

Features



photos by Bonnie Trafelet
 Bishop Rafael Garcia Gonzales of Tabasco blesses vehicles at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Brockport following a special Mass for the Hispanic community. Acting as the bishop's guide and interpreter is Father P.J. Ryan, head of the Tabasco mission team. The vehicles belong to farm workers preparing for their journey to southern states (far right photo). In the photo at right, Jorge Leyva of Mexico City bids farewell to Bishop Garcia. Several other farm workers introduce themselves to Bishop Garcia during a reception at a migrant camp (below).

'Godless state'

The program has truck, started two coffee co-op, and s and agronomy. p of people from with Operation e how the projects Jean and Robert Sister Chris Lloyd with them a dona- sco through a car burn on Sunday, h Father Ryan in abasco on Novem- er November 19. eople of Tabasco McGlure and Fa-

"They were about the most hospitable bunch of folks I ever met," McGlure said, citing people who brought members of the mission team sodas every day for lunch, even though sodas cost a couple of pesos — pesos they often couldn't afford to spend. "They recognized the importance of people working with the Church in their lives," McGlure said. He added that the people also appreciated team members' genuine interest in their lives. "They appreciated the fact that we cared about them as people."

Bishop Garcia picked up on that theme, admitting that the people of Tabasco were surprised to see people willing to leave behind the wealth and comfort of the United States to join them in their poverty. But he pointed out that poverty also holds a lesson — only when you suffer can you really love.



Betsy Giannino (far right photo) gets showered with water after having soap dumped on her head. Giannino and other members of the youth group at St. Mary's Parish in Auburn attempted to wash cars and themselves to raise money for the diocesan mission in Tabasco, Mexico. Rhonda Bent retaliates with a wet rag after Chris Maneri zaps her with a water hose (right). Jenny Balyszak tries to dry herself off while keeping a wary watch for possible sabotage.