

# The Sounds

of

Sauganash, Edgebrook, Sauganash Park, Lincolnwood Towers, Wildwood, Sauganash

November 27, 2000

## SAUGANASH TO BOLIVIA MEDICAL CONNECTION

John B. Watson, M.D., and Rita E.



Watson, R.N., MSN are residents of Sauganash who just returned from a Medical Mission to Bolivia that was sponsored by Cardinal Francis George and the Archdiocese of Chicago. Bolivia is the poorest Country in South America.

Twenty-three medical personnel comprised of Doctors, Nurses, a Priest and a Nun treated over 1000 patients in the outlying clinics and in Hospital Surgery. Although the mission was sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church, two of the Doctors were Jewish; one a Pediatrician and the other an Obstetrician/Gynecologist. A Plastic Surgeon was kept busy with so many congenital anomalies and burn cases. A Cardiologist who was also a Nun was on the medical team.

Dr. Watson graduated *summa cum laude* from Loyola University Cardinal Stritch Medical School. He attended Harvard Medical School Post-Doctorate to enhance his surgical skills in preparation for a one year mission to the mountainous barrios outside Lima, Peru as a Medical Missionary. Dr. Watson is on the Medical Staff at St. Joseph and Resurrection Hospitals in Internal Medicine with subspecialties in Hematology and Oncology.

Dr. Watson studied Spanish in preparation for the Bolivian Mission. He easily communicated with the patients in Spanish and wrote the medical histories and findings in Spanish so that the Bolivian Doctors could do follow-up along with his anatomical diagrams.

Rita Watson, formerly the Vice President of Nursing at St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago, and President of the St. Joseph Hospital Woman's Board observed numerous needs in terms of health education, supplies, surgical instruments, vaccination protocol, medication regimes as well as organizational management.

John and Rita felt that their experience was very gratifying and thank God for the privilege to care for His people. They encourage other health professionals to also share their talents and skills with the poor and needy by contacting the Archdiocese. Dr. and Mrs. Watson are Parishoners at Queen of All Saints Basilica.