

Latin America CALLS!

PUBLISHED BY THE LATIN AMERICA BUREAU, NCWC • WASHINGTON 5, D.C. • \$1.00 A YEAR

January-February 1963

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

(Continued on page 4)

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."

U. S. SCHOOLS AID LATIN ALLIANCE

Educational aid to Latin America is as important there as economic aid, according to Teodoro Moscoso, U.S. coordinator of the Alliance for Progress, the many-faceted program developed by our nation to help Latin countries solve their problems.

He said the Alliance is working hard to draw U.S. schools and teachers into direct assistance to our southern neighbors.

More than 35 U.S. universities now have educational programs in Latin America. They work in 15 countries with more than 50 of Latin America's 200 institutions of higher learning.

The Alliance also seeks more teachers, plans to print and distribute 2.5 million paperback first- and second-grade readers, and expects to build 8,500 new classrooms.

"We give top priority to educational programs," Moscoso said. "The youth of Latin America are threatened by despair. If they get the opportunity to plot solutions instead of revolutions, to demonstrate results instead of merely demonstrating, we'll be on the road to success."

CUBA'S CHURCH

Only about 130 priests—or one for every 46,000 Catholics—are left in Cuba now.

Nuns in Cuba total approximately 1,450, or one for every 4,000 Catholics.

Laybrothers in Cuba number around 600, or one for every 10,000 Catholics.

Homebuilding Lags In Latin America

News that might be noted in the U.S. as a fluctuating business indicator of interest only to businessmen, poses a serious problem to the entire world when it reports a critical slowdown in homebuilding in Latin America.

Of the 31 million homes there, 20 million have been declared by inspectors to be unfit for human habitation. Even a million new homes each year—if that many could be built—would barely keep pace with fast-rising populations.

To put it another way, only one new house is built in the Latin nations for every 16 new babies—as compared with one new house built for every three babies born in the United States.



A nurse and Papal Volunteer from the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, Mary Carruthers attends Andean Indian youngsters.

U.S. Nurse Uplifts Lowly in High Andes

In a 2,000-mile corridor in the Andes, from southern Colombia to northern Argentina, live millions of Indians. The floor of this corridor is 8,000 feet up, but people live as high as 14,000 feet, 2½ miles above sea level.

American Carmelites working at Sicuani, Peru, are keenly

aware that ignorance and neglect make the Indians easy prey for Red doctrines.

Nurse Mary Carruthers, sponsored by the diocese of Davenport, was among the first of the Papal Volunteers for Latin America. One of 30 PAVLA nurses now engaged in medical-social welfare programs there, she has been at her post since 1961.

Village Life Tough, Texas Couple Report

Mud walls, palm-thatched roofs, dirt floors, no plumbing, one bed for the entire family, and fleas—these are typical in the rural villages outside Santa Cruz, Bolivia, according to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Speak of Dallas.

The Speaks are Papal Volunteers serving as catechists in the little pueblo of La Guardia. "Entering a home here for the first time is quite an experience," they state in a report to Dallas' Archbishop Gorman. "Usually you find a two-room structure of mud walls and palm-thatched roof, each room averaging eight feet square and with dirt floors.

"There's one bed, possibly two, regardless of the size of the family. When you leave, you will more often than not carry with you a generous colony of fleas.

"Bathrooms are unheard of in the backward sections. Bathing is a weekly affair at the river.

"More time is taken in just plain living than we would ever have imagined. Without telephones, reminding our CFM of meeting time is something of a chore, and, like the rest of our contacts, means a lot of walking. But if we had all the conveniences of home we'd probably be bored to death."

Merchants' Ad Aids PAVLA

Eighteen merchants in southeastern Massachusetts have joined forces to run a full-page ad calling for Papal Volunteers for Latin America. The ad appeared in the Fall River diocesan newspaper.

Pictures of volunteers in Honduras and Peru accompanied the text listing categories of Volunteers now serving in Latin America—doctors, nurses, social workers, catechists, teachers and technicians.

For those unable to undertake personal service, the merchants had a suggestion: Enroll as a Papal Volunteer Promoter at \$5 a year. Their effort is another example of the local diocesan-level activity that is helping to advance PAVLA.

"If you can't serve, help someone serve in your name," they urged.

With such enterprise the PAVLA program is bound to succeed. The PAVLA National Secretariat is located at 1300 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago 5, Ill.

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 _____

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 religio-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, 99 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.

RED HOPES HIGH TO WIN ECUADOR

Ecuador embodies all the ills that plague Latin America. For this reason the Reds believe it is ripe for picking, and are very active there.

"You can feel the Communists everywhere," declared Roberto Serrano, deputy minister of public works. "If a village needs a new bridge or road, they stir up the people, and before we know it a small problem becomes a big issue."

No Latin American country offers a more tempting invitation to the Communists than does Ecuador. Half of its 4.5 million people are Indians who often live under conditions worse than those of their Inca ancestors.

Great portions of the land are controlled by relatively few families: According to a recent report by the Inter-American Development Bank, 66.7 per cent of the families in Ecuador earn less than \$10 a month. There are no school facilities for some 370,000 children.

Communists are deeply embedded in the nation's universities and labor unions. Strongly allied with them is the Revolutionary Union of Ecuadorian Youth, an organization of rabid extremists whose hero is Fidel Castro. A planned uprising by this group was recently foiled by government raiders.

The situation in Ecuador focuses attention on the forces of moderation, which include many Catholic institutions. The bishops of Ecuador at their annual meeting in 1962 inaugurated an enlarged social welfare program to improve

BISHOPS ISSUE CALL FOR NUNS

Bishops in 11 countries in Latin America have directed to the outside world 87 petitions for an estimated 783 nuns: 370 sisters for 49 educational projects; 332 sisters for 24 medical projects; 81 sisters for 14 social welfare and other projects.

The list has been distributed in the United States through the Latin America Bureau, NCWC, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

Seek Mountaineers

"Perhaps you've got a group of sisters for us who've been brought up among the peaks of the Rocky Mountains."

That was the sentiment accompanying a recent request from Bolivia to the Latin America Bureau for sisters to work at 12,400 feet above sea level, caring for 25,000 people scattered over almost 1,000 square miles.

The hardy missionaries requested must teach, visit house-to-house, operate clinics, and set up a network of religion and self-help classes among old and young that will bring a better life to the entire area.

housing conditions and encourage savings and loan cooperatives. They joined in the public movement against illiteracy and instituted campaigns against religious ignorance in neglected areas.

RICKETY BRAZILIAN LODGING HOUSE WAS HOME FOR POLITICAL LEADERS

Numerous political greats in the state of Bahia, Brazil, once lived as poverty stricken university students in an old and now famous mansion in the city of Bahia, which for more than a generation welcomed boys who could not pay standard lodging-house rates.

Among those students were: Dr. Antonio Balbino, former governor of Bahia; Dr. Orlando Moscoso, present vice-governor; Dr. Vieira de Melo, former majority leader in the state Chamber of Deputies, and Dr. Helio Machado, mayor of Bahia do Salvador.

Known as the Father Torrend Student Residence, it is currently owned and directed by the Jesuit Fathers. Despite rotting floors and inadequate plumbing, and for the most part out of repair, the building

houses some 70 university students.

Funds are now being sought to convert it into a student center.

Students in Brazil have importance not only as leaders of tomorrow but because of their already considerable political weight. The National Student Union has decisive influence in the labor unions and is a mold-er of public opinion.

The Communists appreciate the value of student converts. Approximately two-thirds of the multi-million dollar budget of the Brazilian Communist Party is spent on organization and propaganda among university students. In comparison, the half-million dollars sought by the Bahia Jesuits for their student center is "small potatoes."

Richard Cushing
Cardinal

"Go to
Latin
America;
help
OTHERS
Go!"



Washington 5, D.C.

Latin
America
Bureau
NCWC

CALLS!

Latin America

GUATEMALA BISHOPS MOVE TO PREVENT LEFTIST COUP

A call for strong action by the Guatemalan government "to safeguard one of the basic rights of man—the right to life" in a broad program aimed at developing the nation's resources, has been vigorously stated in a joint pastoral letter issued recently by the bishops of Guatemala.

"Anxiety increases daily as a result of the disturbances that are shaking the foundations of our national life," the bishops said. "Guatemala has possibilities for a flourishing agriculture that are being lost as a result of the bad distribution of natural resources."

The bishops pointed out that nearly 2 per cent of the people owned 65 per cent of the nation's cultivated land, or only a fifth of Guatemala's territory.

The Central American country has been torn by political unrest almost constantly since it won independence in 1839. A year ago, extremists of both right and left sought to force the resignation of President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, whose government was accused of corruption, abuse of police power, inept handling of the economic crisis and bad administration.

In a continuing climate of restlessness and discontent, Communist propagandists are now laying heavy siege to two key groups, the intellectuals and the nation's poor.

"Political instability and lack of cooperation stifle investment of foreign or national capital, which, little by little, is being diverted toward other nations where greater assurance of employment and safe profits are to be found," the bishops declared.

'Kill the Church'

(Continued from page 1)

ciently, we will not succeed.

"We must avoid making martyrs of the Catholic leaders. Instead, we must so instruct, educate, persuade and convince them that their political consciences are awakened by degrees."

Bureau of Religious Affairs

"Our first step is to establish a Bureau of Religious Affairs. This bureau will organize the Catholics into patriotic associations in the national, regional and local levels. . . . All those who are not patriotic should be expelled from the associations and judged as criminals. . . . It is the duty of all citizens to punish these criminals."

"This brings us to the second step—our attack upon the link between the Church and the Vatican. The clergy will almost certainly react violently to our attack upon its stronghold and source of power. The masses

'Suffering Church'

A bishop at the Ecumenical Council rose after several speakers had referred to the "glorious" Church, the "conquering" Church, relates Archbishop Bergan of Omaha.

"This is not true," the bishop insisted. "The Church is the suffering, the impoverished, the dying Church, unless we supply it with the Blood of our living Lord."

should be reminded, however, that these complaints are unpatriotic and utterly opposed to the laws of the government."

Aim: Independent Church

"A campaign should be prepared far in advance of the actual proclamation of the independent church. Outstanding clergymen who cannot be persuaded to obey the orders of the people's government should be denounced before the masses."

"When the moment arrives when all key positions among the clergy are held by our men and are subject to the people's government, then we should start to erase little by little all liturgical elements in conflict with the people's government."

PAVLA TRIO WIN PRAISE IN LIMA

Papal Volunteers can "move and get things done where the ordinary person would be helpless," according to the pastor of a Lima, Peru, parish where three Papal Volunteers are working.

The praise was directed to two teachers and a social worker serving as Papal Volunteers in St. Rose of Lima parish. They are Miss Sally Hanlon of the Boston archdiocese and Miss La Rae Dudley from the Salt Lake City diocese, both of whom are teachers, and Miss Jeanine Reiser, a social worker from Columbus, Ohio.

Miss Hanlon and Miss Dudley have released sisters for full-time catechetical work among children attending public schools, the pastor said. They also help organize summer catechetics in the slums and work with youth programs.

The pastor paid tribute to the resourcefulness of Miss Reiser. She and the Maryknoll nun with whom she works have lists of doctors, lawyers and others who will help a needy person get into a hospital or out of jail or into a new job. They go into slums and teach classes in cooking, sewing, home decoration, hygiene and other subjects in order to help the people get the most out of what little they have.

Latin Americans are not merely interested in revolutions to overthrow bad governments. They want a society governed by respect for human dignity. They want "economic meaning" in democracy so that Latin American peoples can rise above the misery in which they live.

Protestantism in Latin America

In 25 years Protestants in Latin America have more than doubled and Protestant ministers, foreign and native-born, have quadrupled.

Year	No. of Faithful	No. of Ministers
1948	3,171,900 *	10,371 **
1951	3,380,300	16,223
1956	4,230,400	20,660
1961	7,710,400	41,088

*Each bar represents 500,000 or fraction

**Each bar represents 2500 or fraction