

April 6th 1946.

The Most Rev. Henry St George Tucker, LL.D.
281 Fourth Ave. New York 10 N.Y.

Most Reverend and dear Sir:

In presenting you my report as Diocesan of the Missionary District of Puerto Rico, I can assure you of the healthy growth and condition of the Church in this District. After some forty six years as an organized District with fairly constant work continuously, it is not to be expected that there will be any abnormal growth or unusual difference in the statistics in any one year. I believe that our Clergy generally are careful and painstaking Priests and are keeping their Parishes or Missions in a normal condition. The statistics enclosed will speak for themselves.

There are however several outstanding events, to us of great importance, which have culminated during the year 1945, and which the Church in this District feels will be of general influence and should tend to the great advancement of the Church in the years to come.

Again I take pleasure in attributing to the Bishop Coadjutor a large measure of the success in establishing the various institutions, and it is due to his personal influence that the policies adopted and the work of the personell has attained a degree of success for the ~~glory~~ glory of God and the edification of His Church.

The most important advance made over previous years, has been the establishment in Ponce of a convent by the Sisters of the Order of the Transfiguration. During the year a convent building was constructed on the grounds of St Luke's Hospital. The Hospital contributed toward

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the expense of construction and furnishing, but the greater part was borne by the Community itself. The arrival of the Sisters was delayed by war conditions and their influence upon travel, but finally four Sisters arrived by air route on December 11th and were immediately installed in their residence. The building is adequate for the present staff but will require addition if and when, as we hope, there are vocations to the Religious Life among the women of Puerto Rico. The present work of the Sisters includes occupational and physio-therapy also instruction of Nurses in the Hospital, as also women's and young people's work in the two Missions in the city. Their activities should add greatly to the efficiency of the Church in Ponce and in the whole District.

An important development has been the opening of the Church's work in the first new city in Puerto Rico to be occupied since 1914. This is the new Mission of San Rafael Archangel in the city of Yauco. The survey showed a number of our Church people living there and a ready response on their part to support the Church both morally and financially. Work was begun there in July and our Priest is in residence with his family. A property well adapted to our use for a Church has been selected. The legal transfer has been delayed by the sudden death of the owner, however it is daily expected that the papers will be ready for our signature. The money is in hand for remodeling the building and we should soon have San Rafael's Church in operation.

In taking the Priest from a country to a city Mission, the country people have not been neglected. The Priest goes to the country at stated intervals for the celebration of the Sacraments, and in the meantime a Lay Missionary carries on the work, living at the country Mission. Two of these Lay Missionaries are at work in mountain Missions.

Perhaps the most important development has been the establish-

ment or revival of our seminary for the training of our National Candidates for the Priesthood. This is at the Cathedral in San Juan, and has the advantage of proximity to the University of Puerto Rico, where the students can take their academic training, as also take subjects not strictly ecclesiastical. This method of providing our future Clergy will be of immense value in the future.

In a country without industrial development and densely populated, dependent upon agriculture, it would seem impossible that there should be no agricultural vocational school for men and boys in High School years. Yet this is the case in Puerto Rico. The Church has the honor of having established the first school of this kind and is utilizing the Church farm at Quebrada Lomen for the purpose. The school got under way at the beginning of the school year and the first semester has proven most valuable and promising.

At the invitation of the Archbishop of the West Indies, both Bishops of Puerto Rico attended a conference in Jamaica in February of this year, called to discuss mutual problems and matters of interest. One immediate question was the possible transfer of certain territory of Central America to the jurisdiction of the Church in the United States. Many problems concerning this transfer were discussed and solutions agreed upon. The writer has lived in the West Indies as a Bishop for thirty two years, and this is the first conference of its kind to be held. The different Dioceses and Districts are isolated, dealing largely with similar peoples, but there has been little, if any, coordination of effort between the American and the English groups. It would seem wise to effect some kind of organization, however loosely it may be formed, so that we could at least know each other and how our common problems are met in the various sections. This conference was a glorious experience and all the Bishops felt that under the leadership of the Archbishop, we had seen a vision of something cooperative

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which might be done for this part of the Kingdom of God. We felt we had been led by the Holy Spirit, and were content to leave it in His guidance, sure that something tangible will be organized in His good time. Meanwhile we invited the Conference of Bishops to meet, under the chairmanship of the Archbishop, in Puerto Rico in February 1947. We pray that God will continue to guide us and bring us together in His own way.

With warm regards and best wishes, I remain sincerely and respectfully yours,

C.B.C.