

Communication
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Began the week with mass at St. Mary's Church where I made contact with Sister Donatilla.

Monday, July 6, Visited Sister Donatilla and saw St. Mary's school plant and discussed policies and philosophy. This seemed to be one of giving Negro children a good enough high school education so they can be accepted in Northern schools.. The attitude is paternalistic although charitable; the nuns seem to consider the Negro culture a lower one and are trying to ~~impose~~ impose their Northern standards on the people. Thus I don't feel that they have a fundamental rapport with the people. They are very proud of their physical plant and want to preserve it, although they offered to let COFO staff use the basketball court any time they want. Another criticism I had is that a defacto school segregation system has been set up by building a lively modern grade school in the white section of town. The high school is all Negro and as far as I know no attempt has ever been made to integrate it. The nuns seem to consider it a missionary effort to be used in raising the aspirations and abilities of Negro youth in this community.

Also met Father Ortiz, young assistant priest (Sacred Heart Order). He is of Spanish American background from Ohio, about 30ish. Very friendly. He offered to set up a slide show by a visiting missionary brother from the Congo, which was done on Wed.

The rest of the week I began visits to local medical personnel:

Dr. Jones and his nurse, Miss Kellar, Mrs. Forney at the health department, Dr. Wyatt (Public Health Doctor), Dr. Smith, president of Rust College, Mrs. Mary Ollie, who checks up on children who haven't had post natal care, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Phillips, Mrs. Mary Ollie, a midwife.

Also did some canvassing and prepared a first aid kit for the center and for the cars. Went to mass meetings where I was introduced as the nurse and talked to people about their medical problems. Got some instances of welfare abuses.