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USAID/Quito c/o American Embassy Quito, Ecuador

Dear Father Juraschek:

As you may have expected, the good Dr. Garcia informed me of the hunting accident. Today I received another letter from Dr. Garcia in which he told me you were much better. The folks in San Antonio sent me the news clippings. I gathered the family together and we all said a prayer for you. By the time you received this letter I hope you are completely out of danger and well on your way to recovery.

As I looked through some of my letters I note that the most recent communication from you came from Rome. What an experience that must have been. Nevertheless in addition to the experience I suspect knowing how effective you can be in councils and conventions you left your mark there. I forwarded your letter to the friend George Perry, the young fellow I mentioned as being interested in attending a seminary. A couple of days later I received word from Perry that he had joined the air force and was stationed in Greenfield, North Carolina. Thank you very much for offering to help him with his desires to join a seminary. I am sure that he will write to you about his future plans. I wish I could have been closer to San Antonio in your hour of need even though I can imagine that thousands of people were concerned and offering their help. Even now I wish I could be at your bedside so you could tell me all about Rome and the Council meeting. It is a good feeling to tell people here that I had a good friend attending the Council. In fact in every picture that appeared in the newspapers I would scan it carefully just on the chance you might have been in the group. Of course over here they were showing the activities of the Ecuadoreans that attended the Council. Now we can say that our GI Forum Chaplain communes with the Pope and the GI Forum Founder hob-nobs with the President of the U.S.

We are all well and starting our second year in Ecuador. I must say that time passed by very quickly, probably because the work is interesting and demanding. The work here is very much like full time GI Forum activities. We are always trying to find ways to help those that need it most. We are always urging the formation of worthwhile local organizations so that the Ecuadoreans may help themselves. How I wish you could be here with your ability to make people move and do things. We have helped to stop the forward move the Communists and now the winds are moving in a favorable direction. I am confident that the situation is part of world movement away from Communism and toward democracy, spiritual values, and a better way of life. But this favorable situation means no rest for the weary, but rather a doubling of our efforts to win the battle for the free world. There is still plenty of fertile fields for the Castroites in Latin-America.

USAID has contracted with the University of St. Louis to help set up laboratories, libraries, and teaching aids for the Catholic University of Quito. I met the famous Father Henle from St. Louis University of St. Louis while he was here making a preliminary survey prior to the contract. He was a most interesting person and one who pulled no punches about what was needed at the Catholic University. I am sure many of our Catholic brothers were a little "shook up" by his forthright and direct approach. But his views evidently prevailed and his recommendations were acceptable. We now await the team of instructors from St. Louis University.

Mary, Steve, Ricardo, Olivia, and Ana Maria send regards and wish you well. The children are fine and they really rattle off the Spanish. Ana Maria just started talking and she knows no English, only Spanish. We get along well with the Ecuadoreans and are usually mistaken for Ecuadoreans. It is an advantage especially when we go shopping because the merchants do not associate us with the rich "norte-Americanos". It's going to be terribly hard for us when we return to the U.S. and just look at the price tags in a Sears or Safeway or Piggly Wiggly and pay that amount. We have become quite good at bargaining and haggling for price. We didn't like it at first, but we figured it was no use fighting the system so we joined it and now enjoy it.

So long for now. Get well and write when you feel better.

Respectfully yours,

Vicente, Maria, y familia

Dear Hector:

Thanks for letting me know about Father Juraschek. Incidentally, I wrote to Joe Montoya and told him about my desire to get a mission director's position in USAID. I also told him I had written to you. If you get a chance call him about it. Do not write. Did you write to the State Department about the invitation to attend the Chicago convention? How is Louis Tellez doing as Secretary. Give my regards to your family, Jimmy, and your secretaries.

Tu amigo,