

May
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Mission Outreach

St Frances Cabrini + St Rose of Lima

Mission
Newsletter

Editor
Vivian Schnick

A letter and pictures from our Mission in Patzún, Guatemala

First let me express heartfelt thanks for your wonderful response to the special raffle project held recently to provide a set of encyclopedia and books for the mission school library. The library should soon have many books available to the children to greatly enhance their education for many years to come.

Madre Ana Maria has written a letter to us and has sent along a few pictures of school children with new sandals. Also pictures of two families with their new homes which are all self explanatory.

Sister writes on behalf of the people who worked so diligently to make the school become a reality. The parents of the school children and their families all wish to thank you for your continued generosity and much needed prayers.

As in the past with *every* project that is under Madre Ana Marias direction, the elements of human respect and dignity are maintained. Our funds provide for the purchase of materials. The people of the community are instructed and directed by a team of construction leaders. The Architect, along with these men teach the people of the community how the work must be done in order to create a safe and beautiful building for the children. All are eager to provide a better future for the children and the entire mission community in general, for generations to come.

The indigenous Mayan traditionally are farmers of the land and are now learning the many skills of construction.

The crews are made up of the parents (men and women) of the children attending the school. Work is done on a regular schedule (sweat equity). Being on a schedule means they will still have time to maintain their fields (their livelihood).

Madre has also sent several pictures of construction. The pictures show groups of people working in the different areas of construction. You can see these pictures posted on the bulletin board in the front entrance of St Frances Cabrini church. Stop by and look at them on your way in or out of Mass.

A Reflection on Mission

Are you a missionary? "Well, I support missionaries through prayer and sacrifice," you might answer. And missionaries in the field will tell you their efforts wouldn't go very far without that vital support. But, in addition to that, our baptism invites us to be truly missionary in the way we live each day. We are called to be people who make daily efforts to announce the Good News of Jesus. Any baptized person, therefore, who is not "missionary", is not yet fully Christian.

Mission still means 'being sent', but we no longer limit this to the purely geographic sense of going to a foreign country. Mission today has no borders, no particular geographic location, but is among us and around us wherever we are. Christ still needs a voice, a pair of hands, a life of witness: yours.

by Fr. Anthony Gittins, CSSp

Do you know who?

Began working in car dealerships in 1972.

Went to work for McDavid Auto Group in 1976. Remained with the company until 2001 when he retired as Fixed Operations Manager.

Was a member of a professional boat racing team during the 1970's?

During the 1980's he was a freelance photographer and was a crew member of a WW-II B-17 Flying Fortress doing air shows.

Under direction of Father Juan Rivero, helped form parish mission council at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton and helped lead parish projects for Guatemala.

In March 2001 he came to St Frances Cabrini and helped Fr Juan get our parish started in Mission Outreach to Guatemala.

In spring 2001 he moved to Patzún, Guatemala to enter mission work in the Carmelite community there.

In fall 2002 he moved back to Fort Worth and continued working with the Guatemala missions from Texas.

In fall 2003 he was accepted into formation for priesthood by the Fort Worth Diocese and entered Assumption Seminary, San Antonio.

Our St Frances Cabrini Council 9748 Knights of Columbus sponsors him with small financial support and a monthly letter and care package while he is at the seminary.

Word has it that he will be ordained Deacon this coming September and Ordained a Priest in December.

He is none other than John (Jack) McKone our good friend who helped us tremendously to coordinate our mission efforts, while he was at the Carmelite Mission in Guatemala.

He will make a fine priest as he is very happy with his decision to be a servant of God.

**Pray for Vocations
to the Priesthood.**

Guatemala statistics

Guatemala is slightly smaller than the state of Tennessee.

Its capital is Guatemala City. Their independence day is September 15, 1821.

The language is Spanish and 21 major Mayan Dialects. For a large percentage of Guatemala's inhabitants, Spanish is a second language, and in some areas of the country, many people do not speak Spanish at all. About 40% of the population, more than 4 million Guatemalans, speak a Maya language.

About 60% of the population lives beneath the poverty line.

Religions are Roman Catholic, Protestant and Mayan-Christian.

Guatemala is the place where corn was first cultivated, where gods made the first men from corn dough, where Maya languages developed and where the Maya's greatest cities flourished. In Guatemala, the Maya live on, speaking languages that have endured for thousands of years, keeping their faithful count of days in the Cholq'ij calendar, and tilling ground that has provided sustenance for innumerable generations.

Guatemala is the center of the Maya universe and the heart of the Maya world, historically, culturally, and archeologically.

Take care and may God go with you
Matiox!