



Presentation Press

Our Lady of the Presentation Church

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Presentation Parish Shares Journey of Hope with Students

by Frank Rieger

Have you ever walked an unfamiliar wooded trail and somewhere along the way began to feel that you were lost? Nothing looked familiar on the map you consulted and an inkling of fear overcame you as you wondered if you took the right path when confronted with forks in the road?

Perhaps you became afraid that you would never reach the trailhead where you started. Trying to allay your fears, you trudged on with hope of finding a landmark or sign that would reassure you that you were on the right path. Once found, your fears dissipated and you continued your trek with renewed confidence and a livelier gait.

In 2005, two members from our parish traveled to El Salvador to explore a harmonious relationship with the people of San Rafael Cedros, an impoverished rural community that lies in the heart of that country. With a little trepidation, they walked the dusty, gutted roads to meet the people and listen to their stories, hopes, and dreams for their community. Repeatedly they heard parents express a desire for their children to obtain a high school or university education so they could become future leaders in their community. However, too often families didn't have the money for transportation, books, the required uniforms or, in some cases, they couldn't even pack a lunch to make school possible.

When our travelers returned and relayed their findings to the people of Presentation Parish, the parish listened and heartily agreed to enter into a unifying relationship with San Rafael Cedros and to assist in funding the childrens' formal education. Through fundraising efforts and the generosity of individuals, 19 students are currently attending high school and 8 are attending university. Our parish is also providing funds for a coordinator who oversees the selection of the students and supervises a program the students must attend to receive scholarship funds.



The scholarship students and their parents meet twice each month to attend forums centered around leadership training. Not only do they study leadership topics, but they also put their training to practical use. For example: the scholarship families volunteered their time assisting a PeaceHealth medical team that treated over 1300 patients and organized eye surgery for 17 patients; they aided the Center for Exchange and Solidarity (CIS) in their Clean Water Campaign by distributing 80 water filters donated by PeaceHealth; and the university students, with the guidance of two agronomists, developed and maintained a community organic garden which grows a variety of vegetables for the community. Instances like these assure them and us that we are all on the right path.

To continue this important mission of our parish, the El Salvador Committee requests your heartfelt prayers for the people of San Rafael Cedros and invites you to support them financially. We are currently collecting funds for the 2012 school which begins in January.

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Dear Parish Family,

This month of All Saints and All Souls gives us time to remember our connection in faith to the great Communion of Saints in heaven and all our deceased loved ones. We celebrate the journey to holiness modeled by the Saints and the promise of eternal life given to us through Christ. Take time this month to learn about one of the canonized Saints in our Catholic tradition and to lift up in prayer the saints we have shared life with – *our deceased family and friends*.

Later this month we also mark the beginning of the Advent season. This holy and sacred time is an opportunity to deepen our faith as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. We encourage you to take advantage of the community opportunities for prayer, reflection and the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. The dates and times for these offerings are included in this newsletter. November is also the month of Thanksgiving. As people of faith, we give thanks for all the blessings God shares with us, especially the blessing of one another. May the spirit of gratitude fill our hearts and lives each and every day.

Our journey of renovation and construction continues. These projects are off to a good start and hopefully we are getting adjusted to our temporary worship space. Your patience and positive attitude during this temporary time is greatly appreciated. While I was a latecomer to the planning for these projects, as I have only been here since July, I am excited about the good things the church renovation and additional school classrooms will bring to our community. These projects are a visible sign of the future of our parish and your commitment to the Capital Campaign. We are grateful to all those who have pledged to the Capital Campaign. We are only able to move forward with your continued support. To date, about 800 parish households have made a pledge and followed through with payments. While this is a great start, that still leaves around 1300 households that have not yet given to the Campaign. This month we will be inviting those who have not yet participated to please do so. We recognize that everyone's ability to give differs, but hopefully we can all give something. No amount is too small. Every additional pledge ensures the success of these projects and helps us end the Campaign without incurring any further debt. We encourage those who have not yet pledged to prayerfully consider supporting this important work of our community. *Many Blessings, Fr. Tom Holder*

Hope *continued from page 1*

Will you walk with a lively gait by supporting a student with a full high school (\$300) or university (\$1,050) scholarship, or with a partial scholarship in any amount? Any contribution would be welcomed and appreciated. We also invite you to join our delegation that will be traveling to San Rafael Cedros in July of 2012 so you can personally walk the courageous path that Presentation Parish chose six years ago.

You may contact Jo Engert, 251.1135, for more information about supporting a student or joining our delegation.



Harvesting tomatoes from the garden.

Giving Tree Service Project

During the Advent season, Presentation Parish offers a parish-wide service project known as the "Giving Trees." Beginning the weekend of November 19-20, special gift tags will be affixed to a wall display of giving trees located in our temporary worship space. Parishioners are invited to take a gift tag from the display and donate the item listed. Donated items must be returned to the parish by Sunday, Dec. 18. There will be designated carts to place donated items in the Etue room and entryway to our temporary worship space. Items received after this date cannot be guaranteed delivery by Christmas. The donated items should NOT be wrapped, however gift bags are acceptable. This special service project is a great way to get the whole family involved in helping those in need. Donations will benefit Lee's Summit Social Services and residents in Lee's Summit area Care Centers.



Advent Activities



Friday, Dec. 2
La Posada
7:00 to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, December 6 & 13
Advent Evenings of Prayer
7pm, Auditorium

Thursday, Dec. 8
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Masses: 6:30, 8:15 am & 6 pm

Sunday, Dec. 11
The Virgin of Guadalupe Celebration
Following the 5pm Mass, Auditorium

Lessons & Carols
Presentation & St. Mark's Choirs
St. Mark's Parish, 6 pm

Sunday, Dec. 18
Christmas Caroling for Canned Goods
5 to 7pm

Advent Reconciliation Service
7 pm, Church

In 1531 Mary appeared to an Indian named Juan Diego in Tepeyac, Mexico. When asked by the bishop to produce proof of her appearance, he presented his cloak upon which the Virgin had emblazoned her image. Our Lady of the Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas.



**Join us in the Celebration of
The Virgin of Guadalupe
Sunday, December 11
after the 5pm Mass in the Auditorium**

The celebration includes:
-Special dance with the Matachines
-Rosary
-Prayers to the Virgen of Guadalupe
Refreshments of Mexican bread & chocolate



La Posada
Friday, December 2
7:00 p.m..

All are invited to a presentation of La Posada. We will meet in the auditorium and then after the Posada, share a meal with our parish family. We will conclude the evening with a Piñata for kids.

Advent Evenings of Prayer
Tuesday, December 6 & 13
7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

**In a complex and busy world, how do we live the simplicity of the Advent season?
Come join us for an evening of prayer and reflection on the theme: Simple Gifts.**

Activities for children will be provided.

Presenters:
Mary Pat Storms, Theology Chair at O'Hara High School
Dr. Rick Janet, Professor at Rockhurst University
Fr. Tom Holder



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Vision Statement

Our Lady of the Presentation is a vibrant, Eucharist-centered community offering all Catholics participation in sacraments, social action and Christian education.

Mission Statement

To share our gifts by providing opportunities for spiritual growth in worship, service, education and community activities, is our mission.

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Celebrate Christmas at The Pavilion

Fr. Tom Holder and the Parish Staff invite you and your family to Christmas Masses at the John Knox Village Pavilion.

The Pavilion is located on Murray Road just north of Presentation Parish.

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule:

Saturday, December 24

4pm, 6pm (Spanish) & 8pm

The choir will lead a Carol Sing-a-long 30 minutes before Mass

Christmas Day Mass Schedule:

Sunday, December 25

10am

The choir will lead a Carol Sing-a-long 30 minutes before Mass

