



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

Chiltiupán Connection

El Salvador Mission Program Newsletter

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School Census Reveals Dire Need For Supplies



Members of the El Salvador Education Committee traveled to Chiltiupan in 2014 to conduct a census and survey of all 16 schools in the municipality of Chiltiupan. While each school struggles with funding and materials, our census revealed that some of the remote schools did not even have pencils, paper, or textbooks. As a result, the Education Committee adopted the Las Flores School. St. Dominic's February Relational delegation delivered much needed school supplies to this tiny school. If your family, group, or organization would like to adopt one of these forgotten schools, please [contact us](#). Needs range from computer equipment to simple supplies.

Faith, Hope, & Love

By: Roberto Martinez
ESSOC Scholar

Roberto Martinez leads a life of faith, hope, and love. His is a success story thanks to the parishioners of St. Dominic Church and the ESSOC college scholarship program. Roberto took time from his very busy schedule to share some of his own thoughts and reflections:

The ESSOC (Educational Scholarships for Students of Chiltiupan) Scholarship Program changed my life. First, thanks be to God. I received a scholarship sponsored by Dan and Robin Sullivan, whom I consider to be part of my

family. I am the youngest child of nine. My father, Angel, passed away when I was twelve so I was raised by my mother, Zoila. My brothers worked in the cornfield just like my father. When I was about to finish high school, I thought about studying to be an English teacher; it was my dream. However, my mother did not have the money to help me. So, I was planning on working in the fields with my brothers. Then I received the news that I had gotten a college scholarship.

I remember that I was very happy and my family was proud of me. Over the



next three-and-a-half years, I got up very early to go to the University. I studied very hard. I used to starve, stay up late at night, study all day, and work after classes. But if I sacrificed, I knew there would be (continued)

A Light For The Christ Child: Project Update



Jesus Aguilar & Brian Boswell

Thank you to all of our parishioners for your prayers and generosity with our "A Light for the Christ Child" Christmas Collection. Four hundred families in Chiltiupan do not have access or cannot

afford electricity. To meet this challenge, St. Dominic raised an astounding \$40,000 for the purchase of solar-powered, LED lanterns. These lanterns provide enough light for cooking, reading, doing homework, and living in (continued)

How Can You Help?

Upcoming Trips:

- April 18-25, 2015
Medical Trip
- June 15-19, 2015
Youth Trip
- October 17-24, 2015
Medical Trip II
- November 11-15, 2015
Relational Trip

Join an El Salvador Initiative/Committee:

ESSOC University Scholarship Program

ESSEM Farm Program Education Committee

Clinic Committee

Santa Rosa Stitches

Mission Stoves

Nelson's Carvings

Baño Project

Water Project with Rotary International

Lantern Project

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

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

Faith, Hope, & Love (*continued*)

a reward. My motto was, "If I get to be a professional, I am going to help my family."

Once I finished my studies, I received many job offers in different towns. Now I teach English at Santo Domingo School in Chiltiupan. Now I can help my family as well as my students. I started working here last year. I taught 450 students in my first year. This year, I will be teaching English for students in grades one through twelve. Work is going to be difficult. Fortunately, I got some experience last year and I hope to improve, not only as a professional, but also as a person.



ESSOC Students With February Trip Participants

I like being a teacher because I can help others and explain some topics. It makes me happy when my students start producing messages in English. I feel happier, however, when they seem to be developing some values that will help them to be better people and change the town where we live. Helping students learn respect, solidarity, and the ability to listen to one another is the best part of my profession.

Now I am also the treasurer of the ESSOC Scholarship Program. It is good to see the scholarship students plan their lives from a different perspective because of the scholarship. Most of them can now think of a better plan for their lives with opportunities: studying what they like, getting a job, and helping their families. This is not only an opportunity to have a better life, but to also invest in the positive things and values that our community needs. I am happy to be a leader of this group because I have already lived this college process and I can encourage students to focus and achieve their goals. We also know that God is the most important thing for us to succeed.

Many people think I do not have any time to relax but I do have a lot of fun. I like listening to music, especially rock ballads in English. I also like to watch soccer matches on TV or videos on YouTube. I love my family. Being with them is the best, especially when we share chicken soup, which is my favorite food.

To sponsor a Santo Domingo college student, please call Jodie at 216-991-1444.

Lantern Project Update (*continued*)



Julio with his lantern

a dignified manner. The first 25 lanterns were personally delivered to the poor of Chiltiupan by St. Dominic parishioners during our February 18-22 Relational Trip. "Obras de Caridad," the outreach ministry of Santo Domingo Parish will manage this project for us. Obras de Caridad is the same group that has been building baños for poor families during the last year. Almost 150 of 300 baños have been completed using local laborers and parishioners of Santo Domingo Church. Thank you for sharing your light with those in need.

May the love of Christ always shine in our hearts!