

MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

Part I - History

When the United States took over Puerto Rico from Spain in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War, the island was opened to non-Roman Catholic missionaries for the first time in its history. The Episcopal Church responded promptly; and as early as 1898, the General Convention appointed a Joint Commission on Increased Responsibilities of the Church. This Commission requested the Bishop of Chicago to investigate the possibilities of missionary work in Puerto Rico, and he in turn sent the Rev. George B. Pratt to San Juan to look over the field. The Rev. Mr. Pratt reported on March 11, 1899:

"I am here, and have held the first service-- a very acceptable and encouraging one.... At the Sunday services the military are in the majority, though there are many civilians, both white and Colored Churchmen.... Chaplain Brown, U.S.A.,... with his post at Mayaguez, has instituted Church services at that place under promising auspices. The Rev. Frederic Caunt is rector of the English Church of the Holy Trinity in Ponce."

A little later, he added:

"The ministration of the Church service to the English-speaking people is of great value to them. This alone is worth all my labors. Impression upon the genuine Porto Ricans will be very slow. They have had such dreadful religious guides before them that they have lost confidence...."

The Rev. Mr. Pratt was formally appointed a missionary to Puerto Rico by the Board of Managers of the Society on April 11, 1899.

Two small missions of the Church of England were already in existence at this time, which had been established under the supervision of the Bishop of Antigua. They were Holy Trinity Church in Ponce and All Saints on the island of Vieques.

Holy Trinity had been started thirty years earlier to meet the needs of British West Indian immigrants in Ponce. A church building was shipped from London in 1873 and was consecrated by the Bishop of Antigua in July, 1874. The mission was cared for by four successive rectors from 1874 to 1895, and services were held in both English and Spanish. A restriction had been made by the authorities, however, that the church's bell should not be rung. At the arrival of American troops, the bell was rung for the first time proclaiming the new religious freedom. (This bell remains today the "Religious Liberty Bell" of the Church in Puerto Rico, and is now enshrined in the cloister wall of the present Holy Trinity Church.)

On the small island of Vieques, work was begun in 1880 among British West Indian immigrants by Mr. Joseph N. Bean, a native of Bermuda who felt called to this work. He was ordained priest in 1893 by the Bishop of Antigua, and continued the care of the mission, in spite of failing eyesight, until 1905.

The Rev. Mr. Pratt organized St. John the Baptist Church in San Juan. Services were held at first in a hall on the Plaza and later in the rooms of a Government building on Fortaleza Street. The congregation was made up of about two-thirds Americans and one-third Puerto Ricans. When Mr. Pratt left in October, 1900, services were conducted temporarily by Chaplain Brown until the latter's departure in February, 1901. Then the work was taken over by ~~the~~ Rev. James H. VanBuren, a newly-appointed missionary.

Meanwhile, the island received two official visits from American bishops, the first in 1900 and the second in 1901. Then, at the General Convention of 1901, Puerto Rico was made a domestic missionary district, and the two missions under the Bishop of Antigua were formally transferred to the American Church's jurisdiction. At the meeting of the House of Bishops in April, 1902, the Rev. Mr. VanBuren was elected the first missionary bishop. He traveled to the United States to be consecrated on June 24, 1902, in St. Stephen's Church, Lynn, Massachusetts, where he had previously been the rector for ten years.

During the ten years Bishop VanBuren was in charge of the work, strong roots were established in four locations, on the four sides of the island; namely, San Juan on the north, Mayaguez on the west, Ponce on the south, and Vieques off the east coast.

In San Juan, land was bought in 1902 in the heart of the city, on a little plaza facing the Roman Catholic

Cathedral, where two years later a church was constructed. At the same time, an episcopal residence was built in nearby Hato Rey. ^{~~Just outside the walls of the city,~~} ^{Cerca a 2 1/2 P.P. - Sur en Ciego} another mission was established at Puerta de Tierra. Services of this mission, St. Luke's, were held at first in a rented house, but in 1906 land was bought and a church completed two years later. 1902 San Juan

At Mayaguez, full-time work was begun by a missionary appointee in the spring of 1905. Services of St. Andrew's Church were held in English and in Spanish. At first, a rented building was used, but later land was purchased for a church.

At Ponce, land was bought adjoining the church for a rectory and for a future parish house. Although the church building had been damaged by a hurricane in 1899 and was in poor condition, the local residents preferred to put their efforts and resources into a much-needed hospital. On high ground overlooking the town and waterfront, four acres of land were bought in 1905. Two years later, a one-story building was completed for St. Luke's Hospital, which was provided with the best equipment and beds for fifty patients. A doctor was put in charge, and the program was to include a training school for nurses. In 1908, a second story was added to the building.

On the island of Vieques, the Rev. Mr. Bean was replaced by the Rev. Leonard Read in 1905. Mr. Read, who had been ordained by Bishop VanBuren in Ponce, was a local resident of British background, his father having been

Archdeacon of Antigua. The services of All Saints Church were held in a small wooden church building.

Primary schools were opened in connection with these missions, and were directed by women workers. Although there was a good deal of turnover in appointees among the clergy, a small but faithful handful of women workers maintained continuity in the missions. There were four schools, at San Juan, Puerta de Tierra, Mayaguez, and Ponce.

When Bishop VanBurean was forced to resign because of poor health in April, 1912, the work of the district was entrusted temporarily to the supervision of the Bishop of Cuba.

At the General Convention of 1913, the Very Rev. Charles P. Colmore, Dean of the Cathedral in Havana, was elected the second missionary bishop of Puerto Rico. His consecration took place at All Saints Chapel of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, on December 17, 1913. Arriving in San Juan a month later, he reported that his district included "five clergy in charge of six missions, with a total of eleven stations." Communicant membership was then about five hundred.

In June, 1913, the first native-born Puerto Rican had been ordained deacon after completing his studies at the General Theological Seminary in New York. The Rev. Paul R. R. Reinhardt was stationed at Ponce, and advanced to the priesthood in June, 1914, by Bishop Colmore. However, he was to spend only four years of his ministry on his native island, as he moved to the United States in 1918.

In 1915, the first new work since Bishop Colmore's arrival was begun at El Coto, a rural area near Manati, west of San Juan along the north coast. Here the Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Droste began holding services on their pineapple plantation. A native of Holland, Mr. Droste had been ordained deacon by Bishop VanBuren in Ponce in 1908, but he was not advanced to the priesthood until 1915. The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Droste built a chapel on their land, which was turned over to the Church; and Mrs. Droste, a trained nurse, opened a small clinic. Two years later, a primary school was added to the work of this mission.

Bishop Colmore recognized the need for expanding the work into the rural areas and the need for native clergymen to do this work. The population was primarily rural, with a good deal of poverty and illiteracy; and little Christian work was being done among these people. At the same time, the turn-over in American appointees slowed down the expansion of Spanish-language work.

Accordingly, a small seminary was opened in San Juan in 1918, using the former episcopal residence, which was located conveniently near the University of Puerto Rico. The first two men to complete their training there were brothers, Aristides and Antonio Villafane. Ordained in 1923, they were to spend their entire ministry in Puerto Rico. ✓

At the same time, in 1923, the missions developed by the Rt. Rev. Manuel Ferrando were added to the work of the Episcopal Church in Puerto Rico. Bishop Ferrando was

a Spaniard who had left the ministry of the Roman Catholic Church for reasons of conscience. After spending some time in New York, where in 1895 he was consecrated a bishop in the Reformed Episcopal Church, he came to Puerto Rico at the time of the Spanish-American War as an independent missionary. He was attracted by the plight of the people in the rural areas, and started work at Quebrada Limon in the hills inland from Ponce. He bought about three hundred acres of land and began by holding services in his home. His work spread throughout the area, little by little he built up several congregations, and he trained four local men as clergy.

As a result of contact with the Episcopal Church through the mission at Ponce, Bishop Ferrando applied to the House of Bishops for supplemental consecration. His application granted, on March 15, 1923, he was consecrated Bishop of Quebrada Limon in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. In November of that year, at a meeting of the House of Bishops, he was elected Suffragan Bishop of Puerto Rico. Although he later spent a good deal of his time in the United States, where he died in 1934, the four clergy trained by him, being reordained in February, 1924, continued their work in the rural area near Ponce.

During this time, the work in the towns was strengthened. At Mayaguez, new buildings were constructed for St. Andrew's Mission: a school, temporary chapel, and living quarters were built in 1918; and the church building

*for the mission in
1905*

and additional school facilities were completed in 1924. This school included industrial training for boys and embroidery classes for girls.

At Ponce, the old Holy Trinity Church building was in such bad condition that it was condemned by the city authorities in 1922. It was finally replaced in 1926 by a reinforced concrete building of Spanish mission style. Also, in one of the poor, heavily populated sections of the city, a new mission was started in 1924.

At St. Luke's Hospital, the work continued smoothly under the direction of an American nurse, Miss Ellen Hicks, who had arrived in 1917. The hospital was staffed with two Puerto Rican doctors, and its nurses' training school had about twenty students enrolled. However, the building had been weakened by an earthquake in 1918, and a severe hurricane in 1928 left it unusable. The response to the pleas for funds for rebuilding was immediate, and construction was begun in 1929. During the two-year construction period, the work of the hospital continued in temporary quarters. In 1931, the new two-story concrete structure was completed, which included a separate chapel adjacent to the main entrance.

In San Juan, as part of the program for training native workers, in 1924 St. Catherine's Training School for Women was opened, under the direction of Miss Ethel M. Robinson. Seven young women enrolled in the two-year course. The property on which the school was located in Santurce was at first rented and then purchased in 1926.

By 1928, due to the population shift in the capital, it became necessary to move St. John's Church out of the heart of the old city into the suburbs. The site of St. Catherine's School was chosen for the new building. The old St. John's Church was sold, and a large new building in Spanish style with a fine tower was erected in 1929. At the same time, a new building for St. Catherine's School was completed adjacent to the church. This church was planned to accommodate three congregations, the Spanish-speaking, the American "Continental", and the native English-speaking. ✓ B. 2

A need had long been felt for a rest house in the mountains where the workers could go for relaxation and refreshment from the tropical climate. In 1928, land was purchased at Las Rubias, about 3,000 feet altitude in the mountains in the southwestern part of the island, about fifty miles from Mayaguez. The following year, "Quinta Tranquila", a two-story reinforced concrete house, was built.

As there was no Christian work being done in the area of the new "Quinta Tranquila", it was natural that a mission should be opened there. Additional land was bought, and in 1930 a church was built for the Church of the Transfiguration. At that time, the mission was served by the priest from Mayaguez.

By 1930, the district had thirteen well-established missions in seven areas, and the basic pattern was set which has continued to the present. These areas are, in

geographical sequence around the island, San Juan (with 2 urban and 2 rural missions), Manati (with 3 missions), Mayaguez (1), Las Rubias (1), Quebrada Limon (1), Ponce (2), and the island of Vieques (1). The membership at this time had reached about 5,000, with about 2,500 communicants. There were twelve clergy, five foreign and seven Puerto Rican, and the two bishops.

The 1930's saw the retrenchment made necessary in most districts because of the Depression. In 1932, the seminary in San Juan had to be closed, and the five students were sent to their homes to study under a directed reading program. In 1934, St. Catherine's Training School was forced to close. Its building, however, was put to use as a parish hall for St. John's Church. In Mayaguez, St. Andrew's primary school closed in 1933, but its industrial and embroidery department remained open as St. Andrew's Craft Shop, providing a small income for the parish.

The only real expansion was in the mountain area near the "Quinta Tranquila", where one by one new missions were opened. For each new mission, five to ten acres of land were purchased in the hope that these missions would be partially self-supporting. In ten years, the work grew to twelve missions and stations, requiring three resident clergymen, each living in the center of four missions.

In 1938, as part of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Bishop Colmore's consecration, the congregation of St. John's Church in San Juan offered the building and

and all its facilities to the Bishop to be used as a Cathedral. This offer was accepted.

1938 also saw the retirement of Miss Hicks after thirty-four years of missionary work, twenty of which were spent in the efficient administration of St. Luke's Hospital. She was replaced as director by an American doctor, and another American missionary doctor was added to the staff two years later.

In 1940, St. Luke's Church in Puerta de Tierra was sold, and the money was used to build a new parish house at the Cathedral. Thereafter, the St. Luke's congregation joined the Cathedral congregation.

Bishop Colmore was forced by poor health in 1942 to cut down on his activities and to ask for a coadjutor. At the General Convention of 1943, the Rev. Charles F. Boynton, who had arrived in Puerto Rico the previous year to take charge of St. Andrew's Church in Mayaguez, was elected to this post. He was consecrated at the Cathedral in San Juan on January 2, 1944.

Before his retirement in 1947, Bishop Colmore saw the establishment of some important new work. The first, in 1944, was the opening of an agricultural high school for boys, the first of its kind in the country, at the farm at Quebrada Limon. Twenty boys enrolled the first year.

The second, also in 1944, was the beginning of the work of the Community of the Transfiguration in the district. The Sisters accepted an invitation to come to Ponce to

participate in the parochial and hospital work. The convent building was constructed on the grounds of St. Luke's Hospital, and four Sisters arrived in December.

Then, in 1945, it became possible to reopen the seminary in connection with the Cathedral. The following year, the former St. Catherine's Training School facilities at the Cathedral were put to use for an Academy. This Academy was to be self-supporting; and starting with kindergarten in the school year of 1946-47, it planned to add a grade each year.

Bishop Colmore retired in March, 1947; and Bishop Boynton was formally enthroned at the Cathedral on St. John the Baptist's Day.

The agricultural high school, which was operating under severe handicaps at Quebrada Limon, was moved to a site at San Justo outside San Juan. Land had been bought for this purpose, and the school moved into temporary buildings in 1948. As this was a new residential settlement, it was also possible to open a new mission, the Church of the Holy Family. The school grounds also provided facilities for a conference center.

In the late 1940's, construction of several new buildings--churches, parish halls, and rectories--became possible at some of the older missions. At the same time, two new missions were opened, one at the sugar plantation of Guanica, in the southwest corner of the island, in the town of Ensenada; and the other in a new residential suburb of San Juan called Roosevelt.

The clergy at this time represented a variety of national and denominational backgrounds. As reported by Bishop Boynton in 1948, of the 18 active clergymen, three were Continental Americans; four were former Roman Catholic priests--two from Spain, one from Holland, and one from Bolivia; two were former ministers of the Puerto Rican Presbyterian Church; while seven were Puerto Ricans originally ordained in the Episcopal Church.

In 1950, Bishop Boynton resigned in order that he might accept his election to be Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of New York. He left in December to take up his official duties as of January 1, 1951. However, he continued as Bishop-in-charge until his successor could be chosen.

At the meeting of the House of Bishops in El Paso, Texas, January 10-12, 1951, the Rev. A. Ervine Swift, then Rector of Holy Trinity Parish, Manila, the Philippines, was elected the fourth missionary bishop of Puerto Rico. He was consecrated May 3, in Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas, and enthroned in the Cathedral in San Juan on June 24.


Soon after Bishop Swift's arrival, a new Bishop's House was completed in the Condado section of the capital.

Under Bishop Swift, the emphasis has been on strengthening and consolidating the work and reorienting it in line with the rapidly-changing conditions in Puerto Rico.

One of the first steps ^{taken} to strengthen the work was to send candidates for the ministry to the United States for their seminary training and in some cases for their

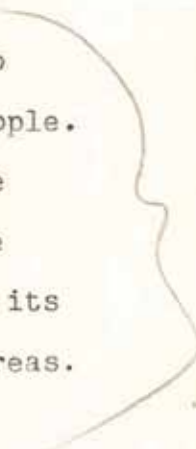
university courses as well. The opening of the new Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Caribbean in the fall of 1961 now permits students to complete their work in their own country.

Certain work that no longer filled a need was discontinued. St. Andrew's Craft Shop in Mayaguez was closed in 1953. The Church's large farm properties were sold as the opportunities presented themselves.

In Ponce, the Sisters of the Transfiguration added a center for delinquent boys to their work. In 1952, a house and lot were purchased, and St. Michael's Center was opened. 

The District's two most important schools were expanded. In 1957, three permanent buildings were constructed for Colegio San Justo: a dormitory, a classroom building, and a building for the dining room, kitchen, and library. The same year, at the Cathedral Academy, a new building permitted the addition of the last two years of the high school program.

With attention turning to the urban areas, a new mission was opened in the Lomas Verdes section of Bayamon, a suburb of San Juan. *SSPP*

In the sixty years of the Church's work in Puerto Rico, it has tried to adapt itself to the needs of the people. At the beginning, the major problem was to minister to the rural population. Now, as the economy is changing and the people are moving into the cities, the Church is aware of its responsibility to follow and open new work in the urban areas. 

Part II - Present Work

The island of Puerto Rico, 105 miles long by 35 miles wide, now has a population of 2,349,544 (1960 census). Of this number, more than one-third live in cities of over 50,000 inhabitants. The recent "Operation Bootstrap" has brought new commerce and industry to the country, with the result that the people are moving out of the rural areas into the cities and towns. Further shifting of the population is bring^{ing} about 30,000 to 40,000 Puerto Ricans annually to the United States to live.

Whereas sixty years ago Puerto Rico was a backward land where most of the people lived on a near-subsistence level in the rural areas, it is now a booming country where manufacturing provides the largest source of income. Agriculture has dropped to second place, with sugar cane remaining the principal cash crop, and tobacco, coffee, pineapple and other fruits and vegetables also important. Whereas sixty years ago northerners avoided the country because of unhealthy living conditions, the tourist industry is now the third most important source of income. Sixty years ago travel was slow and difficult, but now good roads crisscross the island.

As for education, sixty years ago the illiteracy rate was about 85%, but now that figure has been reversed. The school program follows the American system. While Spanish is the language of instruction, English is taught

in all the schools, with the result that most well-educated Puerto Ricans are bi-lingual. There are now four universities in the country; and the University of Puerto Rico alone, which was founded in 1903, has an enrollment of 18,000 students.

Whereas freedom of religion was unknown under the Spanish, it is now accepted. All major denominations have work in Puerto Rico, though the Roman Catholic Church still counts 90% of the population as its members.

(1) At present, the Episcopal Church has 8,817 members (as of the end of 1960), divided among 23 congregations. To handle the work, there are ²³ 20 active clergy, in addition to the Bishop. ²⁹ Three of the priests are from the United States, while the rest are Latins, six from Spain and ⁸ eleven from Puerto Rico. Also there are four Sisters of the Community of the Transfiguration, all from the United States. Finally, there are four lay appointees from the United States: one is Secretary to the Bishop; one, Treasurer of the District; the third, the Director of Colegio San Justo; and the fourth, a professor at Colegio San Justo. ✓

San Juan, together with its suburbs, is the center of the Church's work. Old San Juan, being a walled city, long ago outgrew its limits; and as the population moved outward into the suburbs, the Church's work followed. The capital's present population is close to 450,000, and it is continuing to grow. *half-million*

In the San Juan area, the Church has its Cathedral in Santurce, a church in the Roosevelt Division of Hato Rey, a new congregation in the Lomas Verdes section of Bayamon, *Bayamón church*

two rural missions near Rio Piedras, and a church and Colegio San Justo at San Justo. In addition, the Bishop's House is located on the ocean front at Condado, with the rectory for the canon of the Cathedral's English-speaking congregation on the same grounds.

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is located in Santurce, on one of the main avenues, Ponce de Leon. Also on its grounds are the parish house, the Cathedral Academy, the Bishop's Office, and the residence quarters for the Dean of the Cathedral. All of these buildings are in good condition, being of concrete construction. The Cathedral itself was recently air conditioned, as much to keep out the noise of the Sunday lottery-drawing crowds next door as to keep out the mid-day heat.

The present membership of the Cathedral is divided into two congregations, the Spanish-speaking and the English-speaking. The Spanish congregation has 419 baptized members, of whom 263 are communicants. The English congregation, which includes both American Continentals and Puerto Ricans of British West Indian background, now has 647 members, of whom 219 are communicants. There are three clergymen to handle this work, one of whom is Dean of the Cathedral. There is a good program of parish activities for both congregations. The schedule of Sunday services is as follows:

7:00	Holy Communion - English	✓
9:00	Holy Communion - Spanish	
11:00	Morning Prayer and Holy Communion - English	
OUT 6:00	Evensong and Benediction - English	✓

Spanish membership
American is small

The Cathedral Academy is a self-supporting day school. It now has an enrollment of ³²⁵420 boys and girls, in classes from kindergarten through the 12th grade. There are 17 teachers.

Beyond Santurce, the Roosevelt Division of Hato Rey is a middle-class residential area started by the Federal Government in the late 1930's. Services of the Church of the Incarnation there were first held in 1938. The church was built in 1940, and it is a small building of good concrete construction. A one-story, seven-room rectory was built on the grounds a few years later, and in 1959 a parish house was added which completed the facilities. There are parish activities for women and girls. The congregation now includes 181 baptized members, of whom 145 are communicants. One priest is in charge of this work. *Fr. y. a. de S. Eusebio*

The newest congregation to follow San Juan's growing suburbs is St. Peter and St. Paul in the Lomas Verdes section of Bayamon, in the low foothills. Although the services are being held in a ^{owned}rented house, there are already 95 baptized members, of whom 64 are communicants. One priest is in charge of this work. In the summer of 1961, land was bought for the church, and construction was due to begin by the end of the year. *2 merged*

Rio Piedras was originally a small town about eight miles southeast of San Juan; but with the population expansion, since 1951 it has been considered a part of the city. The University of Puerto Rico is located there. As yet the

Church does not have work in the town, but it does have two rural missions nearby, at Las Cuevas and at Caimito. The farming in this area produces sugar cane in the lowlands and valleys, and minor fruit and vegetable crops on the hillsides. Following the trend all over the island, the residents are slowly moving off the farms into the cities.

St. Hilda's Church at Las Cuevas, in the municipality of Trujillo Alto, had the distinction of having its first services held in a cock-fight pit. This was in 1926; soon after, land was donated for a chapel. The chapel is small but is still in good condition. It is located on the road leading to the town of Trujillo Alto. Due to the decreasing population, the membership of this mission is not growing; but at present there are 223 baptized members, of whom 56 are communicants. This mission has never had a resident priest, and it is now served by the priest at Caimito.

(2) St. Joseph's Church at Caimito is located on the road to the town of Las Cuevas, in a rural area approximately four miles south of Rio Piedras. The first services were held in 1929 in private homes. The present small cement church was built in 1933 and is still in good condition. Recently, land and a building were bought for use as a parish hall-rectory. The present membership is 530 baptized persons, of whom 155 are communicants. One priest is in charge of this work.

San Justo, south of Rio Piedras, is another area developed by the Federal Government, beginning in 1936.

Each home site included a small concrete-block house and one acre of land for gardening. In 1948, when the Church transferred the agricultural school for boys from Quebrada Limon to this location, a mission to serve the community, as well as the students of the school, was planned. The Church of the Holy Family was organized; and its chapel, of reinforced concrete, with a zinc roof and aluminum jalousie windows, was completed in 1949. It will seat 150 and is in good condition. The church now has 300 baptized members, of whom 81 are communicants. There is one resident priest.

Leaving San Juan and traveling around the island counterclockwise, the next area where the Church has missions is Manati. The town of Manati is on the main highway along the north coast, about thirty-five miles from the capital. There is no church in the town itself, but there are three in the nearby rural areas, one at El Coto, the second at Barahona near Morovis, and the third at Pugnado. These missions are contiguous to one another, with direct roads connecting to Manati. The three missions are served by one priest, (who lives at El Coto.)

El Coto, the original mission founded by the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Droste, is located on the road in the direction of San Juan. When the Drostes retired in 1937, they left behind 720 members, a good-sized stone and cement church, a seven-room rectory, and a small parish house. All of the buildings are still in use. At present, a school building owned by the mission is being used for a Government school.

The congregation, which draws its membership from a one-mile radius around the church, now counts 366 baptized persons, of whom 196 are communicants.

Ascension Church at Barahona is about four miles from the small town of Morovis, south of El Coto. This mission was organized by the Drostes in 1922. A wooden building was used for the chapel until 1928, when it was destroyed by a hurricane. In 1929, land was purchased and the present chapel and rectory were built. The chapel is of concrete with a zinc roof, and is in fairly good condition. The rectory, a modern house with four bedrooms, is now in poor condition but is being used by the lay reader. There is also a dispensary, of concrete construction, built in 1937. It is conducted by a *practical nurse* ; and in 1960, 300 persons received treatment. The present membership of this mission is 353 baptized persons, of whom 114 are communicants.

(3)

The small Church of the Holy Apostles at Pugnado was begun in 1930. Services were first held in a tobacco warehouse, and later land was bought and a wooden structure built for the church and Sunday School. The membership of this mission is now 85 baptized persons, of whom 29 are communicants.

Jumping now to the west coast of the island, the Church has its third largest mission in Mayaguez. This is a city of about 85,000 inhabitants, the third largest in the country. The principal industry there is needlecraft.

St. Andrew's Church is located in the older, eastern section of the city, where it has been for fifty years. Its fine church building was erected in 1924, of cement construction with a zinc roof, and is still in fairly good condition. On the full square block of property owned by the Church are also a rectory-and-school building and a parish hall. The two-story rectory-school was built in 1918 and is now in fair condition. The rectory is on the second floor and is modern, with three bedrooms and three guest rooms. Although the full program of the school was terminated in 1933, a small kindergarten and two-grade primary school are operated now. At present there are 38 kindergarten pupils and one teacher and 28 primary school children and one teacher.

(4) A new parish hall for St. Andrew's Church was completed in 1956. A dispensary is conducted in

by a nurse and one assistant; about 600 patients were treated during the past year. St. Andrew's has a dynamic parish program, with activities for boys, girls, men, and women. There are now 698 baptized members in this mission, of whom 408 are communicants. There are two priests to handle this work.

If a diagonal line were drawn from Mayaguez to Ponce on the south coast, it would cut across the southwest corner of the island and through the area where the mountain missions radiating out from the town of Yauco are located. In this area, coffee is the principal crop; and in Yauco,

near the coast, the processing of coffee is the principal industry. As is true elsewhere, the population is moving out of the rural areas into the cities.

The decreasing population together with the improved travel conditions have permitted the seven mountain missions to be combined into four centers. They are as follows:

- 1) Las Rubias: Transfiguration
Tabonuco Alto, Sabana Grande: St. Ann's
- 2) Bartolo: St. Bartholomew's
Rio Prieto: Holy Spirit
- 3) Castaner: Holy Cross
Mirasol: High Grace
- 4) Rancheras: Annunciation

The Church of the Transfiguration at Las Rubias, the first mission in this area, was organized in 1930. The small cement-block church is located across the road from the "Quinta Tranquila". The frame rectory is a modern house with four bedrooms, and is in fair condition. There is also a small parish hall of wood construction. Wood is not an entirely satisfactory construction material in this area because of the dampness and the termites. One priest resides at this mission.

The second church of this center is St. Ann's at Tabonuco Alto, near the town of Sabana Grande. Since 1930, this area has been visited by the priest from Transfiguration. A small chapel was built of wood in 1939. There is also a small wooden rectory, used by the lay worker, but it is in poor condition. The membership of the combined mission of Transfiguration and St. Ann is 646 baptized persons, of whom 192 are communicants.

(5) St. Bartholomew's Church at Bartolo, Rio Prieto, is located in the southwest corner of the municipality of Lares, on the road from Yauco to Lares. In 1934, land was bought from the Federal Land Bank, and services were held in an old house converted into a church. In 1948, the present church was built, of wood, with a basement for use as a parish hall. The building is in good condition. There is also a six-room rectory, of wood, built in 1942. St. Bartholomew's is the "mother church" of the missions at Rio Prieto, Castaner, and Mirasol.

At the Church of the Holy Spirit at Rio Prieto, services were first held in 1948. Land was donated by one of the members, and a small cement-block church was built in 1953. The membership of this combined mission, St. Bartholomew's and Holy Spirit, is 390 baptized persons and 204 communicants.

Holy Cross Church in Castaner was established in a community of World War II conscientious objectors from the United States and Puerto Rico. A hospital was opened there by the Federal Government in which these people could work. Church services were held in a community building provided by the Government until 1948. In that year, the Church was able to buy two acres of land on a hill in the center of the town; and the following year a cement-block and stone church was completed. Recently, a new parish house has been built on the church property.

High Grace Church at Mirasol is located on the road from Lares to Aconta. The first services were held in 1944 in private homes. Then in 1948, when the new church was built for St. Bartholomew's Church, the wood from the old church was transferred to Mirasol and used for construction of the church. The land owned by the Church is the precise size of the church building. The membership of the combined mission, Holy Cross and High Grace, is now 265 baptized members, of whom 81 are communicants.

Annunciation Church at Rancheras is on the road to Yauco, about four miles from the town. The first services were held in this area in 1935. The church, small parish hall, and rectory were built in 1939, and are all constructed of wood. The present membership is 260 persons, of whom 62 are communicants. This mission is served by the priest from Yauco.

In the town of Yauco itself, which is about 25 miles west of Ponce, the Church has one mission, St. Raphael's. Services were first held in 1945 in a rented house in the downtown part of the city. In 1950 a small church and a rectory were built. Both buildings are of stone and concrete and in good condition. The present membership is 230 baptized members, of whom 113 are communicants. The priest living here serves the missions at Rancheras and Ensenada, as well as St. Raphael's Church in Yauco.

At Ensenada, about eight miles south of Yauco, there is one mission, St. Cecelia's. Ensenada is part of

*+ San Ramon
St. Raphael*

(6) the municipality of Guanica, just north of it. It was built up as a town after the establishment of the Guanica Sugar Corporation at the turn of the century. Ensenada was first visited by the priest from Yauco in 1947. Land for a church was donated by the Sugar Corporation, and a frame and stone church was built in 1949. There are now 150 baptized members of this mission, of whom 61 are communicants.

Continuing now to Ponce, this city is the most important commercial and industrial center on the south coast. It is the second largest city of the country, having a population of about 150,000.

The work in the Ponce area may be divided between the city itself and the rural area centering at Quebrada Limon. In the city are Holy Trinity Church, the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, St. Luke's Hospital and Nursing School, the Convent of the Community of the Transfiguration, and St. Michael's Center.

Holy Trinity Church is located in the downtown part of Ponce, on the site where the first church was erected in 1873. The present church, although built in 1926, is in good condition and is well furnished. Three new buildings were added on the church property in 1950, all of reinforced concrete; namely, a parish hall, rectory, and caretaker's house.

A new building for Holy Trinity's parochial school was built in 1954, on the church grounds. The school now

has 180 children enrolled in classes from kindergarten to the eighth grade, and has a staff of fourteen teachers. It is directed by one of the Sisters of the Transfiguration.

Whereas Holy Trinity was established for English-speaking residents, almost ^{now} all of the services and activities are now carried on in Spanish. There is only one service in English on Sundays, with a small English Sunday School. There is a busy parish program, with activities for girls, boys, women, and men. This church draws its members from all over the city, except the section where St. Mary the Virgin Church is located. It has the largest membership in the district, with 1,434 baptized members, of whom 584 are communicants. There are two priests in charge of this work.

(7) The Church of St. Mary the Virgin is located in the Clausells section of the city, a low rent area. The present church, of concrete construction, was built in 1941. In 1948, an additional lot was purchased which permitted some expansion of the church's activities, especially the parochial school. In 1956, a new rectory-school building was constructed. The school now has 164 pupils enrolled, with five teachers, for classes from kindergarten through the grade. The present membership of this mission is 640 baptized persons, of whom 298 are communicants. There is a resident priest in charge of this church.

At present, there are four Sisters of the Community of the Transfiguration. Their Convent is located on the grounds of St. Luke's Hospital, just below the hospital

buildings. The Sisters do parish work in the two churches, direct religious education and help with the Sunday Schools, and one is in charge of the school at Holy Trinity. Another assists in the nurses' training school and in the occupational therapy department of the hospital. Finally, there is St. Michael's Center for delinquent boys, which is directed by Sister Esther Mary.

A further description of the work at St. Michael's Center and of St. Luke's Hospital and Nursing School will be given at the end of this report.

Turning to the rural missions, they include the Church of the Atonement at Quebrada Limon; St. Mark's at Magueyes; and St. Matthew's at Quebrada Ceiba, Penueles. Whereas in the past these missions were cut off from the city for lack of transportation--it was about a two-hour horseback ride to Quebrada Limon from Ponce, they are now considered as suburbs of the city, thanks to good roads.

The Church of the Atonement is about eight miles into the hills north of Ponce, in an entirely rural section. The large, old, one-time-cathedral church is still in fairly good condition. There is also a parish hall, but it is of frame construction and in poor condition. In addition, there is a rectory, which is frame but with a cement foundation; it is a modern house, with three bedrooms, and is in good condition. The district's only Church cemetery is located here. Most of the farm property has been sold, but 25 acres still remain, which help provide

some income for the mission. While many of the church's members still depend on farming for their livelihood, some now commute into Ponce for work. The membership of this church is now 401 baptized members, of whom 173 are communicants. There is one resident priest in charge of this mission.

The town of Magueyes is adjacent to Ponce, and with the growth of the two localities, Magueyes is now on the outskirts of the city. St. Mark's Church is located on a hill overlooking the town. This was formerly an entirely agricultural area, but it is now becoming more industrial. The first services were held in private homes in this area in 1924. The present chapel was erected in 1928; it is of concrete construction and still in good condition. In 1948, a parish house was added; it is of wood with a cement floor and a zinc roof, and is in good condition. A rectory was built at the same time, and is a modern, three-bedroom house, in good condition. The membership of this church is now 104 baptized persons, of whom 59 are communicants. There is one resident priest in charge of this mission.

Quebrada Ceiba is in the northeast part of the municipality of Penuelas. The town of Penuelas is on a road about twelve miles west of Ponce, but the church is in a remote mountain area not on a road. St. Matthew's Church was organized in 1910. The present church was built in 1930 of cement with a wood roof, and is in good condition. The

rectory and parish hall, built at the same time, of wood, are in only fair condition. The rectory is used by the layreader. The small congregation consists of 108 baptized members, of whom 36 are communicants. The priest from St. Mary the Virgin Church in Ponce visits this mission once a month.

Finally, off the east coast of Puerto Rico is the small island of Vieques, where All Saints Church is located. Vieques is 21 miles long by 4 miles wide. The U.S. Navy owns both ends of the island, and the civilian population lives in the central part, the principal occupation being farming. The only town is Isabella II, of about 3,000 population. All Saints Church is located in the town, near the waterfront. The present church building was built in 1934 and is in fairly good condition. It is frame with a cement floor, and has a small parish house attached. The rectory is of cement construction and is in good condition. ✓

(8) There is a new parish house ✓

Whereas this church was organized to minister to English-speaking people, the present generation is entirely Spanish-speaking, and all services are held in Spanish. About three-fourths of the members live in the town, and one-fourth in the rural areas. The present membership is 292 baptized members, of whom 117 are communicants. One priest lives at the church to take care of this work.

Turning to the district institutions, they include Colegio San Justo near San Juan, St. Luke's Hospital and

Nursing School in Ponce, and St. Michael's Center in Ponce. Also there is the "Quinta Tranquila" at Las Rubias, which continues to serve its purpose as the rest house for the district.

Colegio San Justo, although started as an agricultural school, now follows an academic high school program. As it has dormitory facilities, it draws students from all over the island. At present, there are 62 boys enrolled in grades eight through twelve, and there are 8 teachers. Its director is a missionary appointee from the United States, as is one of the teachers. Attention has been drawn to this school recently through its fine Steel Band, which has toured parts of the United States under the Church's sponsorship.

St. Luke's Hospital, since its opening in 1907, has been the most outstanding institution operated by the Church in Puerto Rico. It was the first hospital in Ponce, and now that there are four other hospitals there, it still ranks among the best. It has always been self-supporting, except for the cost of construction of the buildings. It is a general hospital with special rehabilitation programs for crippled children and veterans. It has two modern operating rooms, two modern delivery rooms, and 95 beds. The equipment is excellent and up to date, including X-ray and a laboratory.

Its physical plant consists of the main building, three-stories high with a full basement, and a wing which was added in 1946 for the veterans' program. The buildings for the Nursing School include a dormitory, to which a third

floor was added in 1957, and a combined classroom and residence building for the director and some of the staff. There are also the chapel, ³four residences for staff, and the Convent of the Sisters. These buildings are all well constructed of concrete and are in good condition.

chapel in school office & staff

Must expand & be accounted

The hospital staff at present includes two local doctors, twenty nurses, and eighteen assistants. During 1960, 3,847 in-patients and 8,586 out-patients were treated. The Nursing School had 39 young women enrolled, with a staff of seven. There is a chaplain attached to the hospital who conducts services at the hospital chapel and also at the chapel at St. Michael's Center.

resident + large staff of Ponce doctor

at account of for many houses

St. Michael's Center grew out of the work of the Sisters with boys in the juvenile detention section of the Ponce District Jail. This work began in 1948, and as the social work with the boys and their families increased, the need for a center became obvious. In 1952, a house was purchased in downtown Ponce, and a little later a second house was added. The second house now provides living quarters for eight homeless boys, while the first house is used as a recreation center. The program includes recreational activities of all kinds, basketball and volley ball and other outdoor games in the open court behind the house; and table games, handicrafts, and reading in the house. A simple lunch is served to the boys. About 150 boys and their families are helped through this Center, and on special occasions as many as 250 boys take part in the activities. One room of St. Michael's House is set apart for the chapel.

new []

Even with two houses, the work does not have enough space, and the buildings are constantly overflowing. Also these buildings, especially the first house, are old and in poor condition. Therefore, a project is underway to purchase three adjacent lots with houses, which will provide better facilities.

St. Michael's Center is the only institution of its kind in Ponce.

An institution which is in Puerto Rico but is not an institution of the Missionary District of Puerto Rico is the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Caribbean. It is located on 25 acres of land outside San Juan, beyond the Colegio San Justo property. This Seminary serves the Missionary Districts of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Central America, and the Panama Canal Zone. Classes opened in the fall of 1961. Puerto Rico at present has students enrolled, while students are in college preparing for the seminary.

(9)

From the financial point of view, the Missionary District of Puerto Rico is partially self-supporting. In addition to the self-supporting schools and the hospital, the local support for clergy salaries and allowances is about \$20,000 annually. The total local contributions for 1960 came to just under \$65,000. For the same year, the National Council budget amounted to almost \$140,000. The budget covers the salaries of the missionary appointees and most of the Puerto Rican clergy, as well as the district's

new assigned
2 P.R.
1 V. I.
4 in U.S.
10 in college

part 3

administrative expenses. It also gives support to St. Luke's Nursing School and to Colegio San Justo. *St. Luke's* ✓

During the past fifteen years, the National Council has contributed the following amount for the support of the work in Puerto Rico:

Budget appropriations	\$1,672,420
Builders for Christ	206,000
Reconstruction and Advance Fund	50,194
National Council Grants	145,461
United Thank Offering Grants	<u>279,156</u>
Total for period 1945-1960	\$2,353,231

In summary, it can be seen that the present work of the Church in Puerto Rico is on firm ground. The present buildings are for the most part adequate, and there is a good staff with prospects of more young men soon completing their seminary training. The immediate need is for expansion into the urban areas to follow the shifting population. The Missionary District of Puerto Rico can look forward to increasing self-support as economic conditions on the island continue to improve.

Part III - Future Plans

Bishop Swift has summarized the needs of the Episcopal Church in Puerto Rico in the immediate future as follows:

"Historically the Church in Puerto Rico ministered in the rural parts but our greatest need today is to expand

into urban areas which have developed fantastically in keeping with the industrial upsurge. Likewise there has begun to appear a growing middle class, democratically minded and well-educated but with no more use for ecclesiastical dictatorship than for one in the political sphere. In order to meet the opportunities of these people in rapidly-growing housing areas, we simply must have money in order to expand - and quickly, even if we can now only buy property which will be much more expensive a few years hence. In keeping with the report of the Unit of Research and Study [1952], we should have six more churches and, in keeping with conditions as they have developed since that report was made, we should have an additional six. In city after city we have Episcopalians but no work, and in the capital of San Juan..., we have only one small church apart from the cathedral, and similar conditions exist in Ponce and Mayaguez. The University of Puerto Rico is simply ripe for missionary work, and ... we must build an adequate student center, chapel, social hall and apartment for the chaplain;* indeed this particular project personifies the need for the Episcopal Church in Puerto Rico and can be one of our most productive pieces of missionary endeavor, producing more intelligent, middle class Episcopalians, who in turn will help us to expand and to become more self-supporting all over the island."

*7 more churches
Student center
Once the school*

*Since Bishop Swift wrote this statement, money was granted for this project from the United Thank Offering in September, 1961.

*2
No - for
3 more*

Statistics for 1960

Place and Church	Clergy	Lay Readers	Stations	Communicants	Baptized Members	Sunday School Enrollment	Schools	
							Pupils	Teachers
Bayamon (Lomas Verdes) St. Peter & St. Paul	2			64	95	10		
Ensenada St. Cecilia		1	1	61	150	30		
Manati Resurrection (El Coto)	1		2	196	366	88		
Ascension (Barahona, Morovis)		1		114	353			
Holy Apostles (Pugnado)				29	85	38		
Mayaguez St. Andrew	2			408	698	79	66	2
Penuelas St. Matthew (Quebrada Ceiba)		1		36	108	46		
Ponce ST. LUKE'S Holy Trinity	2		2	584	1,434	177	180	14
St. Mary the Virgin Atonement (Quebrada Limon)	1		1	298	640	152	164	5
St. Mark (Magueyes)				173	401	125		
				59	104	29		
Rio Piedras St. Hilda (Las Cuevas)		1		56	223	42		
St. Joseph (Caimito)		2		155	530	83		
St. Just Holy Family		5		81	300	40		
San Juan Cathedral: English				219	647	96		
" : Spanish				263	419	80	420	17
Incarnation (Roosevelt)	2	4		145	181	25	18	2

Place and Church	Clergy	Lay Readers	Stations	Communicants	Baptized Members	Sunday School Enrollment	Schools	
							Pupils	Teachers
Vieques All Saints	1	1		117	292	34		
Yauco St. Raphael- Annunciation (Rancheras)	1		1	113	230	35		
Holy Cross (Castaner) & High Grace (Mirasol)	1	5	1	62	260	90		
St. Bartholomew (Bartolo) & Holy Spirit (Rio Prieto)	1	5	1	81	265	22		
Transfiguration (Las Rubias) & St. Ann (Tabonuco)	1	9	1	204	390	68		
Colegio San Justo	1			192	646	53	62	8
TOTAL	22	42	10	3,710	8,817	1,442	910	46

Medical Work

Hospitals and Dispensaries	Physicians (Native)	Nurses (Native)	Trained Assistants (Native)	Beds	In-Patients	Out-Patients
St. Luke's Hospital, Ponce	2	20	18	95	3,847	8,586
Ascension Dispensary, Morovis			1			301
St. Andrew's Dispensary, Mayaguez		1	1	1	16	645

St. Luke's School of Nursing:

39 Pupils
7 Teachers