

Visit to Our Sister Parish Dan Lococo

On Wednesday, February 27th, the Lococo family, along with Mike Duffy, began a journey to our Sister Parish of Santa Maria in Nebaj, Guatemala. It had been just over four years since our first visit to Guatemala. Our trip would help us to understand how things have changed, meet the new Pastor, and learn how we could work more closely in the future.

Over the past four years, the St. Pius parishioners have been generous in their support of our Sister Parish. The Parish Center, which had been a burned out shell when we last saw it, has been fully restored. Funds from our last Mission Sunday collection helped retire the debt on the center's kitchen. The Santa Maria Parish is made up of the main church and 92 small villages. The primary means of communicating with these areas is by radio. The parish radio station broadcasts spiritual, educational, and general information from the Parish Center. The station uses software purchased by St. Pius. Additionally, the Bibles donated by St. Pius parishioners have been distributed as part of Catechist training. Your name may be in one of the bibles in the Guatemalan Highlands.

When we reached Nebaj we were welcomed by Fr. Diego Agapito Santiago, the new Pastor of Santa Maria parish. We found Padre Diego a very intense and down-to-Earth person. He had only been at the parish for a few weeks but was quite engaged in parish life. Padre Diego was raised in Nebaj and speaks Ixil, the indigenous language of our Sister Parish. If you think what it would be like if Fr. Bob didn't speak English, you can imagine how good it would be to find the new Pastor speaks your language.

Cont. on p. 2

The Pastor's Corner Fr. Bob Appreciate the Gift of Now

There was an ad in a magazine that read: "It's only NOW once." It was one of those ads in which the words seemed to jump off the page, even if the product didn't. It really is only now once. This message can apply to more things in life than whatever it was that the ad was touting.

Within our fast-paced culture, many people are either dreaming about tomorrow or regretting yesterday. In both instances, the grace and gift of the now are missed; the present moment, which is with us only briefly, is lost. But, what a difference a moment can make! We would do well to cultivate an awareness of the uniqueness of each moment, which can never be repeated.

Someone shared a prayer with me. I will quote part of it:

"Slow me down, Lord! ... Teach me the art of taking minute vacations - of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book. Remind me each day of the fable of the hare and the tortoise, that I may know that the race is not always to the swift - that there is more to life than increasing its speed."

Some of you have heard my explanation of what time is for God. "For God, everything is now. That's why God can forgive me for whatever I have done and for whatever I will do." If we could slow down and begin to imitate God as the Eternal Now, I think our lives together this summer can be a great joy. We could appreciate each other more, concentrate on being there for each other more, and be a source of happiness, especially for our own families and our extended family, St. Pius X parish.

Cont. from p. 1

We had a chance to sit down with Padre Diego and representatives of Santa Maria's Parish council to discuss how we could work together in the future. Some of the things we identified were: collaborating on parishioner Formation, helping to put books in the new library building, supporting a program to distribute medical supplies to families in need, and renovation of the parish's old convent to be used as a hotel.

We met with Catholic Relief Services after leaving Nebaj. We were very pleased to learn CRS had worked with Padre Diego in the past and would be happy to do so again. This is important because CRS is experienced with working as an agent in sister parish situations.

We also had a chance to spend time with Padre Rigo, Santa Maria's former Pastor. We visited Padre Rigo's new parish and saw the radio station he manages in Quiche.

We returned to Milwaukee on Thursday, March 6th. We accomplished our goals for the trip. We found the support St. Pius parishioners have provided has been used wisely. Padre Diego is someone we can look forward to working with. As we look to the future we have a wide range of opportunities to collaborate.

We plan to return to our Sister parish in July, 2009. We would like this trip to be a "Family Outreach" project to work on Santa Maria's old convent. We hope to build our Sister Parish relationship through face-to-face contact and hands-on experience.

Important Dates

Pius Golf Outing: August the 24th, at Ironwood Golf Course Contact Mike Miller

Grass Mass: September 7th 10:30 am

Invitation

The Invitation will be on summer vacation during July and August. See you in September!

To receive the Invitation by e-mail contact:
shaertel@wi.rr.com

Tosa Trio Summer Outreach

The Tosa Trio Summer Outreach program will be sending 70 young teens from our Tri-Parish to the Appalachia Service Project this summer.

The Teens and adult leaders will be donation a week of their time and talents to do general home repair for people in Kentucky.

We are in need of additional adult leaders to fill our work teams. Join us on our mission, June 21st through the 29th.

If interested please call Jay Kasmerchak 476-7476.

St. Pius X Carnival

Celebrate the End-Of-The-School-Year

Saturday, June 7, 2008

4-8 pm

in the gym and courtyard

friends-food-games-prizes-fun

All are welcome

Call the school office 414-778-0880 with questions or to volunteer

Your dessert donations are appreciated.

Drop off your home-baked or store-bought treats to the school office Friday, June 6 from 7:30-11am or in the gym Saturday, June 7 after 2pm.

Calling All Crafters

We invite you to participate in our Christmas Craft Fair and Pancake Breakfast sponsored by St. Pius X Community Life Commission on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 9am until 1pm in the gym.

A \$20 fee and completed application will reserve a 10' space, including one cafeteria table for you to display and sell your HAND CRAFTED items.

Contact Karen (414-475-6298)

(WImannings@aol.com) to request an application.