

## Sanctuary of Saint John Bosco in Orocovis, Puerto Rico

In the “El Gato” district of the Town of Orocovis, at the very center of the island, at the 34.2-kilometer mark on State Highway #155, there was standing, for more than 25 years, a humble Catholic chapel dedicated to Saint Jude Thaddeus, belonging to the Saint John the Baptist parish.

This chapel was demolished in the year 2000, as it was found to be in very poor condition. The same year plans were prepared, drawn by engineer Alfredo Luciano, to erect a new edifice, hexagonal in form, of more than five thousand square feet, with handsome architectural lines, a combination of classic and modern styles in one. It will be inaugurated on January 31, 2004.

The building stands majestic upon the summit of the mountain. The interior is also of extraordinary beauty. It has been decorated by painter Arturo Vonn Hartung with a beautiful mural at the back of the presbytery, allusive of a vision of Don Bosco about The Church, and a series of artistic panes with the 14 Stations of the Resurrection with pictures of Christ’s Resurrection. The entire collection, with the effects of good illumination, creates an ideal atmosphere of harmony, peace and prayer.

The church is dedicated to Saint John Bosco, priest and teacher to youth, founder of the Salesians. It will be inaugurated in 2004, precisely on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Salesians in Orocovis, as a tribute to their head and founder, and a stimulus that they may be ever more faithful to his charism.

There will be many pilgrims who will come to this place to admire the beauty of the structure and its surroundings, and to give thanks to God for the blessings which will pour forth from here over all of Puerto Rico.

Father Demetrio Coello, SDB