



Church of St. Dominic
A Eucharistic Family Living the Mission of Christ

Chiltiupán Connection

El Salvador Mission Program Newsletter

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Fall 2014



Roberto graduated from the ESSOC Program and teaches English at Santo Domingo School.

Educational Scholarships for Students of Chiltiupán (ESSOC) provides a way for parishioners to impact the lives of young, bright, and aspiring students in Chiltiupán. For \$100 per month, you can sponsor a young college student and change a life! In return, your student will correspond with you, updating you on his or her progress and well-being.

Upcoming Trips:

- November 12-16 Relational Trip
- February 18-22 Relational Trip
- April 18-25 Medical Trip
- June 15-19 Youth Trip

All People Must Be Heard

By: Sue Barnett
St. Dominic Parishioner

When I traveled to El Salvador in June of 2013, the eyes and song of a young girl left an imprint in my heart and mind. On a rainy afternoon, we traveled by truck up the mountain to a small hut on the hillside. The young girl's brother sat on the bed, unable to walk. The girl shared a home with her grandmother and others and the environment was unlike any I'd seen before. She sang for us from a book with no words and handed me a picture drawn in colored chalk on a brown paper

bag. That picture is framed in my living room and reminds me daily of those that have no voice, yet sing in happiness for strangers.



Education has been a passion of mine since I was in high school. As a teacher at Beaumont School, I am dedicated to promoting social justice. I realized early on that students with special needs energized me and I have always felt called to empower them to learn, live and grow into productive adults. It is important to understand

that all people must be heard, even those that are small or poor or too weak to speak. They are the ones that need others to teach them, help them and advocate for them. Now, I serve on the El Salvador Education Committee because of my passion for teaching and the commitment of the committee to social justice. *(continued)*

Simple Gifts: Baño Project Update

Just as St. Dominic has established the Project Serve Ministry to the Cleveland Poor, our neighbors at Santo Domingo Church in El Salvador have created "Obras de Caridad" or "Hands of Charity." Obras

de Caridad makes home visits to some of the poorest and most remote places in Chiltiupán. Last year, Obras de Caridad told us that over 300 families in Chiltiupán did not have a restroom of any kind at their home.



In response to this need, St. Dominic *(continued)*

How Can You Help?

Join an El Salvador Initiative/Committee:

ESSOC University Scholarship Program

ESSEM Farm/Sustainable Economic Program

Education Committee

Clinic Committee*

Santa Rosa Stitches

Keep the Fire Alive Stoves Project

Simple Gifts Baño Project

Nelson's Carvings

Water Project with Rotary International

* The Clinic Committee will host an informational meeting for its 2015 trip on Sunday, November 16th at 10am in the Small Meeting Room. Open to all medical professionals!

For more information about the St. Dominic partnership with Santo Domingo Parish in Chiltiupán, El Salvador:

- Visit the parish website
- Contact Jodie Bowers, Pastoral Associate, at bowers.jodie@gmail.com or 216-991-1444

All People Must Be Heard (*continued*)

While in the small country of El Salvador, I observed such great need for education and service. Those that are quiet with little voice are the ones that draw me to them, just as the students with special learning differences have done for so many years in my professional life.

A passage from Matthew asks us to use our gifts and passion and multiply them. Jesus calls us to use our talents creatively and to reproduce the benefits. So, as I reflect on my trip, I continue to search for ways to use my love for teaching those who require guidance. The students I am drawn to with special needs are similar to those in El Salvador who may be forgotten or those who live in the most remote areas with the least amount of assistance. It is those students that call me to focus my efforts and direct my passion. Matthew's gospel urges us to work diligently, to listen and advocate for those in El Salvador still in the greatest need, those who may not be most visible or vocal. I am called to help them, remember them and encourage others to do the same.

It is easy to listen to those who are loud, who can speak for themselves with courage and self-confidence. Those are the ones that demand our attention, that are easy to serve as they can tell us what they need. It is the others that require our talents the most, the ones that God calls us to serve: the quiet ones, in huts on the hillside, who light up, sing to us, and give us gifts of themselves.



Baño Project Update (*continued*)

raised over \$106,000 through the Simple Gifts Christmas Baño Project.



Raul Solis and Parishioner Chris Noble

Raul Solis, the President of Obras de Caridad, is a Santo Domingo catechist, health promoter, and construction worker. Raul and his team have been hard at work since last Christmas, planning for and building baños. Each baño costs roughly \$325, including materials and local labor. We are paying Raul and his team of local laborers

three times the prevailing wage, ensuring they receive fair and dignified compensation for their efforts. To date, Raul and his team have completed 125 baños! This project will improve the health and safety of the people of Chiltiupán, as well as provide a dignified, private place to use the restroom. Raul hopes, with God's help, to have all 300 latrines completed by next summer. Thank you to all of the parishioners who so generously donated to this effort!