

13-B-68

## INTERESTING LASALLIAN MISSIONARY WORK IN THE ANDES (2)

### 5. Organization

One of the problems in this missionary zone is the great dispersion of the population. Isolation, lack of communication, the lack of organization, all constitute great problems in various villages.

Therefore, the Team set about encouraging awareness and participation: organizing directing teams for the internal functioning of each village where they did not exist before; support for those already in existence, the promotion of joint meetings within the zone; common projects for all the villages. The projects, their planning, solicitude, their accomplishment, and benefits have constituted an important factor in organization and cooperation: this social organization is yielding important fruit.

Equally the internal life of each village has been optimized by means of:

- courses for leaders.
- Formation of catechists and evangelizers.
- Two rural nurses.
- Specialized courses in the husbandry of large herds, given by a veterinarian.
- Those in charge of the construction of small shops.
- those in charge of the hothouse.

### 6. Togetherness

— This togetherness is expressed in three ways:

The most evident means for the native people and the most effective means is *to live with them*. This is what they most need and most appreciate. It is also a *condition* for the realization of all the other projects.

— *Being together with the public officials and those in authority*: until recently the native country folk were looked down upon in public offices and in centers where things are decided.

The Brothers, through their commitment to the poor and through their educational prestige, are very much appreciated by the Authorities and by the common people. And the Brothers of the Team take advantage of this not to supplant the farmers but to support them. When the village representatives present themselves in some

office accompanied by a Brother, success is always assured.

— *Technical and Administrative cooperation*: It is not sufficient merely to do things. Follow-up and evaluation are indispensable. Because of this the following *offices, free of charge*, operate in the mission house:

- \* law office: a lawyer (incredibly, the Provincial Fiscal).
- \* Animal husbandry office: a veterinarian.
- \* Agricultural office: an agricultural chemist and Engineer from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- \* A data bank.
- \* Office of the adviser on accounting for the Community Stores and cooperatives: sales and marketing.

### 7. Training centers

This is one of the greatest sources of developing the potential of the local village dwellers, particularly the youths.

Throughout the zone, the menacing shadow of immigration has already begun to creep in. The country folk who flee to the big cities along the coast in hope of finding a livelihood are easy bait for exploitation and food for corruption. It was imperative to avoid this scourge. Therefore we endeavored to create an *in situ* place of productive work, as an alternative to the present rudimentary rural economy.

*The Training Center consists of:*

- a carpentry shop;
- an electrical shop;
- a hydraulic engineering shop;
- a sewing and cutting shop;
- a shop for administration, accounting and typing;
- a popular library.

This Center is more educational than productive in purpose.

### 8. Agricultural and husbandry farm, educative and productive

This farm with an area of 25,000 square meters is at present in the process of being established in the following way:

- a poultry section for 500 chickens;
- a section for raising 500 guinea pigs or Indian rabbits;
- six large hothouses;
- a fish production pond;
- grazing land;

### 9. Spreading the production centers

We realize that it is not enough to set up sources of production and to create beautiful model centers. It is indispensable to increase the

amount of bread. Therefore, we are going to set up production centers in various villages:

- Aguarongo: besides the centers mentioned above, it will also have hothouses and a Community store.
- S. Pedro: carpentry, cutting and sewing, block-making, and baking.
- Yanacocha: Hothouse.
- Carón: community store and dairy.
- Cungapite: dairy, piggery, slaughterhouse, and sausage making.
- Chiripungo: community store.

### 10. Infrastructure promoted and supported by the team

— The installation of electric current: no house had this basic facility before. It was only in the planning stage. We Brothers, together with the country folk, have paid several visits to the Regional Manager of the Electrical Company. At this time, all the villages are provided with this service.

— Installation of running water; practically none of the houses had this facility previously: because of representations made to the proper authorities, today almost all of the villages have clean running water, coming from little springs.

— Medical care: as previously mentioned above, the Team carried on an intense campaign of awareness and appeal with the health authorities. This service is now fully functioning.

— Roads: these were in a deplorable state. At this moment, all the roads in the area have been properly widened and rendered suitable.

### 11. Generous benefactors:

Without any fanfare nor prior conditions, we have received valuable economic assistance. We should like to take this opportunity to thank:

— the Lasallian District of Bilbao, Spain. Not only does it provide personnel to the missionary team but also supplies whatever they need, underwriting the general expenses of all the activities. It has sent thousands of items of clothes, medicine, shoes, and books. It also partly finances the shops in San Pedro. The travels of the Brothers and co-workers are also financed by this District.

— *Miserior* (the bishops' conference of West Germany):

This organization has provided the vehicle used by the Team. The pavilion used by the

intercommunal stores and part of the food.

The Training Centers in their totality.

The Agriculture-animal husbandry with regard to the hothouses, various installations and part of the poultry.

*Kirche in not*: Bishops of West Germany:

— catechetical courses, library books and materials, various catechetical material.

— The Mission House and furnishings (partly).

— La Salle, New York: Food for the Community stores.

— La Salle of Austria: for the construction of the poultry, for hens, fish raising pond. Financing of Catechetical courses, materials, visual aids, etc..

— La Salle, Switzerland: Mission house (partly).

— La Salle-Villa Flaminia, Rome: Medicine.

— La Salle-Malta: Food for the Community stores.

— La Salle-Ireland: Hothouses for the villages.

— La Salle-North Mexico' upkeep of the Cultural Center.

— La Salle-Ecuador' the encouraging presence of the Brother Visitor, and his Council and the representatives of all the Lasallian schools in the country and their generous help and collaboration.

Parish of San Anton, Bilbao: the initial experimental poultry.

Parish of Albalate del Arzobispo, Teruel, Spain: community house and community store in Chiripungo. Father Oñate (brother of a co-worker), Bilbao: Medicine. De La Salle Brothers of Bilbao: individual donations, the results of their personal and community sacrifices.

Ecuadorian Institutions: they are many: Provincial Council, Ministry of Agriculture, Reconversion Center of Austro, Literacy Office, Municipal Councils: Soil removing machinery, wells, technical personnel, tip-carts, etc.

Carlos Perez-Perasso Foundation: *block-making*.

Diocese of Azoques: *block-making*.

And an important place is occupied by SECOLI, which has accepted, channeled, and supported our project request through Brother Pedro Arrambide.

Aguarongo is not only the name of a village. It is a ecclesial and Lasallian fraternity where painfully the Kingdom of Heaven is being developed.

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