

Bishop's Office

MEETING OF PUERTO RICO SURVEY COMMITTEE

Dec. 16, 1952

Second part of meeting held at the Condado Hotel

- Father Ruiz - Requested that All Saints, Vieques be given priority in the list of askings.
- Dr. Beckwith - Felt that the purchase of property for new work was the most important item inasmuch as property which has been already selected may slip through our fingers if we delay.
- It was decided here not to go into priorities at this meeting but the Bishop will call a special meeting of the committee at a later date to consider this matter.
- Father Bauzá - Felt that public relations is a very important factor in our work, especially in rural sections. Fact that we can show that we are catholic and at the same time protestant is wonderful and through public relations we can put this definitely in the minds of the P. R. people.
- Father Gowe - Must we have somebody in charge of public relations or is it better to have a committee to decide on what public relations may be possible?
- Mrs. Moore - Might draw up a year's calendar of events. It is impossible to outline it without a chairman and the overall planning needs a committee. Should be basic planning by a committee and then have one person in charge.
- Father Reus - Can a layman do this?
- Mrs. Moore - Yes, it need not necessarily be a clergyman. Some people are born with public relations ability.
- Father Bauzá - We do not have that person in our Church.
- Mrs. Villafañe - That depends on the character of the person. It cannot be decided today.
- Mrs. Moore - Gave example of a health society in Illinois. The head had a committee in the town made up of people in business, each good in his own line. The same can be done on a diocesan level. Work from a calendar of events. Ex: Have a radio program around a specific event - Youth Conference, for instance. Get newsreel people to cover it.
- Father Bauzá - The Bishop could appoint someone to go around the missions with a projector, loud speaker, etc. and have a program and that person probably could be the public relations official of the diocese, be he priest or layman.
- Mrs. Moore - Person can be trained. Mr. Wale of Community Education would be helpful.
- Father Bauzá - Person could be trained by the Church, using techniques of Mr. Wale.

- Bishop - The work of this committee should continue indefinitely. After Father Moore's departure the committee can deal with various phases. Break up committee with a few people in charge of each area. Let us not embark in detail until we can look at the whole picture. How will Survey report be presented?
- Father Moore - This is the first presentation to the Overseas Department. It will be presented at the February meeting of the National Council and then a full presentation of the study given at the April meeting.
- Bishop - After February meeting this committee can be broken up into smaller committees to tackle the various issues. In the meantime we can set up the machinery and be thinking about it.
- Fr. Moore - Discussion of priorities at February meeting. By April or strictly by June we should know pretty well what is ahead.
- Bishop - Get reactions of members as to trained lay readers, etc. on an associate mission basis.
- Fr. Bauzá - Felt that he expressed the feeling of his fellow clergy in saying that he does not like the idea of associate missions. Each priest is proud of his own work. If he has lay workers he likes the recommendation that they should be trained. Our present lay readers have not sufficient education. Would like trained people on his staff.
- Bishop - Can we find in our churches the material and man power that will be expected to do this sort of work apart from candidates for the priesthood? Will they be willing to take two or three years' training and then give up everything else for the work of the Church at a low salary?
- Fr. Bauzá - Country people take a long time to get to be somebody. If the average country person gets to fourth year high school he has spent all the energy he has to put into education. If he goes through the university he usually becomes a teacher or goes into politics. A trained church worker will have to be offered a salary equal to that which he could earn as a teacher. ~~One~~ our churches ready for this? How much must we pay a person who has four years of high school and then two years' training?
- Bishop - Have we boys to do this?
- Fr. Bauzá - Yes.
- Fr. Reus F. - Not very many.
- Fr. Gewe - What is Fr. Bauzá's idea of an associated mission? Why does he not like it?
- Fr. Bauzá - Feared he would be misunderstood. Likes his work and is proud of it. Feels he is working for the Church and not for an individual. According to his understanding, an associate mission is having the work shared by three or four workers.

- Fr. Moore - In an associate mission there is a rector and one or two curates.
- Fr. Bauzá - "I have no right to be against associate missions because I have no experience. My four missions are my work for the Lord."
- Fr. Moore - You have six postulants coming in. A man who has been away for seven years should work under a priest for two or three years. In an associate mission a rector could have a young priest who would serve as curate. The work would be the responsibility of one priest and in Fr. Bauzá's case he would have a young priest and two trained lay workers. The term "associate mission" may not be good here. It is sometimes called the "greater parish" or you could choose another term.
- Bishop - It would bring isolated spots into one organization with other missions.
- Fr. Ruiz - The great disease of our district is individualism and the idea that his possession is paramount and that no one else should come in. We must break this and the association of several missions under one organization will give a chance to missions to develop. Missions will have the benefit of two hearts and minds and opinions. It would be good psychologically to have more than one priest for the missions.
- Fr. Bauzá - Agreed to point that parochialism is bad and that there is too much of it in P. R. He had seven priests take part in a mission at Bartolo which was very good and proved the necessity of sharing.
- Fr. Gowe - Cannot let the idea of associate missions drop yet. Has seen this work in rural areas in the States where before it has been barren. Good to have a shared responsibility for a number of works. A priest can share his problems with another priest in the missions. Will gain in saying "our" missions.
- Fr. Moore - Understands both sides.
- Bishop - What do you feel about clergy missions for pastoral training? Do you feel a need for this and would we profit by it?
- Fr. Reus F. - We need retreats and refresher courses, bringing in experts and those within our own sphere. Also a course on the psychology of pastoral visitation.
- Fr. Moore - You might bring in one expert from the outside and use experienced men within the district.
- Bishop - Parish calling. The clergy are not making the normal number of calls per week. In a clergy mission this could be discussed. Who should go calling? What is the need, etc.? How many services should be conducted on Sunday? The value of such an institute will have to come from the clergy and not the Bishop.
- Fr. Ruiz - Cannot be a retreat - it should be very pleasant with cooperation and friendship. It could be held for three or four days. Three priests could get ready a course of lectures. One might

read a book on pastoral relations.

Bishop - Christian Education could be embodied.

Fr. Ruiz - Referred to conferences of former days and thought that clergy missions might be conducted in somewhat the same way.

Bishop - Theological Education. What are the prospects of getting many postulants? Should they spend part of their time in P. R.?

Fr. Ruiz - Some of the clergy feel that if our boys spend seven years in the States they will not be content to return to P. R. and work in the mountain areas.

Er. Quiñones - Afraid that nobody will want to go to a place like Barahona.

Fr. Gowe - Bishop must be very sure of vocations of boys he accepts as postulants. That will help to prevent this. They must have a vocation to the priesthood and to the mission priesthood, a love of souls and know the need to go out and evangelize. When we have a proper center in the University of P. R. in Rio Piedras we can mold our training, using the postulants in the summers in the missions in the country, and then let them go to seminaries in the States. It would be unwise to send the boys to the University of P. R. until we have a properly organized center there.

Fr. Bauzá - They must have the best training. A man well-trained can work in the country or in the city. He must also have a vocation and then he will not mind working for the country people.

Sister Esther - We also need lay women. Hopes that the priests of the island will all encourage young women to enter the Religious Life. They can be trained in various types of work.

Bishop - There is nothing to prevent the postulants spending their summers in Puerto Rico and helping in country work.

Fr. Moore - As St. Just grows and develops the time might come when it might add a junior college and then we would have a wonderful place where these boys could take part of their college work and continue at the University of P. R.

Fr. Bauzá - Would like to consider the possibility of a seminary in Puerto Rico for the future.

Fr. Moore - Danger of running a seminary - having it properly staffed, cost, etc. Might possibly consider the development of a seminary for the whole Caribbean area in the future.

Fr. Reus F. - They should go to a seminary in the States to really learn to know the Church.

Bishop - His desire is to have the best possible Episcopal Church for P. R. and he is positive that the only way is to have the best possible trained priesthood.

Fr. Moore - Authority - deaneries. What is the feeling of the committee? A deanery is the breaking down of the diocesan organization

into two or three sections so that priests in each area can get together on joint projects in their areas, etc. It is an extension of the associate mission principle. It draws lay people and priests together. Handing out titles has little value but it might have some value in this country. A deanery has joint auxiliary meetings and men's groups, quiet days, etc. Suggests one in the north and one in the south. A dean is the chairman of a section. Might help the Bishop to move everything like a family.

Fr. Gowe - The tendency is to become fragmented in a small island diocese. People are too inclined to cling together in small areas. The feeling of diocesan unity is beginning to develop, and a diocesan conscience. This type of partial fragmentation may harm this unity.

Fr. Moore- Should find some basis for friendly association. Might have two areas but not call the "deaneries".

Fr. Bauzá- Evangelism suggested at last convocation. Interchange of pulpits. We have progressed in this.

Fr. Moore- Have vestries meet regularly; also regular parish meetings, Council of Advice and executive committee meetings.

Bishop - Boards of advice for San Justo and St. Luke's.

Mr. Richards - All for it.

Bishop - Considerable tension between missionary district aspect vs. fact that we must move toward diocesan standing and the Bishop finds himself torn between that tension. It would be a mistake for convocation to tell Bishop how to run these organizations but we must look ahead to the time when they are to be run by Puerto Ricans. Board of Advice is sound. It would counsel at regular intervals. Does not take away from the Bishop or the Mother Church the financial responsibility but helps shoulder responsibility.

Fr. Villafañe- If there was such a council we would be better able to express our feelings. At convocation one does not like to bring up one's feelings. If at some future date organizations are going to be run apart from the National Council we must look ahead and plan.

Fr. Ruiz - Many discussions at convocation result from reports which must be presented even though convocation does not run the institutions. Suggest that the institutions do not report to convocation.

Bishop - That is part of the tension. While convocation does not control institutions it should be informed as to what is going on. Have summary of reports and not in detail because convocation wants to know and has a right to know because they will sometime take over the responsibility. This will relieve some of the tension. Healthy concern that we are all in it together.

Fr. Bauza- It is necessary to have reports because our people in convocation are priests and laymen and some of them are wiser than we think.

- Mr. Canales - The population has increased and we count on the sugar industry as our best. Fighting with government to increase sugar output. This committee and our Church should help to see if our quotas can be increased to give more money for laborers. We believe in our sugar industry.
- Fr. Quiñones - Why not now? The Episcopal Church should add its recommendation.
- Bishop - Would hesitate at this juncture. Would like to be more sure that we are on sure ground. If it can be shown that this is best for P. R. then we should, but have we enough information now? This committee has no authority. It would have to be convocation.
- Fr. Moore - Will be glad as Director of United Research if this action is taken to back it.
- Fr. Bauzá - The Governor is interested.
- Fr. Gowe - Moved that the committee should urge the Bishop to do all he can to study this matter and to make our protest.
- Bishop - If there is no opposition from this group I will go ahead.
- Fr. Bauzá - Bishop should write this in the paper. Fr. Gowe agreed.
- Mr. Canales - Referred to young people between the ages of 14 and 18. A change has been made so that all boys of 14 who do not want to go to school are allowed to work as apprentices in any industrial plant to learn to do what they want to do.
- Sr. Esther - This is difficult. She has tried and been unsuccessful in placing boys.
- Fr. Moore - The Church might set up a process where we could help these boys into jobs.