

CHURCH FOR ANNUNCIATION MISSION.

This Mission of the Annunciation is a development from the Transfiguration near the Rest House in the mountains. It is about three hours ride on horseback from Uñfata Tranquila, the Rest House. In none of these mountain missions have any services of any kind ever been held. When the Mission of the Transfiguration was begun, people came from different communities in the mountains and in due course of time, please with us to bring the Church to their section. Three missions, of which the Annunciation is one, have thus grown out of the Transfiguration and two more are now in prospect.

When land was bought for the Annunciation, there was an old dwelling on it which has been temporarily fitted up for a chapel. The people however, cannot forget that this is only a dwelling house with low ceiling, and by no stretch of the imagination can it be made to look like a Church. The present building is of wood, very old and cannot be expected to last long under the best conditions and could hardly withstand even a small hurricane.

LAS RANCHERAS DE YAUCO

That the Diocese of Newark has agreed to try to raise the required \$1800. for a chapel at the mission of the Annunciation at Las Rancheras de Yauco, Puerto Rico, and that the Diocese has paid the first \$600., is a source of great joy and gratification to the Bishop and to all the people connected with Las Rancheras. There was great rejoicing among the people of this mission when they were informed that the Diocese of Newark had undertaken to try and raise the money for building this chapel.

During the past year the Rev. Luis G. Meyer and the Rev. Rafael Pagan have been carrying on the work in this mountain district between them. The work of the district comprises four different missions; the Transfiguration in the district near the rest house, Wuinta Tranquila; St. Ann's, Sabana Grande; the Annunciation, Rancheras and St. Bartholomew's, Lares. St. Bartholomew's, however, has taken another mission in a section where the Government has been building a large number of houses for peons, and it has been all the Rev. Rafael Pagan could do to attend to St. Bartholomew's and the new work connected with it, so the Rev. Pastor Ruiz was sent to live in Mayaguez and help with the missions of St. Ann's and the Annunciation. There has been no let-up in this mountain work and it continues with great success and enthusiasm.

A road is gradually being built from the city of Yauco to Rancheras. The Missionary District of Puerto Rico has contributed with small amounts to the Municipality of Yauco to help with this road. The construction is reaching out now towards Rancheras. For some distance the road is good, but for two thirds of the distance it is only passable for an automobile. There is an appropriation from the Government this year for more building on this road and it is hoped that in the course of time it will be possible to reach this mission by a good automobile road from Yauco. The missionaries still go on horseback from the rest house over a mountain trail that is most difficult and it will be a great boon to them when the road has been constructed. It will also be a great help that the road be finished when we are ready to build the new chapel since materials will have to be transported from Yauco.

The Rev. Luis G. Meyer is a splendid missionary and is well qualified to do the work among these country people. Just a few days ago a farmer from the Rancheras district was in the Bishop's office and volunteered the information that Father Meyer is greatly beloved by the people and is having wonderful success in his work among them.

The country people of Puerto Rico have in the past years, I almost said centuries, been abandoned as far as their spiritual lives are concerned and many have turned to spiritualism, but are not at all content. As soon as the Church undertakes work among them, they readily respond and the work builds up quickly. They are not in good economic condition and it will be a long time, if ever, that they are able to support their own work, but the Church definitely has an obligation to these people who are unshepherded and have no means of securing the sacraments of the Church. It is a great pri-

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Rancheras.

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