

(Following is a copy of a letter Padre Guadalupe wrote his mother - just one example of a day in the life of a missionary in Honduras)

Iglesia de La Inmaculada
Sulaco, Depto. De Yoro
Honduras, Central America

15 Aug., 1971
Assumption of Mary

Dear Mom:

Happy feast of Mary! I got back to Sulaco late yesterday afternoon after a 3 hr. walk. I've fixed up an old 1955 jeep because recently a lumber company opened a road into Sulaco. But now with the rains it is intransitable and I left the jeep in San Antonio. I was on the way back to Sulaco after giving a 3-day Ignatian Retreat to 50 men who will be Delegates of the Word of God, as we call them - leaders from different villages who came to the village of San Isidro for the 3 days. The people of the village put them up and fed them and I helped pay for the food.

From where I left the jeep it was a 6 hr. mule ride in and again 6 miles out from the village of San Isidro which has a real Christian Community. The new Delegates will put on a Sunday Bible Service for their villagers every Sunday without a priest. This is a great movement in Honduras and most of Latin America. These men who have had only one or two years of grade school education will be our future married deacons and one day priests. They become real apostles. Honduras has about 200 priests for 3,000,000 Catholics, 150 of which are foreign priests. I agree with Ivan Illich that it is not more foreign priests we need, but a few, good, modern ones, who will train native leaders.

I'm going to Tegucigalpa tomorrow to meet..... , a fine male nurse who will be arriving to set up a clinic in the town of San Antonio with me.

I hope you are feeling better. I'm in fine health as usual, thanks to God. I'm working quite hard and things are evolving nicely under Christ's Spirit.

Love in Christ,

Jim