

Compartiendo El Mensaje

Our Lady of the Presentation ↔ San Rafael Cedros, El Salvador

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2011

OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Join our efforts. Committee Meetings 7pm in the School Library
- Meeting Dates
September 7th
October 4th
November 8th
December 6th
- Make a difference in the life of a child and our sister community—**SPONSOR A SCHOLARSHIP!**
- Travel with us Mid July, 2012 Submit your application NOW!

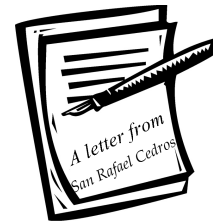
Status of our Scholars

For the 2011 school year, Our Lady of the Presentation Parish advised *The Center for Exchange and Solidarity (CIS)* that we would sponsor 10 university students (\$10,500) and 20 high school student (\$6,000) from San Rafael Cedros. Currently, there are 7 university students and 20 high school students receiving scholarships. One high school and one university student dropped out of school since January of this year. Of the 20 high school students, 8 are in their first year of studies, 8 in their second year, and 4 in their third year. At the request of CIS, we will not fill the vacant university spaces until the beginning of the next school year.

Those students who are attending university are Ana Cristina

Lopez, Rosa Elena Munoz, Kevin Noel Beltran, Victoria Yeraldina Flores, Marina Elizabeth Arenivar, Rafael Josue Duran, and Hector Edmund Chavez.

Special "hats-off" are in order to three parish groups who earmarked their fund-raising proceeds to the El Salvador Scholarship Fund - the Youth Group from their tasty Lenten Fish Fries (\$300), the school children who contributed through the Mustard Seed project (\$300), and the people of the parish who supported the Blessing Boxes this Lenten season (\$847). The money will be used to support the scholarship program, a community Grassroots Organizer, and leadership training for the scholarship students and their parents.



We would like to share one of the many letters we received from our University Scholarship

students. They were asked to write about their studies and how their family, work, and romantic relationships impact their studies.

To Our Lady of the Presentation Parish:

First of all, I thank you for supporting me with a scholarship. Basically, the scholarship is a great help to me because, if it weren't for the scholarship, I don't think that I would be studying. Speaking about the long-term, this scholarship will mean my future as a professional.

With my family, I am doing well because my parents give me support and encouragement to continue to move forward. My communication with them is good.

In my studies I am working hard and putting in all my effort. My grades came out more or less, that is to say 50% good and the other 50% bad, but I have told myself that I am not going to give up because I really do want to be a professional. The most important thing that I am learning and the reason I failed the class:

1. Because I didn't know beforehand what the class was about
2. Because it requires more effort
3. The class is at a very high level

"I will not give up"

Kevin Noel Beltran

A Friendly Reminder



Our First Year High School Students

Just a friendly reminder ~ A member of the El Salvador Committee will contact you in the near future to garner your financial support to sponsor a scholarship student for the 2012 school year. We ask for your continued support so that the students from San Rafael Cedros can

fulfill their aspirations and dreams to become a future leader in El Salvador. We pray that you can once again reach out with your blessings and assistance.

We also extend a special invitation to you to join our Committee. We meet at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Parish in the School Library.



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Happenings in El Salvador

Currently there are 193 high school and 71 university students from 12 communities in El Salvador who are receiving scholarship aid. To strengthen the scholarship program, CIS will hold a **Scholarship Conference in El Salvador in mid July, 2012**. Delegates from the various communities in the United States that support the scholarship program are invited to attend. The aim of the conference will be to explore the various approaches used in developing scholarship programs, understanding the many aspects of administering the programs in El Salvador, and sharing the "what works" wisdom that the scholarship students and the sponsoring communities have found useful during their formative years. At least two members of our El Salvador Committee will attend the conference.

As part of their development training, scholarship students participate in human rights seminars and select work projects that will improve their quality of life. This year the students are learning about organic gardening and are currently reaping the first fruits of their labor. They are learning a skill that will serve

them for life and bring healthy food to their families.

To combat the many water-related illnesses that families encounter in El Salvador, CIS is starting a "Clean Water" Campaign to aid the families and communities they serve. The campaign will raise awareness about the effects of contaminated water, deliver water-purifying filters to communities, provide workshops on how to use and maintain the filters, and educate the communities on how water is contaminated and how to prevent it. CIS is encouraging delegations to adopt the Clean Water Campaign by financially supporting the purchase of filters for communities and families. Individual tax-deductible donations can be sent to Los Olivos CIS, PO Box 76, Westmont, IL 60559. A \$75 donation will provide a family with a Sawyer water filter, two buckets to accompany the filter, and training on how to use and maintain the system. One filter will purify over 1 million gallons of water. For more information, go to www.cis-elsalvador.org.

Looking for a Life Changing Adventure?

Our next delegation to El Salvador has been moved from Jan 25-31, 2012 to **Mid July, 2012**.

Join our delegation to travel with us to El Salvador. Delegates will have the opportunity to attend the Scholarship Conference and meet our students and the families of our sister community, San Rafael Cedros. For more information contact Jo Engert at 251-1135. Application forms are available now!