



## *Latest Happenings In the Diocese: First Mass Celebrated at Farm, Lititz, St. Elizabeth*

November 5 was a special day for the community at Farm, Lititz as Archbishop Charles H. Dufour, along with Fr. Paul Ruwaichi, launched a Mission there with the celebration of their first Mass, under a tent in the backyard of Miss Hazel Gooden. Forty persons were in attendance.

More than two years ago, at the persistent urging of Miss Gooden who attends St. Vincent Strambi Catholic Church in Bull Savannah, half hour away, Fr. James Price, C.P, then director of evangelization, and Carleen Cato, Catechetics director, started a weekly prayer meeting and Lectio Divina in the small rural community. Fr. Jim also provided pastoral care for the community, involving the youth in sports and catechesis and helping them to access health care.

Their efforts have borne fruit, as this Easter, seven children from the community were baptized, and their mothers are currently in the RCIA programme, in preparation for acceptance into the Catholic Church.

At the direction of Archbishop Dufour, Miss Gooden is now seeking a plot of land in the area on which to build a Mission Church. Archbishop encouraged the community which consists mainly of farmers, to become organized, and promised to assist them with seeds and tools.

Miss Gooden was very happy with the Mass, and explained that the weekly meetings are continuing to grow in numbers. "A lot of young people attend the meeting. Last week, there were 24 persons and the verandah couldn't hold them. Every week more and more come. Our Lord is working in this area." The weekly prayer meetings now include Bible Study.



*Top: Archbishop Dufour interacts with the community in Farm, Lititz before Mass.*

*Left: The congregation poses in front of the tent after Mass at the home of Miss Hazel Gooden (second left).*