

## HISTORICAL RESUME OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. ANDREWS

The documents which we have available, the sacramental books, indicate the existence of the Mission of St. Andrew's from June 1905, but, it is apparent that the missionary work began earlier. There may be, possibly, in the Diocesan files exact data about the beginning of the work at St. Andrew's, Mayaguez.

From the sacramental books, we gather that the first baptisms, marriages and funerals took place in June 1905, the Rev. David W. Bland being the Priest-in-charge, under the Episcopate of the Rt. Rev. Jas. Van Buren.

The first group of confirmands appear on January 18, 1906, and number 14. The number was gradually increased during the next 10 years, until 1916, when the figure is 92. (This is a total of confirmed members.)

The construction of the buildings was slow. The present rectory and the classrooms underneath were completed in 1918. Six years later, in 1924, the Church was finished.

On November 30, 1924 the Church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. C. B. Colmore, assisted by the Suffragan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Manuel Ferrando, and the Revs. Frank A. Saylor, rector of St. Andrews; John Droste, rector at Manati; and Charles Pfeiffer, the Bishop's Chaplain.

St. Andrew's Mission organized a school (to the eighth grade) which was accredited by the Department of Education of the Government of Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, the work of this school was discontinued by instruction of the National Council, when it was beginning to achieve its full potential. The closing of the school favored the National Council's economy, but did damage to the mission's work. Today, there is a Nursery School at St. Andrew's whose registration varies between 70 -100 children.

The following have been the rectors, or priests-in-charge of St. Andrew's since 1905: The Revs. David W. Bland, Leonard Head, Frank A. Saylor, Richard Spencer, Charles F. Boynton, Kenneth H. Hinds with the

Rev. Lorenzo Alvarez as co-rector, and, Julio Garrett, the present incumbent at St. Andrew's Mission, and author of this summary.

The following priests appear in the records as assistants: The Revs. Antonio Villafañe, Julio Garrett, Luis G. Meyer, Ramon E. Quifiones, Lorenzo Alvarez, Angel Escolano, and, Jose M. Vilar.

The names of several other priests appear in the parrish register as visitors, and ministering sacraments, or workers: The Revs. Elijah H. Edson, Mr. Enrique Guevas, Frederick A. Warden, Diaz y Volero, S.T. Adams, Samuel Sticliffe, Charles E. Taylor, J. Pastor Ruiz, and Francisco Reas-Froylan.

The property of the Mission has been acquired gradually, so that the Mission owns the entire city block on which it is located. Except for the Church and Rectory, ~~the~~ which are tolerably preserved, the other buildings are in utter ruin.



## HISTORICAL RESUME OF THE CITY OF MAYAGUEZ

The city of Mayagüez was founded in 1760

It was granted the title of village of Mayagüez on May 7, 1836

The first municipal government was organized on May 23, 1836, the first mayor being Mr. Rafael Mangual.

In 1841 there was a fire which destroyed the village of Mayagüez.

The first census was taken in 1844

St. Anthony's Municipal Hospital erected in 1865 by Mr. Francisco Blanes.

Raised to the category of "City of Mayagüez" in 1877

The Municipal Theatre (no longer standing) erected in 1889.

The first bridge across the Yagüez River built in 1893. It has been reconstructed and reopened for public service in May, 1952.

The City of Mayagüez occupied by American troops on August 11, 1898.

Since that time there have been no remarkable events, other than the usual growth in population, construction of buildings, and opening of needlecraft.

The principal industry of Mayagüez is needlecraft, which provides employment for the bulk of the population. There are several shops which give out piece work to be done at home beside the work done in their shops. In this manner men and women, young and old are engaged in the needlecraft work. The 1946 census showed a total of 86,000 inhabitants. It is estimated that the current population borders on 90,000.