

"La Resurrección", and "New World School"
Barrio Coto Norte, Manatí, Porto Rico

This mission was the oldest of the rural missions, before the Rt. Rev. Manuel Ferrando's stations were united with the missionary district of Porto Rico.

Started in a pine apple packing shed in 1913 we moved on Christmas day 1914 into our concrete chapel, which was enlarged in 1924

The mission in El Coto is the mother of the Barahona mission and may become a grandmother due to the splendid efforts of the Rev. E. Reus Garcia, who is at present the "Padre" of the congregation in that place.

Connected with "La Resurrección" was the New World School (Boarding school for poor boys). When in 1915 the Rev. Dr. Gray wrote his book "The New World", his study class on Latin America made possible the purchase of the property on which the New World School was started. The institution was built for \$600.- and could not house more than eight boys comfortably, so that extension was impossible.

When the boys finished the lower grades in the rural school we were obliged to send them to the urban school in Manatí. This was very unsatisfactory for many reasons and because so many of our church-school pupils were through school before they were ten years old, it was advisable to start the "New World Day-School". Before the hurricane destroyed the boy's home, it was already decided that it should be closed because of the cut in the budget. Of the poor little fellows who left, some had to be returned to a life of misery. My heart ached to see one of our little boys in San Juan selling papers on the street. When he left here he was plump and well, now he is very thin and sickly looking, the living picture of an Indian famine sufferer. All I could do was to give him some money to buy food.

Our former boys do not forget us. One of our oldest boys who works in San Juan is often our guest.

who are in the Refuge for homeless boys in Santurce, in New York came to see us during the holidays. One who is working from our furlough last September. He is making good in his position as a switchboard operator in a New York Hospital. He was one of the most mischievous lads we ever had and when we met we laughed heartily about his pranks. Once he made a snake from a discarded bicycle tire and placed it in front of the door of a peon who was awfully afraid of snakes.

Of the children who graduated from our New World Day School, several have gone to the U. S. because there is no work for them here. Some are married and some of the younger ones are going to school. We are all glad to hear that they did not have to be put back. One boy who had not finished eight grade when he left, is doing well in his first year high school in St. Bernard's School, Gladstone N. J. Another pupil continued in the same grade in New York.

We have a Kindergarten, which we fear will have to be discontinued also, unless the new budget provides for its maintenance. Thirty little tots are enrolled. They not only get the usual kindergarten instruction, but they get a lunch every morning at recess, which is provided by a friend who spent a few days here in the mission and saw the need of feeding their bodies as well as their minds.

The Church is growing steadily, although figures may be misleading, due to the fact that since the hurricane there has been a regular Exodus to the U. S.

Sometimes we ask members why they did not come to church. We hear as reasons: either sickness, no shoes, no clothes or no penny to put in the collection plate.

Margarita is the oldest daughter of one of our members. Her father was working on the mission property and taught the boys practical agriculture. After the allowance was withdrawn and he lost thereby his job, the family is in dire distress. A few days ago Margarita came to see if I had a pair of shoes for her. I asked why she had not come to church. She said that she was ashamed to let the plate pass without putting in her penny and she had none. She said that when her hen was laying, she always had a penny for church because then she sold an egg, but the hen does not lay at this time. An effort of self-support if you please, but it will take a millenium to reach that much desired goal, if we have to depend upon the Porto Rican hens.

Two members of our church have recently graduated from St. Luke's Hospital in Ponce, where they went for their training three years ago after graduating from the New World School. Another churchmember graduated a year ago.

well could we use one of them³ as a visiting nurse. There is so much sickness. Those who are able to walk come to our house for treatment and I tend to them if possible, or send them to Manati to one of our Manati doctors who has always been very friendly and willing to help, but only through a visiting nurse bedridden patients and those too ill to come can be reached.

This morning Margarita's mother was carried to the hospital in Manati in what we call: The mission's ambulance, a large hammock, which we formerly used on our porch, but which at present is used for emergency cases only, when the patients cannot be transported in our automobile. The poor woman had to be operated at once on account of the lack of the proper care in her abnormal maternity case. A trained nurse would at once have realized the danger to mother and child and would have called for a doctor, but the ignorant woman who acts as midwife out here, thought she did not need a doctor and caused the baby's death and a great deal of unnecessary suffering to the mother, who is still in great danger.

The mission property comprises about thirty five acres. After the closing of the boys' home we did not need the cattle any longer, neither the land for pasture. There were no funds to pay for their care, neither for keeping the farm in cultivation, and the property in good condition. We disposed of the animals by sending them to other mission stations. In one of them they named the cattle for the staff in Manati namely: Don Juan, Doña Maria and Ethel, and at another mission they named our old mare: Manati.

The land we divided among the former laborers, now unemployed, to plant on shares.

Fruit growing for export is out of the question for the mission, as it is only profitable for those who have a great deal of money and who also can afford great losses when prices are poor. The "on shares" plan seems to be a complete failure from a financial standpoint because the poor peons have neither money nor credit. They have to be helped from the time of planting

until they have disposed of their crops. Usually they are obliged to borrow so heavily on their crops that they are not or hardly able to repay what they have borrowed. Their methods are primitive and costly, because they have no modern appliances. Every inch planted has to be hand cultivated. If one considers missionwork not to be carried on for its returns in dollars and cents, but as a means to spiritual, moral and social uplift, then the mission properly is giving good returns for the following reasons:

1. The poor people by planting food crops are kept from starvation
2. Instead of sitting idle at home, brooding over their misfortune they are kept busy and as contented as possible under the circumstances.
3. They realize that the mission tries to help them solve their problems economical as well as spiritual.
4. The mission property instead of becoming a jungle is kept looking decent at a minimum of expense to the mission.

Although much more could be said, this may suffice to give an idea of what the church is doing in this part of the island. To many it may seem very unimportant and to those who judge the value of a work only by its cash returns, very unprofitable also. But we do not consider our work in that light and we thank the Lord for the opportunities for service granted to the Staff of "La Resurrección."

M. D.

MARY DROSTE

MISION DE LA RESURRECCION. - El Coto, Manatí, P. R.

The Church of the Resurrection was begun on April 20, 1913 by the Rev. John F. Droste, a deacon, who had been ordained by Bishop Van Buren in Ponce in May, 1907 and was chaplain of St. Luke's Hospital, while Mrs. Droste, his wife, was the first head nurse and director of the School of Nurses.

Two years after Mrs. Droste resigned as head nurse of St. Luke's and Mr. Droste as chaplain, they moved to El Coto de Manatí where they bought a piece of land and dedicated themselves to the growing of pineapples. At the same time they began holding church school in the packing house.

On April 16, 1914 Bishop Colmore laid the cornerstone for a stone chapel which Mrs. Droste built and turned over to the Church in Puerto Rico. Mrs. Droste raised the money for the building by taking care of sick Americans of the community and from friends in the U.S. On Jan. 26, 1915 the Rev. Mr. Droste was advanced to the priesthood and Mr. Enrique Cuervos made deacon at St. John's Church in San Juan.

The new rectory at El Coto, Manatí was finished late in 1921 and the devoted missionaries who had lived and worked there under unfavorable conditions for many years now had a beautiful bungalow built with funds raised by the Rev. H. P. Walter who had been in Puerto Rico on two occasions, in 1906 as Rector of Holy Trinity in Ponce and in 1916 in charge of St. Luke's, Puerta de Tierra.

The church at El Coto was enlarged in 1924 to almost double its original size and a handsome tower built at the west end. This was made possible by a gift of a lady friend of the Drostes in the United States. The Church of the Resurrection

at El Coto de Manatí, after the enlargement and remodelling and the new parish house was built, were blessed on Oct. 26, 1930.

Father Droste retired in 1936 and died on May 14,

1944.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, EL COTO, MANATI

On April 20, 1913, the activities of the Mission of the Resurrection were inaugurated in a pineapple and grapefruit canning shed, under the capable direction of the Drostes, a missionary couple. This Mission was to become a most important institution for the inhabitants of the barrio.

The Drostes were of Dutch ancestry, spoke several languages, and were connected with the Christian ~~Union~~ Missions Union (?). The Drostes were brought into the Episcopal Church by the Rev. Harvey P. Walter, the priest-in-charge of the Continental and Puertorrican congregations in San Juan at that time. He (Walter) is also responsible for bringing the Villafane family into the Church.

The Church of the Resurrection was an immediate success with the people of the barrio, who looked to it for spiritual comfort as well as for educational improvement. Almost from the first, the Church of the Resurrection sponsored the "New World" School. Mrs. Droste worked as a nurse, caring for the poor of the barrio, and helping homeless children. In this respect, she was the patron for a home for orphaned and homeless children, giving great deal of her time and energy toward this project. She was also an enthusiastic teacher of church music.

This was fertile ground for the preaching of the Gospel and the spread of the Kingdom. By the time of Fr. Droste's retirement on February 28, 1937 he had baptized 1196 persons and presented 23 classes for confirmation totalling 510 persons.

The boundaries of this mission extended. There are baptized members from Barrio Coto Norte and the adjacent barrios of Yeguada, Algarrobo, Guayaney, Laguna, Campo Alegre, and, Pueblito. The members have a strong foundation in the Faith and recognize ~~the~~ man's need for the Sacraments.