

**DIOCESE OF JOLIET
PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION**

“I SAY YES”

“Digo Si, Señor” “Aoó, ShiBóhólnihii!” “Oo, Diyos” “Ndio Bwana”

Occasional Publication

Spring Issue
March 2010

WHAT A NIGHT.... AT THE FAITH PROMISE DINNER

BY SR. SHIRLEY KRULL

It was a family affair. This is what the Faith Promise Dinner '09 felt like. We began with Partnership In Mission missionaries, friends and family eagerly gathering, while the music of the Laubanauskas family entertained. Bishop Imesch prayed for our family in petition and gratitude. And we were brought to our delicious meal with a picture and music presentation put together by Larry Lissak. A fun mission quiz brought our meal time to a close

The Francis Xavier awards were gratefully and humbly accepted by Mitch Sivertson and Dianna Witkowski. All of their immediate family, friends and Partnership in Mission family rejoiced with them.

Bishop Sartain lead us through his words to his caring experience of home mission. He told tender stories of small faith communities in Tennessee and Arkansas and how these church groups called forth his priestly gifts.

Art Sheridan brought us to the altar call of pledges by showing us the poor lives we may have lived in comparison to the poor lives of our friends and family in our mission. The pledges and gifts from the evening gifted the Partnership In Mission with . Father Blane closed our family night together with heartfelt words of the parish in Chinle and his gratitude for the Joliet mission program.

Your donation makes it possible to continue these services to the poor. Despite the economic distress we currently find ourselves in, we have received \$39,578 in pledges. We, and those we serve, deeply appreciate your generosity.

Frankly, we could not do what we do without donors such as you!

FAITH PROMISE DINNER 2010

FR. SANTOS “SUNNY” CASTILLO—FEATURED SPEAKER

SAVE THE DATE—SEE YOU THERE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 6:00PM AT

THE ABBINGTON IN GLEN ELLYN, IL

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Upcoming Mission Schedules

- Sucre, Bolivia (4/10-24/2010)
- University Mission to Sucre, Bolivia (6/8-21/2010)
- Navajo Mission (6/12-25/2010)
- SWIM High School Local Mission (8/2-7/2010)
- Naivasha, Kenya – Africa Mission (8/27-9/11/2010)
- University Mission to the Philippines (1/1-10/2011)
- Borongan & Banago Philippines Mission (1/28-2/12/2011)
- National Disaster Recovery (ongoing)

ATTENTION

ALL MISSION ALUMNI

Please call or e-mail our office with recent updated e-mail addresses and information

THANK YOU

KENYAN MISSION — SEPTEMBER 2009

BY MARY JANE TRINKUS

Frequently upon our return, we are asked, "How was the mission?" There are many ways to answer this question. We can tell of the long journey, the weather and the beautiful animals of Kenya.

We can also tell of the work that was done during the 2 weeks. We were blessed with the ability to help many. At the 50 year old hospital, 109 surgeries were performed. At Upendo Village there is a bustling outpatient clinic. Our hard-working medical team saw over 600 patients at this site. Two days were spent at an IDP camp. This is a place where 5000 internally displaced persons have lived since the civil unrest 1 ½ years ago. 300+ patients were seen in just two days. Adding the patients who came daily to the hospital, frequently waiting all day to be seen by our surgeons, we totaled over 1000 outpatient visits. Our construction team, in just two weeks under a dry, hot sun, built 4 homes. Two were 24x12 with 2 windows and a door. The other 2 were 30x12 with 3 rooms, interior doors and 3 windows. These larger homes housed families each with seven children.

So, listing the work accomplished is an informative way to answer the question, "How was the mission?" But there is another way too.

(CONTINUE TO PAGE 3....KENYA MISSION.....)

UNIVERSITY MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES AND BOLIVIA

BY NATALIE BAYCI

In January of 2009, fifteen students representing Benedictine, Lewis and St. Francis Universities worked in Bacolod to build a home. What started out to be one home turned into a duplex. The materials for the home were donated by the Franciscan Sisters of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Joliet. Forecasters had predicted rain for the whole week but we were blessed with sunshine and clear skies.

We began each day with Mass celebrated by Father Nathan Gohlke. We had breakfast, packed our lunches and by 8:30 we were hard at work. The students and team wanted to complete the homes before we left, but try as we might, we only finished 3/4. The future residents and other volunteers completed the rest. On February 1st two families had a new place to call home. In order to qualify for a home each family has to work 500 hours. Many people came out to help us so that they could accumulate hours. We worked, laughed and sang together.

The wonderful gift of this mission was the way the people and the students formed a bond. Father Nate visited the families in their homes, the students played with the children on their break, we heard the stories of the women and shared our lives with each other. When it came time to leave there was not a dry eye to be seen.

The University Mission to Sucre for June 2009 saw 30 university students and professors from our three Catholic universities (Benedictine, Lewis and St. Francis) travel to work among the children who live in poverty. Students also came from Iowa State and College of DuPage. While there we ministered at seven different sites and met with various youth groups in the evening. The children at the sites are well cared for but the staff is very limited. Our students provide extra pairs of hands to feed and nurture, teach crafts and games which are stimulating for their young minds. In addition to caring for the children we provided much needed medical, school and hygiene supplies. Each year we collect over 30 bags of these supplies plus each site is provided with a month's supply of food. Often times the promised government money does not arrive and they find their cupboards practically bare. This gives them a cushion for those times. Each of the 300 children were provided with clothing as well as shoes. At San Juan De Dios we were able to complete a playground, paint the building as well as install a bathroom. The children at the sites were treated to a birthday party with all of the trimmings including a clown. We also spent time with the men and women at the prison in Sucre. The five visiting professors provided workshops for the faculty and staff of the University of San Francisco Xavier. Our exchange student program is now in its fifth year and two students will arrive in January.

MISSION IN KENYA

BY LINDA BEAGLEY

And what the Lord requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8). This is what was asked of the 34 missionaries who traveled to Naivasha, Kenya late August. We were definitely called to do God’s work. Our group consisted of a consortium of people: clergy, healthcare providers, construction and volunteers. We began our mornings with Mass officiated by Bishop Imesch and “guest” homilists were invited to reflect on the Gospel reading. The group was fortified to carry out God’s work.

To notify the Naivasha citizens of the medical mission, announcements were made at church and over a loud-speaker system. People came from great distances to see the doctors for help. By the middle of the day, people were turned away to assure that those in line could be seen. On two separate days,

clinic visits were set up in the displacement camp located outside of town. Health care was provided and medications distributed.

The goals of the team were set high and as the first week progressed into the second there were doubts that our work would be completed. Those doubts were squashed and the team finished strong completing four new homes, 108 surgeries and 912 clinic visits. God was with us.

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 2 ... "KENYA MISSION"

BY MARY JANE TRINKUS

It has to do with how it touched our hearts and speaks to the images we carry home. It’s about the devastating drought, the crops dying, and the reports of people starving to death. It’s about a life saved because we were there with our expertise. It’s about the endless heat and breathing the constant dust as the homes were built. It’s about the overwhelming gratitude on the faces of the parents who now have a roof over their children’s heads. It’s about the sickness and despair of the tent camp inhabitants as they approach their second year anniversary living in a tent – their lives as they knew it, long gone. It’s about the smells and the flies on the patients in the hospital but also their thankful smiles because we performed their surgeries and helped them heal. It’s about the 165 bed hospital with a 145 % occupancy rate. It’s about telling a patient with a surgical problem that we are going home tomorrow, time has run out. It’s about working on a home and realizing that none of the children you see have a pair of shoes. It’s about hearing a child’s giggle as you play patty cake. The answer to “How was the mission?” is different for each of us. It’s at times exhausting and exhilarating, painfully sad and wildly joyful. It is a struggle, a privilege, a hardship, a blessing. Mission is a way to be with our brothers and sisters in need.



Bishop Imesch walking with new friends in Naviasha, Kenya

**Make a Gift
that will make a difference**

**Your gift to the Partnership
in Mission will help us build
a brighter future for our
brother and sisters in need
around the globe.**

THANK YOU !



Bishop Imesch visiting family
in a refugee camp

PHILIPPINES MISSION TO BACOLOD

BY *BRUCE CARLSON*

As we landed the snow was blowing across the runway. Not what you would necessarily be thinking of when heading for the Philippines, but the first leg of our travel was complete. In Detroit we connected with the rest of the medical team. As our new members joined us at our departure gate to the Philippines, the never ending ritual of establishing relations between people on mission began again. We could now associate names we heard during our earlier formation process with the appropriate faces. As our greetings completed conversation turned to the hopes for the mission. We shared what our expected tasks would be and how that might improve the lives of the people we were going to be working with.

When traveling to the Philippine one quickly learns how far away it is. Because our route took us far into northern Canada then west toward Alaska we saw the sun set twice by the time we reached Japan. It was the longest flight I've ever taken and lot's of time to think about mission.

We arrived in Manila around midnight local time and spent the next 5 hours waiting for our final flight to Bacolod. It was early dawn when arrived at Bacolod. Overcast and rain. I was tired, but curious to see how the Philippines compared to the other mission sites I've been too. It's definitely warmer, more humid, and lush than Sucre or Quito. That is about the only really differences I saw. As we drove to our hotel the people I saw reminded me for the people I've worked with in Sucre and Quito. This became very apparent on our first day at our job site. When you are living in impoverish conditions it doesn't matter where you live. You struggle to survive on what you find each day. They have little choice in the matter, yet the people hope for something better. It struck me as an emotional punch in the stomach and I cried. These are the same brothers and sisters I have worked with on other mission around the world. This is what Jesus taught. This is the Gospel message, Love one anther as I love you.

MY MISSION VISIT TO NAIVASHA, KENYA

BY *BISHOP JOSEPH IMESCH*

While I have been in areas of poverty before, I was not prepared to see the kind of poverty I saw in Kenya. It is difficult to describe because there is nothing to compare it to in our country, at least as far as I know. While the doctors and nurses treated people at a local hospital or at Upendo Village Clinic, those of us who were not medical people visited a number of families in their homes. The word "home" here means one room approximately 12 by 15 or 18 feet. It has a dirt floor, no water, no electricity.

Despite the conditions the people live in, there is either hope or resignation. They seem to have accepted their situation and learned to live with it. I marveled at their attitude. For some of them, I think, their future will be exactly as was their past. I wish I could have talked to them more about their lives. In our country it seems that most people, when asked about their living situation, mention the stress which they are under. I am not sure if there is an African word for stress. The daily grind of poverty would wear away even the strongest personality, but somehow these people found the spirit not just to survive, but to live. As impressed as I was with the Kenyan people, I was equally impressed by the medical personnel and the construction crew who were on our trip. Their commitment and dedication were an inspiration. Compared to the people they served, compared to the numbers in need, they only helped a very, very small percentage, but to those whom they helped, their gift was huge.

These wonderful people, especially those who worked to solve the day to day problems, are in my daily prayers, as is a promise to the Lord that I would no longer complain about anything. Whatever I have to complain about would be like a tiny lake compared to an endless ocean.

God bless the volunteers who do make a difference. They cannot solve the problems of Kenya, or even more of Africa, but they do make a difference.

2009 PHILIPPINES MISSION TO EASTERN SAMAR

BY JO MULVIHILL

The mission has two wonderful and valuable facets. The first larger one concerns the gifted and hard working medical team which works two weeks of non stop 12 hour days to diagnose and treat 800 patients and perform 140 critical surgeries.

The patients are the poorest of the poor. Many have never seen a doctor. They certainly cannot pay for their medical care, and the government resources are simply not available. This why each missionary personally hauls a 50 pound duffel of the necessary medicines. Patients come from many outlying islands via busses, boats, and canoes. For many of them the Joliet Medical

Mission Team is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help their suffering. The plight of many patients is often heart rending. Successes come in big and small doses.

Another smaller facet of the mission is to assist a small group of missionary nuns who operate two safe houses for 30 children, who are either orphaned or have survived crisis situations, such as abuse, abandonment, and severe poverty. These tireless nuns provide the children with the only caring environment the children know. Last year's Joliet missionaries built valuable study desks so that the students can complete their school-work.

This mission work made a difference in peoples' lives as they made a difference in our lives.

**Mission
RETREAT**

Where:
Mantellate Sisters
Servants of Mary
Of Plainfield
16949 S. Drauden Rd. Plainfield, IL
60544

When:
Saturday, September 25, 2010
1:00--5:00pm

What:
Living Eucharistically:
What Happens After We Say Amen?

Who:
Sr. Mary Ellen McAleese

Mission Supplies and Missioners Needed



We need Operating Room Nurses, Anesthesiologists, ENT Surgeons, Plastic Surgeons, Orthopedic Surgeons, Internists, Family Practice Doctors, Pediatricians, Adult and Pediatric Nurses, Practitioners, Dentists and Optometrists.

We also need non-medical professionals to be a part of our Construction, Educational and Pastoral Mission.

We also accept un-expired prescriptions & over the counter medications. We **DON'T ACCEPT** clothing and non-working apparatus. Please contact the mission office for the list of surgical supplies that we needed for our missions.

Come join the Joliet Diocesan Missions for a life-changing experience.

DIocese OF JOLIET PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION

Mission Sign-Up Form

PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR THE FOLLOWING MISSIONS

- PHILIPPINES
- BOLIVIA
- ECUADOR
- NAVAJO
- AFRICA MISSION TO KENYA
- NATIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY
- UNIVERSITY MISSION — BOLIVIA
- UNIVERSITY MISSION — PHILIPPINES
- SUMMER WITNESS IN MISSION-SWIM

If unable to join us for the upcoming missions, consider making a gift to the Partnership In Mission fund

- Check
- Bill Me
- Visa
- MasterCard

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Download mission application at www.paxjoliet/missions

Phone: 815-834-4028

Fax: 815-838-8129

E-mail: missions@dioceseofjoliet.org



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SEGMENTS FROM ART SHERIDAN'S FAITH PROMISE ALTER CALL

Allow yourself to drift back in time to when, as a child you had wants, or when your parents shared about their struggles of being poor. Art suggested that we listen with those memories as he told stories of some of the people the Partnership in Mission program have met at the different sites.

In Sucre, Crisanta and her four children came to our clinic. The children showed a picture of their father who died recently, and Crisanta shared that she had advanced cervical cancer. She had no money for doctors, or treatment. There was no shelter for her children. God had our missionaries there then. A trust fund was set up for mom and the children, administered by the Brothers of St. John of God. The children will not be alone. This story made Art realize that his health care as a child through welfare was a blessing.

Zachary, the young adult head of his family of 6 in Kenya, lived in a 1 room dirt dung walled dwelling. Now his house is redone by the construction corps with metal walls and there are 2 rooms. Also a donkey, cart and barrel were purchased for the family. They can earn money in transporting water. As Zach, his family, and new home were blessed, he said that it was the happiest day of his life. So sharing a bedroom with my brother in my youth seemed like another luxury.

We, as the missionaries in the Joliet mission program are willing to "seek only to place ourselves at the service of all humanity, especially the suffering and excluded" as Pope Benedict's World Mission Sunday message asked. And, we are grateful that we become friends with those with whom we serve.