

Latin America CALLS!

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WHO WINS IN BRAZIL?

Latin America Roundup

"Watch Latin America. Despite all the big problems, there's a new confidence among Catholic leaders."

So reports Jaime Fonseca, veteran newsmen and editor of Noticias Catolicas. After a three month trip around the continent, he sees hope for the future.

"The moderates aren't on top everywhere, but Catholic groups in recent years have rallied vigorously in many places to strengthen spiritual life and the Church's social programs," he says.

"They want the masses to recognize the Church as their true friend—and they're making headway."

"I wish this were a million," wrote an Alabama priest recently as he sent a \$100 check to the Latin America Victory Fund. "It is joined with prayer—and envy—for you all."

The mounting desire of U. S. priests, religious and laity to cast their lot with the needy millions of Latin America is a phenomenon today. They are becoming aware of the urgency of the apostolic problems of Latin America.

All the world's poor don't live in city slums. In a warm thank-you to Rev. Patrick Shanahan, assistant school superintendent of the Rockville Centre, L. I., diocese, acknowledging a gift from the school children there, a school teacher working among Panama's Guaymus Indians wrote:

"These youngsters here exist forgotten by government authorities, raised in unhealthy, anti-hygienic huts, deprived of the aid of modern medicine; creatures of rudimentary farm ways, leading a life of hunger and every sort of privation."

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

The fraternal love of nations is a joint edifice. To reach out one's hand is good; to offer one's heart is better.

Peace is generated in the laboratory of love. The raw materials of that laboratory are justice and mercy. — Archbishop Marty of Rheims.

LINE MAY TWIST BUT RED IS RED

The Communist line of propaganda may twist and turn, but always manages to stay the same. Despite recent events in Cuba, the Communists throughout Latin America are in com-



Red demonstration in Brazil.

plete solidarity in their efforts to create sweeping revolution.

Pablo Neruda, outstanding Communist at the recent Chilean Communist party congress, pledged to "our comrades in Cuba" that "at all times and under all circumstances, our thoughts and our efforts shall be turned toward the defense of the integrity of your revolution."

Chilean Reds, said Neruda, are sworn to imitate "the great, heroic lesson" that Cuban Reds have given all Latin America.

Church Combats Reds, Poverty

One of the world's most desperate struggles continues in Northeast Brazil where Roman Catholics and Communists are locked in combat over the fate of 23 million peasants threatened by starvation.

Known as Latin America's "number one trouble spot," the area has 25 million people, of whom 70 per cent are hungry and illiterate. The social problems are ghastly, and aggravated by the fact that three-fourths of the land is semi-arid.

Like the rest of Latin America's 200 million people, the Northeast Brazilians are 90 per cent Catholic. Today, in an all-out drive, to save them from Communism, the Church is sharpening fresh, new weapons.

Seek Social Changes

"Years ago," says Bishop Sales, "we fought social injustice by asking money from the rich to give to the poor. Now

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U.S. MEDICS IN MERCY MISSIONS

Smiling through facial deformities, a group of men, women and children recently welcomed a plastic surgery team to El Progreso, Honduras.

The U. S. visitors—a plastic surgeon, two anesthesiologists and a nurse—spent six weeks in El Progreso and operated almost daily before returning home to Florida. According to reports from Rev. John Murphy, S.J., El Progreso's pastor, the team hopes to return again.

The event serves to dramatize many similar efforts by U. S. doctors, dentists, nurses and technicians to aid the needy of Latin America. It is one example of the help being given by the Catholic Medical Mission Board, 10 W. 17th St., New York, N. Y., the only U. S. institution fulfilling this role.

Through CMMB, the Papal Volunteers are trying to enlist doctors, dentists, nurses and others for periods of service in Latin America. The need is great.

REDS BLOW UP CATHOLIC STATION TO STOP TRUTH

Bolivian Communists recently dynamited a Catholic radio station serving the miners in the highlands around Oruro. Local officials and Catholic miners quickly held a protest meeting.

"Why do the Communists want to stop our radio?" asked a miner. He answered his own question:

"Because it reaches into our homes to tell the truth about Red tactics, and because, through the radio, the padres teach us to read."

Reading Taught by Radio

Novel as the idea may seem to North Americans, the Church in Latin America is using radio very effectively in some areas to roll back illiteracy. In fact, the Church is fighting the con-

spiracy of the left by fighting the illiteracy of tens of millions of people.

In some areas, the illiteracy rate is 70 per cent. Unless the Church and other willing groups can teach them to read, the people will be "sitting ducks" for Communism. They must be given good things to read, too.

The La Paz Catholic newspaper pointed this out after the bombing. Observing that the Communists violently oppose efforts by the Church to eliminate illiteracy among Latin Americans, the editor said:

"We commit a crime in trying to eliminate ignorance, which is the indispensable factor in the development of extremism."

Chicago Volunteer Sees Mexican Indian Project

Practicality, not mere theory, is the keynote of the spreading lay apostolate in many Latin American countries. A recent witness to this is Helen Hagarty, a Chicago miss working in Mexico as a Papal Volunteer.

She described a lay Mexican project to improve the lot of



Miss Hagarty and Mexican children.

Indians in Central Mexico. The project is similar to others in Latin America.

"It has been my privilege to work with a dedicated group here named CENAMI," Miss Hagarty said. "It is trying to get to the bottom of poverty, ignorance and disease among 3 million Indians. Food, clothing and medicines, along with personal service by volunteers, are helping to alleviate misery."

"The aim is positive. CENAMI makes training available in reading, in agriculture, trades and home economics, and in hygiene and nursing."

BORDER MISSION IS BIG SUCCESS

Sixty baptisms, 57 First Communions, 207 in catechetical instruction, a big increase in Sunday Mass attendance, a vocation to the priesthood and another to the Papal Volunteers resulted from a border mission project recently completed by the Priest's Mission Assn. of the San Francisco Bay Area, in cooperation with the Grail.

Between July 8 and Aug. 31, 1962, U. S. teams including 15 priests, 12 laymen and nine lay women worked with Baja (lower) California teams to develop native apostolic leaders. Emphasis was on applied Christian social teaching.

The project was part of a continuing program of assistance and development carried on by the Priest's Mission Assn. for the Spanish-speaking in the Southwest and in Latin America. The project works under the title of LAMP—Latin American Mission Program.

Family Talks, Dances To Spread the Faith

When the record is written of the pioneer years of building the faith among Latin Americans, Dick, Carolyn, Chris, Mike and Tom Mishler will merit a golden chapter in it.

The family conducts the Catholic Cultural Institute for the bishop of Morelia, Mexico, and belongs to the Association for International Development (AID). From its Paterson, N.J., headquarters, AID has already placed a number of able families as Papal Volunteers in Latin America.

The Mishlers recently returned to Morelia after more than two months on a U. S. speaking tour.

"We were in at least 10 states and gave over 25 talks," they wrote. "Wherever we went, we usually demonstrated a few Mexican dances, too."

"We were on radio three times and on television once, and received quite a lot of newspaper publicity. Our reasons for all this were to promote lay mission work in general, to encourage lay mission vocations, to find regular, generous support for our rapidly expanding work, and to bring attention to the urgent situation in Latin America."

Prelate Pleads For Sacrifice, Reform

"Sacrifice and reform among those of us who have, must be our answer to those who have not, before hate shall have lit fires that cannot be quenched."

So spoke Archbishop Helder Camara, assistant to the cardinal of Rio de Janeiro, at a recent congress in that city. The slightly built apostle of charity, sometimes described as "the St. Francis of Assisi of Brazil," lives the language he constantly speaks.

His devotion to the dwellers in Rio's notorious slums, called *favelas*, which collectively house some 400,000 of the desperately poor, have earned him the nickname of "favela priest."

Said Archbishop Camara: "When human beings possess no homes worthy of the name, when their daily bread is the diet of hunger, when they are without clothes, without education, without any genuine occupation, it is useless to talk about the fundamental rights of man."

Papal Program for Latin America

To meet their huge problems, Latin American bishops turned to the Holy See for aid from beyond the seas. Thus was born in Rome the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, with its Papal Program for Latin America.

From Rome and from the Latin American bishops united in CELAM came the call to the bishops of the United States to participate in this program. The response in our country was the creation by the U. S. hierarchy of the Bishops' Committee for Latin America, with Cardinal Cushing as its chairman, and the establishment of the Latin America Bureau to carry on the work of implementing the Papal Program in the United States.

Four subcommittees of the Bishops' Committee have been formed. They are responsible for the following divisions of the Committee's program:

Latin America Bureau, NCWC

Established in 1960, the Latin America Bureau is a division of the General Secretariat of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (address: Latin America Bureau, NCWC, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D.C.).

The Statement of Purpose issued May 26, 1962, by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America lists five major goals for its program. These goals are:

1. Recruitment and training of clergy, religious and lay volunteers in Latin America and in countries overseas.
2. Expansion of a religious education program to eliminate religious ignorance in long unserved areas of Latin America.
3. Strengthening of Catholic schools for the needy in the Latin American republics.
4. Building of adequate Catholic religious-social and socio-economic programs.
5. Strengthening of press, radio and cinema for delivering the Catholic message to Latin Americans.

The Pontifical Commission has requested all the bishops of the Catholic world in a position to do so to encourage members of their diocesan clergy to serve the Latin American church in every practical fashion, even by terms of personal service in Latin American parishes. Diocesan clergy from more than 25 U. S. dioceses are already in Latin America. A large number have gone as members of the St. James Society of Boston.

The Religious Communities

At the 1961 conference of the major superiors of U. S. religious communities at Notre Dame University, a special representative from Rome requested personnel for Latin America. As an ideal, the Holy See proposed that each religious community of men or women send to Latin America, by 1970, 10 per cent of its present membership as of 1960. According to their circumstances, the religious commu-

nities are making great sacrifices to approach this ideal.

The Papal Volunteers

In Summer 1960, the Pontifical Commission issued a document entitled "Papal Volunteers for Apostolic Collaboration in Latin America," a call for lay volunteers to work among Latin America's priestless millions.

The number of priests and religious will long remain inadequate. "In this situation," the document states, "no Catholic can consider himself alien to the suffering of the Church, which is a mother to all. More than ever, we can see how appropriate to our times are the words of St. John Chrysostom: 'We cannot place the obligation of every activity of the Church upon priests; the burden falls upon each one of us in the Church, because we are members of that one Body.'"

"Therefore, we must appeal to the laity."

The Papal Volunteers (PAVLA) represent an umbrella movement which embraces both lay sending societies and diocesan teams of volunteers. Up to the present, 96 bishops have named PAVLA diocesan directors (who also serve as directors for Extension Volunteers). At the end of 1962, 168 men and women in 50 teams were at work in 11 Latin American countries.

The PAVLA National Secretariat is located at 1300 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 5, Ill.

Commitments for Latin America

The basic need for Latin America is personal service. Words of Cardinal Cushing summarize this: "Go to Latin America; help others go!"

But relatively few can actually go; hence the wide gamut of aid efforts being made in every field of Catholic action throughout the United States. Colleges and universities are organizing Latin American institutes, and campus projects are multiplying. Catholic Relief Services, NCWC, conducts a huge Latin American program. Many Catholic organizations of the laity are cooperating. The parish clergy, sodalities and parochial schools are becoming ever more keenly aware of Latin America's many problems.

The total aim is a commitment, small or great, by every Catholic citizen of our nation to give help to the Church in Latin America in this hour of its desperate need.

Latin America Victory Fund

The Pontifical Commission allocates an annual fund placed at its disposal by the Catholic Bishops of the United States for basic needs of the Church in Latin America.

Encouraged by Cardinal Cushing the Latin America Bureau has initiated the Latin America Victory Fund, which seeks Victory Workers who will gather modest sums monthly. This aid is especially needed currently in Northeast Brazil and other backward areas where Catholic life is jeopardized by powerful Communist organizations.

Address: Cardinal Richard Cushing, Box 6066, Washington 5, D.C.



Working in one of the world's most wretchedly poor areas, Sister Dulce almost single handedly mans a huge hospital in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, and brings food, clothing and funds to slum dwellers.

LONE NUN TENDS 30,000 SICK; ASKS HELP, FUNDS

In the face of crushing problems a Catholic nun carries on a truly vast medical aid and social welfare program in Bahia, a city of 700,000 on the central Brazilian coast.

Each year, 30,000 sick and destitute people, unable to get help elsewhere, find their way to Sister Dulce's door. She cares for all, collecting the needed food, clothing and funds.

One doctor from the U. S. is helping now. Sister Dulce is desperately seeking more help—medical personnel, and men and women to aid in educational and social welfare programs.

For details, contact Papal Volunteers, 1300 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 5, Ill.

Seminarist Vows Aid For 'Hardship Areas'

A U. S. seminarist's trip to Latin America ended in his resolve to "work all my life for the Church's hardship areas."

The visit was the biggest event of 1962 for John Riddle of St. John's Seminary, Little Rock. During a stay at a mountain parish in Guatemala, he saw how the presence of a priest can bring lost sheep back to the faith.

"The priest from Spokane who conducts the mission heard confessions for an hour. Then the Dialog Mass began. The church was so crowded that many stood in back, and there were as many men as women.

"The day before, Father blessed the home of a lapsed Catholic, and that Sunday I saw Father's joy as the man went to confession and Communion. He and his family had been away many years."

Junior Holy Namers Join Victory Fund

A group membership in the Latin American Victory Fund is the means chosen by one priest to train young men to their role in the Mystical Body.

"St. Joseph parish," wrote Rev. William J. Bausch of Keyport, N.J., "has a fine group of boys in its Junior Holy Name Society. We want to help train one of the priests, sisters or laymen who have volunteered for work in Latin America.

"To do this, we are enrolling our group in the Latin American Victory Fund."

He enclosed a check for \$50, and added:

"This 'invested interest' will spur the boys on and spell out the needs of the Mystical Body."

CHURCH FACES FOUR HURDLES

Of the four obstacles the Church faces in Brazil, the most formidable is Marxism, which enflames university students, controls the labor movement, and grows stronger in the rural areas of Northeast Brazil. The other three:

1. Secularism. Many Christians have adopted a non-Christian view of life.

2. Protestantism. Well organized, now making great inroads in Brazil.

3. Spiritism. A problem peculiar to Brazil, grows rapidly in the cities and runs rampant in poor areas.

Argentine Bishops Ask Holy See For U.S. Clergy to Man Parishes

Ninety U. S. priests are needed to staff 36 Argentine parishes, according to an appeal made through the papal nuncio in Buenos Aires to the Vatican and the U. S. hierarchy.

The urgent request seeks help for 768,000 Catholics, with the aim of founding new parishes to ease the burden of existing parishes already caring for an average of 20,000 people each.

San Isidro and Cordoba

One priest team is needed in San Isidro, a city of 200,000 surrounded by Buenos Aires. The team, it is hoped, will form an interparochial mission band to work in out-of-the-way neighborhoods and eventually establish new parishes there.

In Cordoba, a metropolis of 600,000, nine priests are wanted to staff three new parishes.

Seven more priests are needed for five parishes serving one-fourth of the population of Comodoro Rivadavia, lying 1,000 miles south of Buenos Aires.

Gran Chaco and Jujuy

Several requests are especially

noteworthy. Among them is one for 14 priests to man churches already erected but without pastors, to serve 112,000 Catholics in the Resistencia diocese of Gran Chaco, which spreads through eastern Bolivia, western Paraguay and northern Argentina.

Of a different nature is the appeal from the diocese of Jujuy. Where the Gran Chaco is pioneer farming territory, Jujuy lies in the rugged Andean mountains 9,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level. Many mission stations there can be reached only on muleback. In Jujuy, five priests are sought to staff five mountain parishes.

All Can Help

The Latin America Bureau points out that, while most U. S. Catholics cannot answer calls such as this from Argentina, they can help recruit priests, religious and laity to go there. Contributions can be addressed to Cardinal Cushing, Box 6066, Washington 5, D.C.

WANTED: Workers for the Victory of Christian Justice Over the Reds in Latin America!

The Latin America Victory Fund is directed by the Cardinal.

Note well: 15 per cent to 45 per cent of the ordinary people of Latin American countries are under the spell of the Reds. We Catholics of the United States stand side by side with Latin America's Catholics in this great fight. Cardinal Cushing, chairman of the Bishop's Committee for Latin America, asks you to join the fight.

THIS MONTH, PLEASE!

Give or gather eight quarters (\$2.00) for the

LATIN AMERICA VICTORY FUND

H. E. Richard Cardinal Cushing, Latin America Bureau, NCWC Box 6066, Washington 5, D. C.
Dear Cardinal Cushing,

Recognizing the gravity of the Church's struggle in Latin America, I wish to join you in the fight. Enclosed please find \$_____ for this month's LATIN AMERICA VICTORY FUND.

Without any commitment binding the future, I propose to give or gather the money to fill _____ Victory Cards each month at \$2 per card. Please send me the necessary cards.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



Latin America

CALLS!

"Go to
Latin
America;
help
OTHERS
Go!"

Cardinal
Richard Cushing

Washington 5, D.C.

Latin
America
Bureau
NCWC

CFM Shows Healthy Growth In Cities of Latin America

The recent second national convention of the Christian Family Movement in Brazil has demonstrated the growth of that U. S. born apostolate among married couples in Latin America.

The convention, preceded by a course in ascetical and mystical matrimonial spirituality, was attended by hundreds of married couples from every Brazilian state and by 135 priests.

A prime mover in the effort to build CFM "south of the border" is Rev. Peter Richards, C.P., an Argentine priest of

Irish ancestry. He has just returned to Argentina after a two-month speaking tour in Latin America.

"I spoke in four cities in Bolivia and in 18 cities in Brazil," Father Richards said. "Tomorrow we begin our sixth annual Family Week in Uruguay. As our topic, we have taken 'Dad, 1963 Model.'"

"This is an attempt to place the father in his rightful position. Latin American men often refuse to shoulder their full responsibilities as the heads of their homes."

Who Wins in Brazil?

(Continued from page 1)

we must fight by changing the social structure, which is unjust and must be modified."

The Church's chief antagonist in the area is a fiery leftist named Francisco Juliao, who has organized peasant leagues that cry openly for revolt.

In 1949, as a young priest in Natal, Bishop Sales formed the Rural Social Action Movement (SAR), which now unites in common effort the 44 bishops of Northeast Brazil, the clergy—all too few—and tens of thousands of loyal Catholic farmers and workers.

How They Fight

They combat Communism by trying to remove its causes. With moderate labor unions they oppose extremist measures; they set up radio stations to educate



Gov. Alves with Bishop Sales.

the people and get fair play for them; they establish co-operatives to help the poor save their money for seed and foodstuffs, and train leaders for the battle for social justice.

Bishop Sales has called for 20 Papal Volunteers from the Church in the U. S. Write PAVLA, 1300 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 5, Ill.

LATIN AMERICAN PARISH STATISTICS

As the article below states, over one-fourth of the 350 dioceses in Latin America average more than 20,000 persons per parish. The following table illustrates the problem:

Latin American Dioceses by Average Number of Catholics Per Parish		NUMBER OF DIOCESES*
CATHOLICS PER PARISH		
30,000 and up		(20)
25,000-30,000		(29)
20,000-25,000		(44)
15,000-20,000		(84)
10,000-15,000		(95)
Less than 10,000		(72)

*Each bar equals 5 dioceses.

Latin America Short on Clergy As Population Growth Speeds Up

Over a fourth of Latin America's 350 dioceses average more than 20,000 people per parish, according to a report by a Belgian missionary there.

Because of a shortage of priests, bishops cannot found new parishes in heavy growth communities, Father Houtart reports. Visiting areas in Venezuela's capital, he has often heard Catholics say:

"I've never seen my pastor. I don't know what parish I'm in."

And the situation gets steadily worse in Latin America. Despite current stepping up of efforts to supply clergy, the bishops are falling behind the need. The continent has one of the fastest growing populations on the globe, with the average increase an enormous 3 per cent per year.

More Growth Predicted

Between 1960 and 2000, the population is due to jump by nearly 400 million, from the present 200 million to about 592 million. All this points up the critical shortage of priests in

Latin America.

Experts say that unless the Church can give substantial help to Central and South America, there will be more parishioners in 40 years who will be saying: "I've never seen my pastor."

Father Houtart warns us to expect 7,400 inhabitants for each priest by the year 2000, compared with the current average of 5,300 for the continent.

We'd better get very, very busy!

Rio's Parishes Huge

Several of the world's most understaffed parishes lie in three suburbs of Rio de Janeiro—Nova Iguaçu, Sao Jaco de Meriti, and Nilopolis.

The first has 165,000 souls in three parishes, or 55,000 per parish; the second has 191,000 in two parishes, or 95,500 per parish, and the third has just one parish for 96,000 people.