

Reflections-Honduras Visit

Another February and another trip to Honduras. It is always heart-wrenching, delightful, gratifying and inspirational. Every year we come home with renewed determination to do our best here in West Bend for the people of Taulabe, just as Padre Tito and his committee do in Taulabe. As we were distributing school supplies to the children a little 5th grade girl named Diana handed me a note which expressed her gratitude for the school supplies that she gets every year. She wrote, *"You have beautiful hearts. May God bless you today, tomorrow, and always, wherever you go and whatever you do. I love you and I send you hugs and kisses."* Love, Diana

While reading letters from the sponsored high school students, my heart was warmed with their expressions of gratitude and their pride in being able to learn, and one day graduate and be a professional. One student, named Anthony wrote, "I may be poor and humble, but my mind is filled with dreams". Aren't we privileged to give these precious hardworking children and young adults an opportunity to fulfill their dreams!



Update Regarding Pandemic

The pandemic is being taken very seriously in Honduras, and specifically in Taulabe'. Classes, religious services, the outdoor market, travel outside the city without permission, leaving the home except to get food, have all been suspended. There are a couple grocery stores in town, but the people in the mountain villages who usually buy at the open market in Taulabe' on Sunday, have no recourse. The municipality has sent trucks with food for the families in the villages, but not often nor in great amounts. In the city of Taulabe' there has not been one case of the virus. One of the villages had one case, but that person is well now. Another village has one case which is ongoing. Hopefully, with such strict isolation, and so few cases of the virus, the communities will soon be able to move about. As of now, they feel quite certain that school will not be in session again until July.

Mission Appeal

The chapel La Union in the community of Santa Cruz de Yojoa received help from your generous donations to the 2019 Mission appeal. A new roof was placed on the parish center connected to the chapel. Proceeds from the upcoming 2020 Mission Appeal will again be given to our sister parish in Honduras and will be used to buy materials to build a chapel or will be used to repair existing parish chapels.



Amigos Unidos

There is a mountain village, some ten miles out of Taulabe, called Las Vegas, which, by the way, means the mountains. There are about 15 to 20 families who live in the area. They have no school or church and are among the poorest of the poor. The 21 school age children walk almost 2 miles on a narrow gravel road to get to school. Padre Tito petitioned the municipality for a school with white boards and desks. The school was not yet ready for the beginning of the school year. No problem said a grandmother, "You can use my house". We visited the community one late afternoon. The desks were set up on the porch, with a white board attached to the wall. We shared a refreshment of a fruit drink and some cookies with this very charming and generous people. Amazingly, in no time at all, it was announced that preparations for Mass were ready. The living room of the same house was now a chapel. A table for the altar, chairs for almost everyone, and a very enthusiastic voice to lead the singing (of every verse of every hymn), all set in the majestic mountains of Las Vegas. Sometimes the most sublime Divine presence is felt in the most unlikely places.

