

★ lasalliana

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PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

DURING FORMATION

The Scholasticate of South Mexico

“Formation should take into account the Brother’s mission. The novices are progressively offered the opportunity to engage in apostolic work adapted to the capacities of each. These apostolic experiences are evaluated regularly with those who guide the novices in their vocation.”

(Rule, Article 91 f).

What is laid down in Article 91 f of the Rule of the Novices applies likewise to the Scholastics. Their formation entails pastoral and apostolic activities which complement the religious and secular studies undertaken during this period of their initial formation.

These activities are a good sounding-board for each individual to find out how he will cope in the teaching profession and in the ministry of Christian education.

The contact thus provided with young people will put a balance in the life of the scholastic during these years of study. As the Rule states in Article 87 c: “These studies which aim to provide the competence necessary for religious education help the Brothers to have a better sense of their identity in relation to their vocation.”

The details of these activities, as to the time spent and the organisation of these apostolic involvements, vary according to the Regions of the Institute. In the District of South Mexico the Novitiate and Scholastic share the same house in a rather poor, very crowded suburb of Mexico City. There is unlimited scope there among the young and adults for boosting the morale, for training and for the work of evangelisation. It is an apostolate brimming over with opportunities to test the Lasallian fervour and zeal of the Scholastic Brothers. The short summary presented here will give some idea of the commitments proposed for 1987.

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The General Aim.

To get to know, at first hand, in the immediate vicinity of the House of Formation, some of the basic needs the people lack and which cause so much hardship.

To promote and carry out the work in a selfless manner in favour of those children, adolescents and adults who are in the greatest need, through the ministry of catechetics and education.

Course of Activities.

1. Catechetics.
 - In two of our Colleges in the Primary departments (6-12 years) and in the Secondary departments (12-15 years).
 - In centres for children and adolescents of the neighbourhood; (the Novices take part in this).
 - Short courses for aspiring secular catechists.
2. Classes in one of our Colleges at secondary level (12-15 years).
3. A Scout troop.
4. A centre for adult education at secondary level.
5. Counselling for a group attending “Study Courses on Christian Life”.

Some details

1. Catechetics.

- * In one of our Colleges at Primary Level (6 - 12 years).

Days: Monday and Thursday at 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Personnel: Six Brother Scholastics. The Brother Director organises it.

Those who attend: Thirty groups from 1st to 6th Grade; a total of 1500 pupils.

Noticeable Results: Groups of First Communicants who are given prompt, specialist preparation.

A collection of \$1000,00 (U.S.) for the Missions.

A collection of toys and presents for the Catechetical Centres in poor areas.

- * In another of our Colleges at Secondary Level (12 - 15 years).

Days: From Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

Personnel: Three Brother Scholastics who teach for 12 hours each week.

Those who attend: Five groups; a total of 250 pupils.

Results: Impossible to say as this is the first time this course has been given.

- * Centres for Catechetics outside our Colleges for the children and adolescents in the neighbourhood of our Scholasticate Community.

Days: Saturday afternoon from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

Personnel: 13 Brothers (including Novices) helped by 45 Catechists. A Brother Scholastic organises it.

Those who attend: 490 children and adolescents, spread over six Centres one of which is in the Scholasticate house itself.

Results: Groups of First Communicants which are organised at the end of each term.

* Short Courses to train secular catechists.

Days: Saturday from 5.45 to 6.30 p.m.

Personnel: One Brother Scholastic who is the general organiser; he can get help from some others.

Those who attend: A group of 20 young people of both sexes who are already Catechists or who wish to be so.

Results: All the Catechists working now in the Centres followed this course.

2. Classes in one of our Colleges at Secondary Level (12 - 15 years).

Days: From Monday to Thursday.

Personnel: Three Brother Scholastics who give 9 hours of History and 4 of Spanish. They also do "supply" work when a teacher is absent.

Those who attend: Five groups of adolescents from the 1st and 2nd Grades.

Results: Impossible to say as this is the first time this course has been given.

3. Scout Troop.

Days: Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Personnel: Three Brother Scholastics helped by 3 of the dads and 10 young people from the neighbourhood.

Those who attend: Approximately 90 children, adolescents and young people grouped as follows:

– "Manada" (7-12 years): 60 (Both sexes in separate groups).

– "Tropa" (12-15 years): 25 (Both sexes in separate groups).

– "Avanzada" (15-18 years): 6 males.

Results: A small nucleus of young people open to accepting human and Christian values but who are living in a bad environment of gangs, alcoholism and drug-addiction.

4. Centre for Adult Education:

Days: Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Personnel: Five Brother Scholastics to advise in the different apprenticeships. One of the Brothers is the general organiser.

Those who attend: 15 young people and adults of both sexes.

Results: Recognition by the Education Authorities in some branches of knowledge on a termly assessment.

5. Counsellor to the group "Study Course on Christian Life".

One of the Brother Scholastics acts as counsellor at least part of the time, to this group of 25 or 30 young people of both sexes who meet, in the Scholasticate House itself for the whole of the day, on some Saturdays or Sundays. The 'counsel' is directed especially at the accompaniment, the doctrinal content and the participation during times of group and shared prayer.

Brother Rodolfo Mendoza.