows them to meet challenges to change as invitations to new life rather than as burdens to be avoided at any cost.

As you read these words do you have any sense at all that you could be described in such terms? "No!" you say?

Please don't respond too quickly or without a loving and prayerful review, not simply of the things you do each day or of your ongoing relationships but of the deeper meaning of all of these.

Sometimes we come to deeper levels of living not by any radical change in the specific things we do nor even in the general patterns of our life. Rather it comes from the grace to appreciate the importance of even the most routinely ordinary things we do — precisely because God is not only above all things but in all things. My encouragement to you is that you pray for that grace through the days ahead.

I am indebted to many for the good bread they gave to me this week: the McDonald and McFadden families of Saint Patrick's in Oswego, the Ferrara family of St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls, Joe Hart, Luis Ruberte, Joe Champlin, Peg Brennan and John Mulligan. Peace to all.

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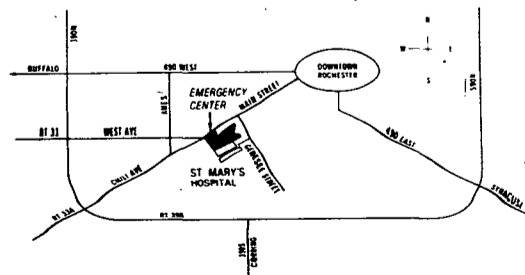
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