



Presentation Press

Our Lady of the Presentation Church

APRIL 2010 • Vol. 6, No. 6

My El Salvador Trip

by Rex Scott

Interesting, rewarding, exciting and humbling. These are the words I find myself using most often when describing my trip to El Salvador. My two older kids and I traveled with a small Kansas City delegation to several communities in and around San Salvador in January. It was a great experience that I have thought about many times since returning home.

My main objective was to experience true Salvadoran reality... I got that in abundance. We had a great interpreter/guide, a great driver and experienced travelers on the trip that took us to places and led us to experiences that the kids and I would never have experienced on our own. I met the students our donations have helped. I visited their homes and spoke with them and their families. I heard their stories and their hopes for the future. I was impressed with the students and the leaders of the programs we support.

The students' hopes for the future are filled with selfless thoughts. They are not looking to get their education so they can leave. They need an education so they can help their families and their communities. Most live in two room shacks with dirt floors, no electricity or running water...usually single-parent households headed by a mother with several children and no visible means of support. They try selling nuts, bananas and plantains, corn-husk dolls, etc. on the streets, or the older kids can sometimes get work in the fields for \$5 a day. Many cannot afford the transportation costs to get them to school. Many families can only afford to send one or two kids to school while the others try to find work or food. They live mainly on beans, rice and corn tortillas. There are no government programs to help them.



Rex Scott visits the students of our sister community, San Rafael Cedros during his trip to El Salvador in January.

San Raphael Cedros, our sister city, was one of the communities we visited. As with all the others, I was impressed with the students and the leaders of the program. The program stresses not only school involvement and good grades, but also community involvement and leadership skills. The students and many of the mothers of the students thanked me for the help they are receiving from Presentation Parish. They welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like a very important person and honored guest.

I was proud of our parish for the support that is doing so much for these families. Still, there are many more families that need our help. If you would like to donate to this program or would like more information, please contact me at the parish office, 251.1100.

Now, I'm glad to be home, glad I have electricity, running water, hot showers, food in the fridge, my health, my family and friends. I'm also glad that springtime is here and I don't have roosters waking me up at 4:00 a.m. J. Paz.

Outreach to Separated/Divorced Provides Care and Compassion

by Marilyn Schmidt, Director of Pastoral Care

Presentation Parish has offered a Separated/Divorced Support Group for the past three years. Participants meet every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Log House. The group is facilitated by Leslie Guillot, a professional counselor.

Anyone who is struggling with a marriage separation or divorce is welcome to attend. The group provides an anonymous, confidential, nonjudgmental and supportive atmosphere in which participants can walk through a difficult journey together. Here are comments about what the group has done from some participants:

“This group allows me to come and vent my feelings. Members provide me positive, realistic feedback and help keep me focused. The group always reminds me of the growth I have made. I look to them as positive role models.”

“I felt devastated when my marriage of 30 years ended in divorce. This support group allowed me to grow into an independent and confident person. Now I continue coming because this time of reflection is

another journey to help others. Our gatherings are a time to grow closer to God through prayer, discussion and reflection.”

“I had been divorced for 14 years when I joined this group. It has helped me so much. I had progressed to a point and then stopped progressing. The separated/divorced support group has helped me ‘move on.’”

“This is a place to release my fears, anger, disappointments and concerns to a non-judgmental group that wraps me in their arms of love.”

For more information about the Separated/Divorced Support Group, contact the Pastoral Care Office, 251.1102.



IS GOD CALLING YOU?



**BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY**

A Listening Presence

Is God calling you to be a lay volunteer who provides pastoral care to those who find themselves in difficult or transitional situations such as illness, major life changes, or loss of a loved one? BeFriender Ministers are trained to offer a caring, non-judgmental presence and actively listen to the emotional and spiritual needs of people. They are a living reminder of God's love.

Come and discern if God is calling you to this ministry. Your choice of two BeFriender Ministry Information Nights will be offered as follows:

Tuesday, April 20

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

or

Wednesday, April 21

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Sessions will be in the Mulligan Room. Childcare provided upon request.

To attend a session or for more information, contact the Pastoral Care Office at 251.1102.



Capital Campaign 2010-2013

Come Pray With Us!

The Prayer Team invites you to participate in a 24-hour Prayer Vigil for the success of the capital campaign.

You are invited to spend one hour in silent prayer with the Lord in the Church and Cooper room:

Friday, April 16, 9:00 a.m. to

Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

Sign up after Masses the weekend of April 10-11.

Or contact Jennifer Coates, 519.2699.



Commitment Weekend May 1st & 2nd

Join us at a Parish-Wide Campaign Gathering!

The **FOUNDED IN FAITH BUILDING THE VISION** campaign calls us to be a vibrant, Eucharist-centered community. Join us at an event below to: learn more about this campaign, see architectural renderings of a renovated sanctuary, ask questions, and enjoy fellowship with friends. You will not be solicited at these gatherings. No RSVP necessary. Please join us!

Saturday, April 10, 2010 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast in the Auditorium • Flap jack flipping by the Knights of Columbus

Sunday, April 18, 2010 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Refreshments in the Mulligan Room

Sunday, April 18, 2010 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Refreshments in the Mulligan Room following the Hispanic Mass

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 5:15-6:15p.m.

Refreshments in the Mulligan Room



**Our Lady of the
Presentation Church**
130 NW Murray Road
Lee's Summit, MO
64081

Phone: 816-251-1100

Fax: 816-251-1199

www.presentation-parish.org

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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #33
LEES SUMMIT MO
64063



Join us as we continue to celebrate our
125th Anniversary Year!
Save the date for these special events...

Tea Dance/Cocktail Party, July 18
(Adults 21 & older)

Homecoming Weekend, September 10,11,12
Featuring the Second Annual "Heavenly Scent" BBQ Contest

Traditional Turkey Dinner, November 6

Calling All Cooks!

We're looking for delicious recipes and precious memories about those recipes to share in our wonderful 125th Anniversary Cookbook! Please consider submitting a recipe, or two, or three! Recipes must be submitted no later than June 1, 2010. Recipe forms are available in the Gathering Space or on the parish website, www.presentation-parish.org, click on 125th Anniversary, then Cookbook. The cookbooks will be reasonably priced and available for sale this fall.