

DIOCESAN NEWS

Venezuelan bishop renews local ties

By Mike Latona
Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — For the last three years, Bishop Mariano Jose Parra Sandoval has taken much of August to travel to the Rochester Diocese, where he was a seminarian some 30 years ago.

But this isn't vacation time. Bishop Parra led the annual Santa Mision in Rochester in 1999 and 2000. He also takes time during his visits to appeal for funds for his Diocese of San Fernando de Apure, Venezuela.

"I have to do this," Bishop Parra, 56, said in accented but clear English. "My diocese is a very, very poor diocese — the poorest even in Venezuela."

Bishop Parra spent the evenings of Aug. 21-25 leading the 17th annual Santa Mision, held this year at Rochester's Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Also during his stay, he was scheduled to make appeals at St. Cecilia's Parish, Irondequoit; St. Thomas the Apostle, Irondequoit; Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity, Wolcott-Red Creek-Fair Haven; and St. Michael's in Newark. The bishop plans to travel back to his own diocese Sept. 5.

At the Santa Mision, Bishop Parra led the Rochester Latino community on the theme of the nuclear family. He encouraged mutual respect between parents and children, and creating an environment of love and openness rather than repression and fear.

Bishop Parra also encouraged families not to isolate themselves, but to reach out and support their communities.

According to Gabriela Jaramillo, diocesan director of the Spanish Apostolate, the mission was attended by approximately 80 people each night. These participants came predominately from Hispanic parishes in the city of Rochester.

Bishop Parra said that his goal for the mission was to bring the Latino community in Rochester more deeply into its faith. He said that Rochester Latinos are challenged by language and cultural differences, not to mention the comparatively diverse religious settings.

"They see many denominations. Some-

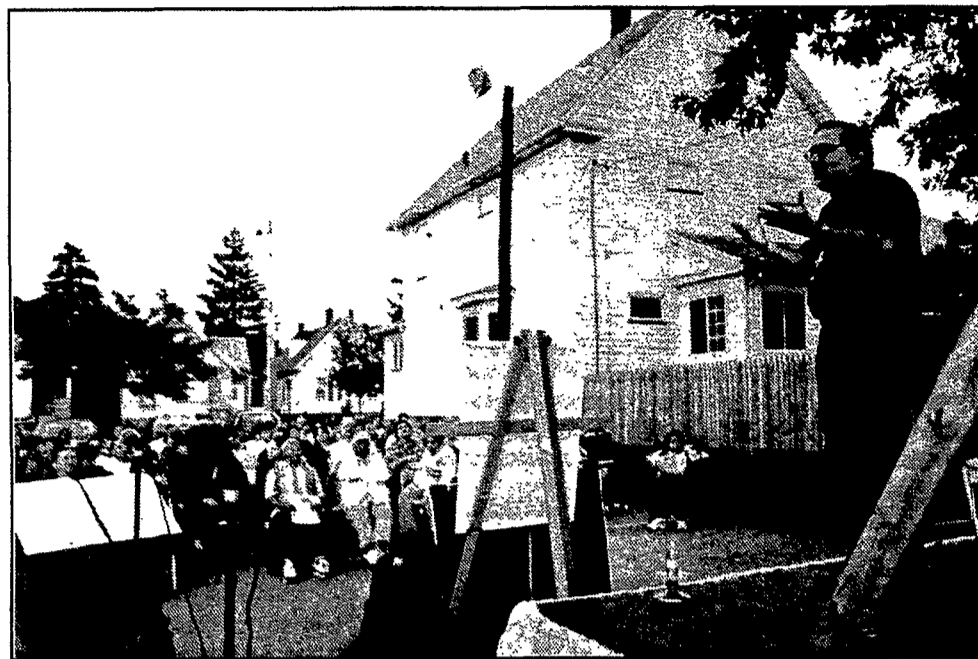


Photo by Andrea A. Dixon/Staff photographer

Bishop Mariano Jose Parra Sandoval speaks at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Rochester on Aug. 21. The Venezuelan bishop led the diocesan Spanish mission that the parish hosted last week.

times I find them a little confused," he said.

Bishop Parra has also raised awareness at the mission, and in other parishes, about the plight of his people in San Fernando de Apure. The diocese is about 95 percent Catholic and is extremely poor in every sense, he said, "housing, health, jobs and education. They're also low on hope."

Bishop Parra noted that his diocese opened a home for undernourished children in 1999. The home is staffed by volunteers. "We have doctors, nurses, lay people who work without any payment, because they want to help," he remarked.

Bishop Parra is also seeking funds so that the 20 major seminarians from his diocese can afford to attend seminaries in South America.

Jaramillo, whose office sponsored Santa Mision, noted that participants donated \$1,174 for Bishop Parra's diocese.

Bishop Parra is a native of Maracaibo, Venezuela. He attended the former St. Bernard's Seminary on scholarship from

1969 to 1971 and was ordained a transitional deacon in 1970 at Rochester's Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish by the late Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who died Aug. 27.

Bishop Parra also did his field work with the Hispanic community at Mount Carmel. He was ordained a priest in 1971 in Maracaibo; was a priest for 21 years in the Venezuelan archdiocese of Cumana; and was ordained bishop of San Fernando de Apure in 1994.

Prior to 1998, Bishop Parra had only returned to the Rochester Diocese twice since his seminary days. Now here for a third year in a row, Bishop Parra said he has enjoyed renewing acquaintances with both his Latino and non-Latino friends. In fact, he noted, at St. Cecilia's he ran into two people he hadn't seen since they attended his priest ordination in Venezuela.

However, Bishop Parra also said he's anxious to get back to his flock in San Fernando de Apure, where he tries to visit a different parish every weekend for Mass.

"I think Christ is asking me to be with them. They need me — not Mariano, but the bishop," he remarked. "They need to know that he's sharing with them their joys and sadnesses."

EDITORS' NOTE: Bishop Parra asked that anyone wishing to make donations to his diocese should send them to the Rochester diocesan Propagation of the Faith, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624.

Parishes to host talks about PBS TV series

In collaboration with diocesan parishes and a health institution, Catholic Family Center of Rochester will present follow-up discussions on the PBS TV series "On Our Own Terms: Movers on Dying," which will air in September. The discussions will be led by Catholic moral theologians at various diocesan sites.

Hosted by Bill and Judith Davidson Moyers, the PBS series will examine stories of how people die, the effect it has on families, the struggles caregivers undergo and the conflict between medical intervention and the need to comfort patients.

The series episodes tackle the following topics: Sunday, Sept. 10: "Living with Dying" examines how patients and caregivers living in the United States are looking for ways to overcome fear and denial associated with death; Monday, Sept. 11: "A Different Kind of Care" examines the evolution of palliative, or comfort, care which consists of pain management and the doctor's need to address a patient's psychological and spiritual condition as well as physical state; Tuesday, Sept. 12: "A Death of One's Own" examines the issues surrounding efforts to control the circumstances of one's death; and Wednesday, Sept. 13: "A Time to Change" examines individuals who provide palliative care to the uninsured and working poor. The series airs each night from 9-10:30 p.m.

"With Eyes Open," a WXXI Rochester production, will follow at 10:30-11 p.m. on WXXI.

Follow-up discussions will take place at the library at Good Shepherd Church, 3318 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta, on Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 7:30-9 p.m.; St. Joseph Church, 43 Gebhardt Road, Penfield, on Thursday, Sept. 21, from 7:15-8:45 p.m.; Holy Name of Jesus Church, 15 St. Martin's Way, Greece, on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9-11 a.m.; Mercy Care Adult Day Health Care at St. James Mercy Hospital, 411 Camsteo St., Hornell, on Monday, Sept. 18, 7-8:30 p.m.; and at St. Joseph Church, 206 Fremont St., Wayland, on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2-4 p.m.

For information, contact Marvin Mich, CFG director of social policy and research, at 716/262-7021.

Obituary

Sr. Rose Ellen Haefele, SSJ; 87

Sister Rose Ellen Haefele of the Sisters of St. Joseph died at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary on Aug. 11, 2000. She was 87.

Sister Rose Ellen was a native of Rochester and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Holy Rosary Parish in 1931. She earned her baccalaureate and master's degrees, with a concentration in history, from Nazareth College.

Sister Rose Ellen taught in various schools in the Diocese of Rochester for 46 years, and worked in parish ministry for eight years. Among the schools in which

she taught were: St. Mary, Auburn; St. Ambrose, Rochester; St. Agnes, Avon; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Patrick, Mt. Morris; and St. Rose, Lima. She taught history at Nazareth Academy for 24 years; for 18 of those years, she was head of the Social Studies and History Department.

Sister Rose Ellen was social director of Mariner House, Rochester, for six years and worked in parish ministry to the elderly for eight years.

In 1964 Sister Rose Ellen was chosen by Syracuse University to participate in a travel tour of India and the Philippines and served as a member of the New York State Teachers' panel at the International Conference of Asian Historians in Hong Kong.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 14 in the motherhouse chapel. Father Bruce Ammering was celebrant and homilist; Father William Gordinier concelebrated the Mass.

She is survived by nieces, nephews, cousins and her sisters in the congregation.

Contributions in her memory may be made to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave., Rochester NY 14618-3798.

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in
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PHONE (716) 336-6070
VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE: www.irondequoit.org/oktober.htm

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