

First Permanent SSND Community Established in Honduras  
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Four years after the first SSNDs went to Honduras (to teach summer catechism classes) the first permanent SSND community was established in El Progreso, Yoro. (June 20, 1956) The following excerpts are from the community chronicle.

June 14, Thursday [1956]: Left New Orleans on "Yague", United Fruit (Co.) ship...Sisters Yvonne [McManemin] and Vincent [Mueller] for the summer and Sisters Rosaire [Helling], Helene [Gerstner], and Mary Fatima [Carcamo] to remain to open the new Honduras mission in El Progreso, Yoro...Ship left dock at 10:00 p.m. and the last view of New Orleans was a million lights in the darkness.

June 20, Wednesday: By 2 p.m. we were in Puerto Cortes. Ship could not dock so the aduana came in a rundown motorboat to take us in...Fr. Charles Prendergast, SJ, met us...Began our trip on Motor Car at 4 p.m. Sidetracked many times and held up by a banana train for over an hour while mosquitoes ate away...Arrived at 9 p.m. and taken to Casa Cural to eat, then to convent in Los Pinos. One look at our room put away all thought of having a chapel. Three beds in one little room.

June 26, Tuesday: Sister Helene started teaching religion to the three classes of girls in the Colegio.

June 28, Thursday: All sisters started teaching religion classes only in San Jose and public schools.

June 29: Sister Rosaire killed a chicken when it ran under the jeep. Chickens and dogs are the worst pedestrians.

July 2: Woke up to find new spare tire in back of jeep stolen. Police came.

July 4: When we hung out clothes we had an audience of children. One is Manuelito—probably four years old; he sings and dances and holds our clothespins.

August 24: Fathers Hogan and Prendergast brought Archbishop Turcios to the blessing of the land for the new convent. Upon arriving home, large drops came down. Then a huracan (sic) hit! Mrs Patti said it was the hardest rain in many years...Mr. Ross told Sister Rosaire that all the fruit trees were ordered for the convent...Ended the day singing Salve Regina

Many SSNDs followed the example of these pioneer women. We join them in gratitude and prayer on this (50<sup>th</sup>) anniversary.