The Most Rev. H. St. George Tucker, D. D.
281 Fourth Avenue, New York, 10. N. Y.

Most Reverend and Dear Sir:

In making my report to you of the work of the Missionary District of Puerto Rico for the year 1943, I unhesitatingly affirm that the most important event for this District has been the election by General Convention of the Rev. Charles F. Boynton as Bishop Coadjutor. I feel that it was a happy incident that the Canon was changed so as to allow Missionary Districts to have Coadjutors instead of only Suffragan Bishops and that Puerto Rico has the honor of the first Bishop of this kind consecrated for a Missionary District.

I was entirely confident that we had in Puerto Rico the proper person for the position and events have already proven the wisdom of the choice of Bishop Boynton. He was consecrated at St. John's Cathedral, San Juan on January 2nd, 1944, and although still directing the parish work at Mayagüez has already undertaken much of the Episcopal work as well, and is of very great assistance in the District. My health during the year has not been as vigorous as in the past and I began to lean on him for some time before his elevation to the Episcopate. His experience of two years in Puerto Rico during which time he has shown himself to be a real leader, and his rapid progress in the use of the Spanish language have given him a most favorable introduction to his work as Bishop. I confidently expect great things in the future under his direction.
Missionary District of Puerto Rico

It is a great pleasure and satisfaction to state for publication, as was reported at the meeting of the National Council last October, that during the past year this District was entirely freed of indebtedness. There was never a large debt, but a number of small ones, easily financed were gradually paid up and a small campaign carried on from this office was successful in eliminating all obligations. The new Bishop therefore takes up his work unhampered by interest payments on debts and can make all his material efforts count for progress.

Money is in hand for several buildings especially parish houses, but naturally during the war it has not been possible to secure materials for such effort. After the war we will be able to show decided activity in this line and our work will receive great benefit thereby.

During the year one Priest was transferred to the United States and one Deacon received. There have been two ordinations to the Priesthood and one to the Diaconate. Baptisms and confirmations have been as numerous as in former years.

Two of our Priests in active service have been seriously ill, one of whom has been compelled to ask for retirement. It has been possible to man their parishes with our present staff, but it has of course been difficult and the District has been somewhat upset by the necessary changes.

We feel that the resolution passed by the National Council last year calling upon the Missionary Districts to undertake a greater degree of self-support has been beneficial to us. For the past thirty years we have been placing emphasis on rural work.
That has developed well, but does not show much hope of eventual self-support. However during these years many of our communicants have moved from their country homes to the cities, seeking work and better educational advantages for their children, and are now urging us to open our work in their present surroundings. This is the opportunity for which we have been waiting and our various parishes and missions in Puerto Rico have greatly increased their pledges to diocesan missions in order to enable the church to gradually enter the municipal centers where our people have congregated. This offers a much greater hope of support of the work by the several congregations. It should be added that under the stimulus of the above mentioned resolution the congregations in the cities of San Juan, Ponce and Mayagüez have considerably increased their own support as well as the assistance to diocesan missions.

In the meantime we do not expect to diminish in any way our rural work, but as Priests are withdrawn from rural missions to man new city work, their places will be filled by an educated body of Lay Readers who will attend to the regular work and prepare for stated and frequent visitations of the Priests. In this work we confidently expect great assistance from our agricultural vocational school which is being established on our farm at Quebrada Limon. There the young men will be given a High School education with special instruction in agriculture, so they may be prepared to earn a better living in their country homes, and we hope will be so instructed in their religion that they will become leaders in their several missions and possibly Lay Readers. They will certainly become better informed and more loyal supporters of the church's work.
In the above I have dwelt especially upon the develop-
ments in this line in Puerto Rico. We hope the work in the Virgin
Islands will undertake some such development during the present
year.

Faithfully and affectionately,

Bishop of Puerto Rico.
The real call to the Church in Puerto Rico is in the rural districts. In the towns the people have the Roman Catholic Church and a number of Protestant religious bodies but there has been little work done by anyone among the people of the country districts. Puerto Rico has nearly two million inhabitants less than half a million of whom live in the cities and towns, which means that over a million live in the country districts and this million and more have little if any opportunity to enjoy the privileges of any religious services or influence. They have to walk, in many cases, great distances to the towns in order to receive the sacraments of baptism for their children, for instance. In all places we have gone, we have established more than a dozen rural missions, we find the population as dense as usual, but without any spiritual privileges whatsoever. They have welcomed us immediately and gladly, and we have them most ready and anxious to participate in the work of the Church. Why should we attempt work in any of the towns or cities where religious work is already established when such opportunities are waiting for us and the people are so anxious for us to work among them? It takes a very short time for the whole rural population of a district to become active members of the Church. At the Mission of the Transfiguration where we have built our rest house at a three thousand foot elevation, between Lares and Yauco, we had been holding services irregularly for about two years. We were able to place a priest in residence on the first of November 1932, since which time services are held regularly there and at St. Ann's Mission about six miles distant. Notwithstanding the irregular services that had been held before that time, there were on Easter Day 1932, some thirty-six baptisms, and on Easter Day 1933, there were 106 baptisms. On the Sunday after Easter 1931, the Bishop happened to be at the Rest House and had a service at the Church of the Transfiguration. There were several baptisms and a wedding had been arranged for Easter Day. The wedding had been postponed because the groom had been unable to secure a pair of shoes. On Low Sunday he was still barefoot, but the wedding was celebrated nevertheless.

Two new missions have been established near the above mentioned district. One, the Annunciation, is at a district called Rancheras, the 'ranch owners', and another called St. Bartholomew's at the ward called Bartolo (Bartholomew), on the other side of Quinta Tranquila (the Rest House) from Las Rancheras. At this latter place we bought a property of 12 acres and have transformed a native dwelling into a very creditable chapel. The work has been supervised by the Rev. Julio Garrett and his assistant and all the painting has been done by their own hands. In the September issue of the Spirit of Missions there is a photograph taken by Dr. Reinheimer, called Church Property near Las Rubias, Puerto Rico, before the native house was remodelled. Now, in 1943, there are four more missions in this district.

Most of the country people are very, very poor and while it is realized that working among this very poor element the Church will be much longer in attaining any degree of self-support, yet it seems certain that the Church should not overlook these people as they are perhaps more in need of what the
Church can give them than our other fellow-men who are more fortunately situated in towns and have more of this world's goods. Surely the Church is doing the Master's work in attempting to provide something for this element of His children. What is true at this Mission of the Transfiguration, is true in all of the places where we are at work in the rural districts and this may be multiplied many hundreds of times throughout the Island of Puerto Rico. We wish we better able to fulfill our duty to these people. This can only be accomplished by training Puerto Rican men and women for the work of the Church, which has been done in the past by St. Catherine's Training School for Women which has been closed for the time being on account of lack of funds, and by training young Puerto Rican men for the priesthood. For the past two years the theological training has been carried on by the Bishop, the Rev. F. A. Saylor and the Rev. Julio Garrett meeting the young men for one week each month at Quinta Tranquila the Rest House, for lectures and intensive study, after which they return home and work by themselves for a three week's period. Of course, this is not by any means ideal for training them but under the circumstances has been the only way it could be accomplished, and as a result, three men were ordained to the priesthood and two to the Diaconate by this method. In 1943, we have two young Puerto Ricans in training at Seminaries in the United States.
There is a great need for an Industrial and Agricultural School for the high school grades in Puerto Rico. There is nothing in this Island of that exact nature. Some public schools for younger children have this feature and the College of Mechanical and Agricultural Arts, part of the University of Puerto Rico, give a degree in science, but high schools are devoid of the agricultural feature. Nor are there any high schools in the country districts. Our dense population is dependent upon agriculture for its livelihood and associated industries. The Church should be foremost in providing for this need. An excellent opportunity has offered itself just at this time. A young man well adapted will graduate from the General Seminary in 1943; he is greatly interested in undertaking such a work in Puerto Rico and his Bishop has consented to his taking up work in this district. The Church owns a farm at Quebrada Limon consisting of 250 acres and the Federal soil conservation Service has made a careful survey of our lands and has reported that within a very few years the farm can be made self-supporting and can provide most of the food necessary for the school. Quebrada Limon is a country district. The Church there counts some 800 souls with 475 communicants. Our young people should be able to get a high school education with the agricultural and industrial feature added, so as to be leaders. Our farm should be made use of for the purpose and our mission made a large spiritual centre for that immediate community. I should like to see this accomplished before my retirement in 1947.

A building incorporating dormitory, class rooms, dining hall, kitchen and shops can be constructed for about $30,000. This would be permanent construction of reinforced concrete throughout, so as to be proof against fire, termites, hurricane and earthquake. In addition we would have to build a dairy barn for the proper care of the cattle, part of our scheme, and for a warehouse for produce and tools. This would cost another $5,000. Salaries for four teachers including an agriculturalist and an industrial teacher, would total $5,000 per year, or for three years, $15,000. Thus $50,000 would equip and otherwise provide for the establishment of our school.

In the accompanying schedule I have shown the cost of various units of the school, and one can readily see how a smaller amount can be expended toward developing this work.

There is also need for a good parish house, well-equipped, at Holy Cross Mission in the Virgin Islands. We have there a large and promising work among the negro population in the centre of the Island of St. Croix. There are two clubs, one for men, and another for women. Both are progressing well, but there is no meeting place for them except in the sitting room of the Rectory. They need a place for their meetings, dances and other entertainments. An auditorium could be used also for indoor athletics. A kitchen would be provided and space for all their needs. $10,000 would provide for this building.

Three country chapels of concrete construction are needed in our mountain districts. These cost in the neighborhood of $1,800 each but I would make $5,000 stretch for the three. These country chapels have in many places in Puerto Rico, provided a most satisfactory spiritual home for these rural people. The work grows rapidly and is most satisfying. A gift of $5,000 for this purpose would bring joy and hope into the lives of these people.