

ST. FRANCIS MISSION

THE ROSEBUD EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

ST. FRANCIS, SOUTH DAKOTA

57572

July 23, 1968

Dear Joe, P. C.

This letter is long overdue and though I've been kinda busy, I should have written sooner.

All goes along quietly out here. Most of the community are away on retreats or summer school. But it won't be long and the flock and kids will gather for another year.

We seem to be quite fortunate and have what seems to be a good religious and lay faculty for this coming year. We had to leave our coach, Roger Philbrick, go--he simply wouldn't do his job plus a little drinking problem. So we need a coach and librarian to fill our team out.

Speaking of librarians, is there any chance of Father Mallon being assigned to us as a librarian? I don't know the whole story about his departure from Rosary, but I did meet him at Creighton U. and he expressed a real desire to come to St. Francis. We could surely use him--I feel sure that I can get along well with him, Chris Keeler feels he can too, and I'm sure he would fit into the community well. So if possible, we could use him.

Father Cusack has slipped rapidly in the past few months. We think he may have had a slight stroke in mid-May, but the doctor in Martin did not confirm it. He is very forgetful and very critical of all our work out here. Ken Walleman was really high in late June, but he was trying to get along on 4-5 hours of sleep; I think we finally convinced him that was no way to live and he is now better--he had to stay up for the late TV shows to "relate better to the world"!

While I was visiting my mother in LA--she has had three heart attacks and is much better now, Chappy had his problems--drinking to excess, fooling around with little girls--he had them down the basement of our building in the dark where we found a pair of panties torn, and then giving out food, smokes, etc. excessively at the back door. Before he left on his retreat at Waupaca, I had a nice talk with him on these points and he took it all nicely. He is to have a physical checkup on July 29th in Milwaukee--George Haas is lining this up; I did not suggest a psychiatrist since even the thought of a MD scared Chappy. His heart simply isn't in cooking, he hasn't enough to

do; what I am concerned about is whether he is mentally sick-- the girl situation is known in the sense that he is around little girls very much, but Larry Coons who works for Brother Willie has asked that Brother Chappy not be around his two little ones. So....another challenge for us.

Willie is doing very well--keeps very busy on the buses and cars and fishing. Chris is working hard as our new principal and though "high" in a good sense has been the best over a long period of timesince I've known him. (Harry and I were both gone when Chappy was at his worst and Chris was in charge; I think it did Chris good since, as I told him, one of his biggest problems as principal will be personnel.) Pates is still very busy with his housing program which goes slowly but surely. We've finally convinced Barney Fagan to get out of here for a vacation and he'll go to Campion in early August. This year we will succeed in getting everyone out of here for some sort of a break.

We are closing the books for the past fiscal year and though it is too early as yet to see where we went and are going, we shall not be the \$72,000.00 in the hole as we feared. This was due greatly to the OEO Program--sending us aides and workers in the classrooms and especially in Demeyer's publicity office and the carpenter shop. (Our Indian lay advisory board is coming along very nicely and with Cato Valandra, Bob Johnson, Sonny Waln, and Bob Voorhees on it and all in key positions, we have succeeded quite well financially. Sonny says OEO should fund us for kindergarten, first and second grades this coming school year plus the Center across the road. They want us to tie in more closely with the Tribe than Todd County since we are the INDIAN school and not Todd County and Cato has some very excellent contacts for the Tribe--and thus for us--in Washington.)

Must close for now, Joe. Hope this gives you an idea of the status quo out here. Don't feel obligated to answer this as I know you are busy. (With Sponga "leading the way" I think I'll run off with [REDACTED] and her ten kids--might as well do it up right!)

God bless you most abundantly, Joe. Be assured that you have a special place each day in my Mass and prayers--so many challenges and decisions to make, and they are hard nowadays. Please remember us and our Sioux, little and big.

Ever gratefully in our Lord,

Dick

Richard T. Jones, S. J.

OCT 23 RECD

ST. FRANCIS MISSION

THE ROSEBUD EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

ST. FRANCIS, SOUTH DAKOTA

57572

October 20, 1968

Dear Joe, P. C.

It has been many a moon since I've written you and I do apologize. August was very busy trying to get teachers--we had things well lined up only to have one sister leave and another recalled. Now we are well fixed especially in the high school. After the 19th we had ten days, more or less full, of orientation; Chris had it well planned and it was a real success and included a bus tour of the reservation. All in all it gave the teachers, new and old, a good idea of what we and the Tribe and the BIA were attempting--all these agency heads, including Cato Valandra, addressed the teachers.

And of course, getting school under way is a real challenge. About the third week in September Bob Voorhees, the reservation principal, made an all-out drive for dropouts and got a number back in school. At present, we have about 473 children and about 200 or even less are boarders--a drop from last year.

There is a fine spirit in the school this year. Chris is doing a wonderful job in the order and enthusiasm among teachers and kids. Larry LeBlanc is proving one of the best assistant principals we've had in years; Corinne, his wife, is a fine school nurse. We do have our share of "challenges", but all in all the school and mission goes quietly along.

Harry is a wonderful minister, ever cheerful and self-sacrificing; I and most find him very good to deal with. His double hernia has well mended, I think. Ray Burger goes his own way as usual; I just take this for granted as not even time would change him. He at least does perform his pastoral duties, but loves the building aspect of the apostolate. Father Cusack continuously and bitterly criticizes everything we try to do and I hope we may be able to get him out of here next summer, e.g. permanently at St. Bonifacius. Harry went to the trouble to give him Willie's Chevy as it was in very good shape and Cusack bitterly criticized Harry for it. He is so darn negative about us, our apostolate, the Indians, everything. Bob Demeyer is working hard on "Little Sioux" and I personally feel we are headed the right way. We did spend a lot of money a year ago on machinery, addresses, etc., but did clear about \$50,000.00 and should do even better this present fiscal year (July to June). Bob has a very generous lay volunteer, Mr. Powers, as an assistant now and they work together nicely; Mr. Bob Powers is a printer by pro-

fession. His wife does CCD work as does Bob. They have two children, little ones, with them. Barney Fagan should make his PX on cheerfulness--as you may guess. He continues to work very hard. We did get him out of here for a large part of August which he needed.

Larry Helmueller is doing a wonderful job at Mission. He has moved in his old church from Midway, put it onto the back of his rectory, and made a meeting house upstairs and a roller skating rink downstairs. He really attracts the kids now and even has the methodist minister, I think, as a coworker on the skates. (I might mention that a "deaconness" of the Methodist church in Mission called various ministers together for a meeting a few weeks ago; it concerned itself with reservation problems and plans, e.g. summer recreation, drink, etc. One of the episcopal priests, Webster Two Hawk, was present and he is associate director of the Poverty Program, and very helpful to us. All in all, they wish to make this a permanent group, meet monthly, and unitedly work on reservation programs, plans, problems. It looks quite good.)

Al Janka, though very disorganized--and fat--is doing a good job in the school and at Soldier Creek in his sparetime. Oh yes, and at Scouting. Al has some good ideas which he well expresses at missionary and teachers' meetings. He and Helmueller are the two new members of SFM on the Inter-Mission Board. Chris continues to do well though I must confess I live on pins and needles and await the day when he "resigns"--I really don't fear his "problem" as I think its probability is much less than his ups and downs. But honestly, this past six or so months are the best I've ever seen Chris and I think he has really found his niche in the Society. The teachers like him as do the kids. It is such an improvement over the past few years when you never knew for sure what the rules, etc. actually were. Chris and Larry LeBlanc are running an excellent school.

Benno Kornely has been a bit of a worry to Harry and me, and Chris, of late. I had a nice talk with John Snyder about him; John says this "mood" has been a problem with Benno for years. Benno was so negative and critical, so unlike Benno. He has had a complete physical at ~~Mission~~ Mission. He was in Milwaukee for about ten days, came back last night, and looks fine; I haven't had a chance to talk with him alone yet. Even Sister Bernard was afraid of his condition some weeks ago. I think he's better now. Dick Pates still directs the housing program. I hope he can get out of it when the present Sioux 400 are finished--perhaps the end of November or December. (Frank LaPointe has a questionnaire out to 120 Indians on the priest's role in the economic, social, political life of the reservation. Frank did it since he is on our Inter-Mission Board and must reflect the minds of the Indians. His questionnaire was actually the agenda of the last meeting, but he didn't get enough back to give a full report--next meeting!)

Lee Rausch seems in good spirits. He has the bishop's permission to replace the "white" meeting hall and Extension gave him \$5,000.00

through our **bishop**. I've given him general directions to see that in all his activities he keep the whites and Indians united as best he can. Father John Macurak of Detroit seems to be going well. He lives in the white rectory, Lee in the Indian. The two seems to get along well together. Ken Walleman [REDACTED] is still in the hospital at Council Bluffs under Dr. Mahoney. There is no indication when Ken will return. It is getting awfully expensive, but by the same token we have had better donations these past few months than any year since I've been here. The good Lord will provide, I'm sure. I think Ken should come back here when he is discharged--I wouldn't know where else he could go and work in the Society; we'll just have to watch him. Dr. Mahoney says he will never be completely well.

The scholastics all seem happy and busy. Mr. Bohr and Sister Bernard have a real apostolate going in ungraded English classes and home visitations--they visited about 6-8 yesterday. Ted is a good monk. Matt Linn is head of the Center across the road; Matt will find the high school classroom hard as he talks too much and too fast. He is doing a wonderful job in the Center plus two or so classes. The Center plays a very important role in our school, grade and high. John Wiesner is doing well--seventh and eighth grades and the little boys' dorm; sometimes he doesn't seem to get the idea of strict prefecting, but the little fellows seem to like him. John has the dorm divided in sections of eight beds and a captain in charge of each unit--more of a home arrangement than a big dorm. Pat McCorkell has high school classes and the big boys' dorm. Since we have a smaller number, he has arranged the dorm with a large open space where we have a big rug--as do the little boys--and TV and a real "homey" atmosphere. **Jerry Mohatt** has improved greatly though he still has his spirit of independence--not as strong as last year. His mother is in a mental hospital in Iowa; we have Jerry's brother, Dan, here in seventh grade. The two of them went home this weekend to visit their mother. Dan seems to work in well with the kids--one of them. I think the schols are quite faithful to spiritual exercises, are sold on the mission, and working hard. All are in good health.

The brothers are doing fine. **We are having trouble with Chappy--drink especially. Two weeks ago the police had to bring him home and he was so far gone that he didn't remember a thing. The sad thing was that a number of high school boys saw it all. Harry talked with him, and warned him about the little girls and handouts again.** Willie continues to do well though he was on the verge about one month ago. He and Paul Frey do lots of evening and weekend fishing and this is excellent for both. Paul is in fine spirits. (You can ask John Snyder about our excellent fish dinners--fresh trout!) Brother Joe left this afternoon to make his retreat at Rosary. He isn't the same Brother Joe as years ago--slowing down considerably. Brother George is doing very well; George can pace himself prudently while Joe continues on. Brother Caven keeps very busy--he and I seem to click it off better than before.

Brother Ed Fountain has had some troubles and not all his own. He has been trying to find an avocation in the Society and has written

George Hagg and Brother Frost and received little help. So I wrote Bob Flahavan and Carl Reinert and here is the deal: Ed will go to Creighton U. Wednesday, October 23rd; Chris Miller will get him an apprentice union card and Ed will study electricity as Willie did two years ago. Ed seems unsettled in his vocation, but I think this new outlook has improved him greatly. I would suggest that Ed become a province man--he should be able to pay his own way plus since he will be drawing a salary. Harry strongly urges that Ed not come back to SFM after his studies--perhaps Holy Rosary if he still wishes the missions. A new and clean start would do him better than returning here. I hope you approve of my doing all this. If you wish Ed to be a province man, he would not be surprised as I told him I thought this is the way it would be.

Joe Gill is getting his doctorate at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion. I realize that anyone going on for his doctorate becomes a province man. I would like to ask an exception in Joe's case: he returns here each weekend and does all the bookwork of a principal, e.g. transcripts, reports to the State, etc. and is on our books and the State's as superintendent--I don't think Chris is qualified as principal; I don't think Joe's expenses will be too much as he lives at the Newman Center and gets his room and board free and has asked for very little from me financially. His books and classes didn't amount to more than \$150.00 as I recall. If after your visitation here and for some other reasons you would wish to change Joe, we surely won't complain that we invested in him and the province then took him--we need his name and work this year to keep accredited and in order. Please, as far as I can see, we do want Joe here next year--I don't wish to imply that the province move him.

The Inter-Mission Board isn't going too well. Last Wednesday Dan Tainter monopolized the meeting with personal problems to a great extent and honestly I can't see that we have accomplished anything except talking things over. The two reservations are simply different in so many aspects and even Sister Genevieve says this. We shall continue, though, as agreed until May of 1969. I think Chris may write you about the feelings of many on the Board. Our Lay Advisory Board is wonderful--ideas and action. We'll start soon to have "St. Francis Night" in the various communities--the parents won't come to us so we're going to them--administrators, teachers in clubs! Hope it works. The missionaries are for it.

Joe, I surely apologize for this long, long letter. I must write more frequently and shorter. Please bear with me this time.

Oremus pro invicem,

Dick

Richard T. Jones, S. J.

ST. FRANCIS MISSION

THE ROSEBUD EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

ST. FRANCIS, SOUTH DAKOTA

57572

Jan. 8, 1970

Letter of the Consultor of the House at St. Francis Mission

Rev. and Dear Father Provincial, P.C.

This is my report as Consultor of the House:

1) Br. Chapman has made a remarkable comeback. He is a new man. His work is excellent, most helpful, and he has displayed a wonderful spirit of charity. I can only say that he is anew man in every way. He deserves a great deal of credit for being humble and chagging as he has done.

2) Likewise Br. Paul Frey has made a great improvement in his mental outlook, mental condition, etc. He is doing fine work, works well with Brother Chapman and is most cooperative. I never thought these two Brothers could ever change. It is almost a miracle.

3) Br. Wilson has been doing fine in regard to staying away from the liquor. Now and then he over indulges to some extent, but for the most part nothing has been noticed. He has been doing fine work in the garage.

4) Br. George has mellowed quite a bit; has become much more cooperative and cheerful and is much more approachable. He too has changed quite a bit. Br. Joe is doing fine work, but he tends to be too tense and worrisome; he surely overworks.

5) Fr. B. Fagan is doing a fine job as far as I can judge. He works too hard; seems to listen to what others have to say; and is always pleasant and good to work with. He finds it hard to know what decisions to make, but that is due to our changing times. I find him very good to work with.

6) The work in the grade (and) school and high school seems to be good this year. The general spirit of the lay teachers and religious is much better this year than last; seems to be more cooperation and much less complaining. I think part of this is that we are giving much more to these people in regard to housing, travel, liesure, etc. Whatever it is the spirit is better.

7) I cannot judge the spiritual tone of the house; I could not attempt to do this. In many ways the whole Mission complex seems to be on a natural basis, pretty much like any other non-denominational school. In this day and age I can't make any judgment.

This is all I can relate.

Sincerely in Christ,

ST. FRANCIS MISSION

THE ROSEBUD EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

ST. FRANCIS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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July 7, 1970

Semi-annual report as House Consultant to Rev. Father Provincial:

The general spirit of the community and of the entire mission personnel has been somewhat better than last year. There was much less complaining and griping and I believe that the reason for this is that the complaints in general were taken care of. The building and renovating program of last summer took care of many of the demands of the teachers and they were satisfied. It seemed that the teacher load was greatly reduced; in fact, the number of teachers in proportion to the students is very high. It did not seem to me that any of them were overworked except in a few cases, and this was due to their own fault. So in general there was a better spirit.

Father Superior (Fagan) has done a good job and he certainly does overwork. He should be reminded of this that he should not overdo the work part even though the work has to be done. I get along well with Barney; however, and I'm not sure just how justified the complaints are on the part of the community and lay faculty, he seems to be a little too strong on his opinions. However, I cannot say that from my own experience. He is most zealous and completely given to the Indians' welfare.

Br. Chapman has made a miraculous comeback. Hard to believe, and so much so that no one has complaints about him anymore. He is most cheerful, cooperative, pleasant, helpful - I can hardly know of anyone who has changed so much for the good in such a short time. He is to be commended. All the points that he was warned about have been observed. He deserves great credit. He is most obliging now to almost everyone. Br. Frey is pretty good, but still is gripped somewhat by low spirits. However, he is better. Br. George is really mellowing and has fine spirits, much more obliging now than ever. Br. Joe works much too hard and is too intense; he is a bit hard to deal with, but it is from his own type of character. But he does a great job. Br. Caven, too, has mellowed tremendously and he is really with the lay faculty - his attitude of mind has changed very much for the better.

As far as the community goes there is not much of a community spirit although people get along quite well together. There is certainly not much in the way of community effort or common interests. People are going their own ways. But there is no spirit of division in the community that is strong.

This is all that I can report of importance as the present time.

My sincere best wishes and God's blessing on your work.

Sincerely in Christ,

Harry Eglsaer, SJ

LETTER TO FR. PROVINCIAL FROM SUPERIOR OF THE HOUSE

ST. FRANCIS MISSION

THE ROSEBUD EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

ST. FRANCIS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57572

Jan. 24, 1971

Very Rev. Joseph D. Sheehan, S.J.
Provincial's Residence
3109 N. Lake Drive
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53211

Dear Father Sheehan:

Enclosed is a copy of my annual letter to Father General. I think it gives the same picture I would want to give you at the beginning of 1971.

As you will see from the letter, we will try to follow the suggestion you made at the time of your visitation that we strive to get a sort of overview of our work with the hope of making our ministry more effective. Since Mr. Stolzman is deeply interested and has had experience on the Indian missions, the missionaries here feel we should accept his proposal to help us with our evaluation. We are also carrying on the meetings with the consultants of Holy Rosary for the same purpose.

We all feel the need of special help from the Holy Spirit to make ourselves instruments of a true renewal. Hopefully our sincere dialogues in Christ and our praying together, will bring this most necessary assistance.

Also as I mentioned in the letter, there are no major problems to my knowledge regarding the health or vocation of any individual in the community. There was one incident involving Brother Chapman similar to those of the past which brought into question the prudence of his remaining here at St. Francis. But in view of the fact of his generally improved spirit and his notable contribution to community life, the decision was made to counsel with him rather strongly in the hope that future incidents would be avoided. Fr. Eglsaer has been working with him and the situation seems under control.

In general, the community spirit remains fine. So too does the spirit of the rest of our staff and the students. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will preserve us in this and even show us the way to a greater building of the Body of Christ,

In Our Lord,

Barney
Bernard D. Fagan, S.J.
Superior



ST. FRANCIS MISSION

THE ROSEKUD EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

ST. FRANCIS, SOUTH DAKOTA

57572



February 17, 1973

Very Rev. Bruce F. Biever, S.J.
Provincial Office
2120 W. Clybourn #200
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53233

V. Rev. and Dear Father Provincial: P.C.

Because you have not had a visitation here at St. Francis as yet, I thought I would send along a report, as objective as I can make it, on the men here, in order to help you in talking with each one. Some of these things will come up in conversation.

Terry Brennan is an outstanding scholastic, works well with Jesuits and others; he helped organize forty voices for singing of Messiah at Christmas. He ran the Education Center last year, under the U.S. Title I contract; he is now teaching French and Lakota.

Father Ray Burger is a very holy man who has given himself for years to the Indians on the Reservation. I feel he should be with his fellow Jesuits more, to help round off some of the rough edges; he is somewhat negative at times because he is not around enough to learn the reasons for changes. Ray has four parishes, with plenty of work, including four Masses each week-end.

Brother Mike Caven does not seem too sure of what he wants to do; he was taken out of bakery last year, kept with shoe repair and worked on tractors. This year he is living in Mission Town, works with Father Helmueller on his parish team. Mike talks a great deal about problems of the whole Province and the whole Society, especially regarding communication; he suggests use of video tape to send meaningful messages from Rome or Milwaukee.

Brother Frank Chapman does much of the unseen work around the house and mission; he is ready at all times to help, but has his usual complaints about not being like the good old times. He has some difficulty with little girls, but I try to be around when they come around after school. When the community voted to close the dining room in favor of eating with the laity, Chappie was a bit lost, but he still cooks a main meal at noon, and most of the Jesuits choose it over the other dining room; many cook their own breakfast and supper. Brother is a born "pack-rat" or collector.

Father Bob Demeyer has recovered from illness a year ago, but still must lose weight, like most of us. He seems much more relaxed with only parish work and part-time fund raising; he is very much interested in both jobs, as always; he is an active member of the consultants. His advice seems sound and reasonable.

Father Harry Eglsaer is Coordinator of Missionaries, but has the Office of Religious Education, is manager of parish teams, director of the lay apostolate and Deaconate program, director of summer C.U.D. schools and summer recreation programs; he has much to do with "hiring" of volunteers and their arrangements. As you know, Harry is a very nervous man, and laughs a great deal during conversation; some of his work seems to be "busy" work.



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Father Barney Fagan is really a great guy, and is trying very hard to be a good Superior. I believe he has TOO MUCH to do, not all of which is due to his office, such as the Little League, the Credit Union, and taxi service for Indians. Really, Father, I think he should take better care of his health, by taking a vacation each year, getting away now and then, and not being in his office 16 hours a day. He has a nervous way of always laughing at almost anything, sometimes very serious things; it is very disconcerting for the other person. Perhaps he listens to one man too much, and does not communicate important things to others in due time.

Mike Flecky is one of the finest scholastics I have met; of course I taught him years ago. He has adjusted well to the work here, but has not succumbed to its drudgery or hopelessness. He has some good ideas and influence in the community; he advises the consultants, and talks freely about things he sees done poorly or incorrectly. He will be a good influence on three new scholastics.

Brother Paul Frey is a real puzzle. He is very interested in lawn work, trees, etc., especially since we built the new building for him; he is sincere, willing to help at times. But, he is an alcoholic, and it is getting worse. In October, 1971, we had all the plans complete for having Paul go with Fr. Flahavan to Omaha. He saw Father Fagan, and backed down; he said he would tell us when he is ready to go. After hearing him at night, and seeing his daily order, I feel something should be done soon before it is too late. This is a serious problem, but each time I have brought it up to Father Fagan he has laugh-ed and said: "Old Doc sure has a problem." Paul is a great guy when he is sober.

Father Sal Gentle also puzzles me, frankly. You may know much more of his background than I do. He is so generous and kind, and is willing to do everything he can for the "Little Sioux." Yet, he seems lost at times, to be unsure of himself. I talked to Fr. Sheehan, and to Father Fagan as his request, about Sal's frequent trips away; he goes on an average of once a week to a place near Batesland, and does not return until 5:00 or 6:00 A.M. He is there today. Fr. Fagan says he is working on marriage cases, but it is only 60 miles away, on the Pine Ridge Reservation under Holy Rosary, and should not keep him away all night. I think this is a very dangerous habit; someone else should talk to him about it, since even the Indians around here are talking now about his trips. He never volunteers for Mass or supply work, but does so when he is assigned; I have never seen him say a private Mass, even on Sundays. He says a beautiful Mass, and preaches well.

Father Bill Gerut, in his wonderful own quiet way, does a great deal to hold the community and the school together. The school Jesuits have developed a schedule of weekly meetings, and have some shared prayer together. Much good has come from Bill's work with the renewal team in the community. I'd like to see him take over the Library, and keep it up with two to four hours a week's work.



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Father Joe Gill, with all his talents, may be a wasted man here, but he has dedicated himself one-hundred percent to a tremendous task of turning the school over to competent Indians, and he is trying to find them. At times, I feel, he assumes too much responsibility and is overworked in huge tasks involving his time and energies. He has certainly spread himself out into every single facet of the work here, in the whole organization of the school. I think he is very proud of the new Crazy Horse Library.

Father Larry Helmueller, after all the years he has given to this mission, and the tremendous personal sacrifices he has made, certainly deserves a rest; he is sixty-five today. He gives much of his time to physical labor and problems, but seems to have a well organized parish in Mission Town, with a parish team made up of Brother Caven, Sister Marie, and father's niece. I hope he can make the trip to Europe this summer, though he signed up for the directed retreat in July at Oshkosh.

Father Al Janka's various talents are called upon constantly for the welfare of the school and community. He has done a contour map of our grounds, in preparation for the Ten Year Plan, has worked as Chief of Fire Department on our detector system; he has the Boy Scouts, and teaches science and math in the High School. Al missed his retreat last summer, as he waited for a possible course in Rapid City; he failed to make it during Christmas week either because he was tired, or because he wanted to get to Milwaukee. I believe Al needs a complete physical check-up; he may have complications of a hyatal hernia, since he has difficulty breathing and has complained of upset stomach at night; he should lose weight like all of us.

Father Dick Jones has one of the hardest jobs on the Mission, as pastor of St. Charles; he is constantly on call, night and day, for the smallest material needs of the local natives. Always a bundle of nerves, he manages to run several prayer groups, with Masses in the homes, keeps the Spring Creek people happy, and has organized a fine Parish team here, with a couple, a Sister, and a lay woman. Dick, who sometimes misses the practical and mechanical angles in things, is involved in the Catholic Charismatic movement.

Brother George Kammerer, who has spent 39 of his 74 years at St. Francis, is the only one who knows the electrical and plumbing systems of the entire plant. He gives hours and hours of his week to keeping the place going. He is irreplaceable; IF ONLY WE HAD A BROTHER to study under him. I have insisted he take more time off, and give more responsibility to his Indian assistant. He spends some of his time with his vegetable garden, bees, and flowers.

Father Chris Keeler moved from the school counselor's office to White River this year; he works with whites and Indians there. Chris is spiritual guide to the prayer group movement, teaches the deaconate program every Monday, and helps with organizing Parish teams. He seems to like the work, after the confusion of the school, but since he has a history of frequent change, he is already talking about setting up a "house of Prayer" somewhere where he can direct people.

I am not in favor of having him alone where other Jesuits are not.



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Father John Macurak, from Detroit Province, has given himself in a very humble way to doing whatever he can for the Indians at Soldier Creek and Norris. He is a big help here in the community with a very level head and sound advice. John leads a very lonely life, and likes to talk late when he comes to the Mission nights. His Provincial will be here on February 26 to visit with him.

Father Bob Neenan is still somewhat confused by the procedures, methods, and ways of doing things at Saint Francis Mission. So few things seem normal. People do not even pretend to want to change or improve a situation, but just laugh it off as "the way we do it here." Some times it is contradictory and painfully wasteful of manpower and funds. Perhaps there is much yet to be learned.

Father Leon Rausch has had some years of experience here, and seems to be doing well at the Indian Parish in White River. He comes in quite often, but spends too much time with one Sister of St. Francis. In fact, whenever she goes anywhere, to Rapid City, Alliance, or Pierre, he drives the car for her. A number of Jesuits have pointed this out to me, and some lay people. When I talked with Father Fagan, he just laughed and said that Leon is old enough to know what he wants. I'd like to help him if he wants to change.

Brother Joe Schwart, forty-one years at the Mission, was 68 the other day. Beginning to show his age, he cannot be convinced that he should slow down and turn more and more of his work over to his Indian assistant, Barney Whiting. Joe is great on details, and in a great cabinet worker; he can organize crews for a variety of jobs, but he feels he must be there in person. His work in the Church was eased a bit when we bought the Carillion this year. I feel the whole plant, with thirty-five buildings, is too much for him, along with the work he does for the Indians and their homes. In a way, Joe is very much liked, and is humble; he is stubborn too.

Father Bill Stolzman, after six months at Rosebud, seems to be working in well; he is more strict than Fr. Pates was, and has certain high ideals not yet worn down or destroyed; he has given some evidence of giving in when the usual non-essential pressures and demands are made; he is learning by experience to revamp his "survey."

Father Ken Walleman gives the impression of one leading a very intense life, with tremendous bursts of energy from a bundle of nerves; he is never still for very long, doing nothing slowly, including certain reckless driving around the grounds, for which he has been warned often.

He works half days in the P.R. office, begging fine gifts, and helping with the pay roll. He watches T.V. from supper to 2:00 A.M. most nights. Ken is also very humble and leads a simple life.

Brother Willy Wilson, moved from baker to ranch director, is now garage manager, and does a tremendous job with forty-three cars and vehicles to maintain, including his recently bought back-hoe. He keeps an excellent shop, works his men hard, along with one fine assistant, Burton Whiting, an Indian. Willy's alcohol problem does surface now and then; it could be serious since he is a diabetic. He and Brother George get along well, eating together nights, and going to California together last summer. Willy hauls freight from Valentine, Nebraska twice a week. He is in charge of all buses too.

Robert P. Neenan, S.J.