



Misioneros de Padre Tomas is the U.S. based 501(3)© Non Profit organization dedicated the support o Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala City

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OUR PROGRAM IS THE ONLY MARYKNOLL AFFILIATE
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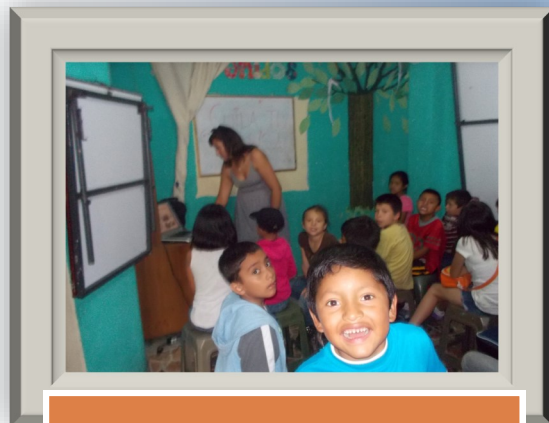
CAMINANDO POR LA PAZ—GUATEMALA

E-News July/August 2018

Since the death of our founder Maryknoll Mission Father Thomas Goekler, MM we have focus on the Education of children in Paradiso II one of the most marginalized sections of Guatemala City

Currently we have 24 students in grades K-12.. Additionally there are four students in University

Students present their work for the day.



He sure looks happy. But did he do his school work for today?



Meditation



On November 30th 2015 Pope Francis' in his encyclical *Laudato Si* the most widely discussed and acclaimed papal encyclical in history, he lamented humanity's destruction of the earth and called everyone to take responsibility to stop that destruction. Once we lose our humility and become enthralled with the possibility of limitless mastery over everything we inevitably end up harming society and the environment. ... Pope Francis challenged world leaders and ordinary Catholics and Christians to take bold new steps to protect the earth for future generations.

St. Francis of Assisi said this in his Canticle
of all Creatures:

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,

All Praise is yours, all glory all honor

And all blessing

To you, alone, Most High, do they belong.

No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

All praise be yours my lord,

Through all you have made

At first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day;

And through whom you give us light.

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor;

Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours my lord, through Sister Moon

And the stars in the heavens you have made them,

Bright and precious and fair.

All praise by yours my lord, through Brother Fire

Through whom you brighten up the night

How beautiful is he, how cheerful!

Full of power and strength

All praise be yours my lord though our Sister Moon

Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us,

And produces various fruits and colored flowers

And herbs.

All praise be yours, my lord,

Through those who grant pardon for love of you;

Through those who endure sickness and trial.

Happy those who endure in peace.

By you most high they will be crowned.

All praise be yours, my lord through Sister Death,

From whose embrace no mortal can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

Happy those she finds doing your will!

The second death can do them no harm.

Phrase and Bless my lord, and give him thanks

And serve him with great humility.

Do you see any connections here?

(choosing the name Francis, laudato Si—protecting our common home).

Is it needful for us to think of our grand children and their common home?

You may want to listen to

Canticle of the Sun

Immigration

“No one would exchange his country for a foreign land if his own afforded him the means of living a decent and happy life.”

Pope Leo XIII (Rerum Novarum 1891)



The quote above assures me that it is not crazy to believe that immigration problems are not new to the 21st century.

In the past several weeks: I have sat in on numerous discussions of the problems at our Southern Borders. Additionally I have watch many news casts and viewed You Tube offerings without number. Unfortunately, perhaps this has more confused me than enlightened me. It has occurred to me that so much focus on our Southern border has only served to detract us from the reality that we are now experiencing the greatest migration since the Babylonian exile.

However; since I spend half my time in Guatemala, I believe I am in a great position to understand what I refer to as “the other side of the immigration problem”. I have long believed that many of the individuals that show up at our boarders have been “hoodwinked” by unscrupulous individuals. Actually not just individuals but misinformation propagated by gangs and cartels. What is not oblivious to many of my Central American friends is that these unscrupulous entities mislead the poorest of the poor by telling lies such as: If you go to the border and asked for asylum who will have no trouble entering the United States. Of course these individuals offer to guide individuals and even children to the US for their own financial gain (I have heard figures ranging from three to seven thousand dollars).

One interesting fact that verifies that the children are often the real victims of these groups is the reality that DNA testing has shown that those presenting themselves as parents of the children they accompany are not their natural children. In fact about six years ago I was advised of a couple who had left for the US with children they were claiming as their own. They had apparently been given the necessary false papers to do so by local criminals.

Rather intentional or not I do not know. Nonetheless it seems to me that the current media focus on our Southern Border serves best to detract us from the realities of how vast the immigration problem actually is. What about all the Africans headed to Europe. Few of us realize that Chile is suffering from an influx of illegal immigrants from the various much poorer countries of South America.

I believe there are many factors behind this time of mass immigration. One is the growing rate of poverty in the world; and yet even the poorest of the poor have at least limited ability to access the information highway.



Spiritual Journey

We strive to have two spiritual journeys each year. The format is very informal. We select a place in nature where our volunteers and neighbors can relax and enjoy a day away from the daily grind of life in our barrio. Carlos our current President tells them they are experiencing another face of our program.

From the time we arrive until late afternoon is basically a free form time allowing the participants to enjoy the area in their own way.

In the late afternoon shortly before we have to leave we have a Holy hour generally with all our people participating in a spiritual exercise.





At the swings



Preparing picnic lunch

Our recent Spiritual Journey:

Again note It is our pleasure to provide two Spiritual Journeys each year. Our format for these adventures all follow this general outline.

First we arrive at a place in nature where our people can relax and enjoy nature. (Don't forget our people live in a concrete jungle). The early part of

the journey is free style with people being invited to simply enjoy nature and whatever is in the visit area. The noon meal is together but informal. The ultimate hour of the experience is more structured. We have a spiritual exercise with each person being invited to participate.

On The Bus



Enjoying the Grass



Coffee Up-date



Not much has changed since our last Up-date. We continue to struggle with our effort to increase our Market Share. We may run a few specials in the next few months and work on our website and try a landing page on our Get Response site.

Additionally we have been in dialogue with our Roaster/Importer who may be able to sell off some of our green beans. This would be at a loss since the market price of coffee has fallen on the international market. However it would place us in an improved space for buying the 2018/2019 harvest. This would ensure the high freshness and premium quality of our produce in the future year.

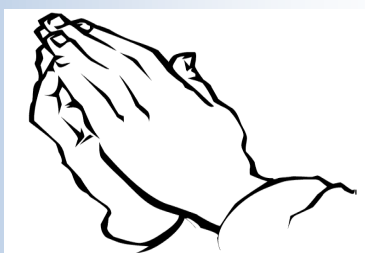
Visit Us (at Any time convenient for you)



On our website: <https://www.fathertomsmission.com> or:
rocovey@yahoo.com and in Guatemala" silence1308@ymail.com

What would you do? Most important is simply to be with us and perhaps help a bit with our normal activities. This is one of the best things you could do. Help with the weekly bread distribution, tutor our kids. Spanish is not really necessary, we could always use ESL. Assist our cooks in preparing meals for the children. Help with the general maintenance and up keep of the house. Paint various parts of the house.

There are always possibilities to help both our house and projects to assist our neighbors which have cost of material beyond what we are able to provide. At times visitors have decided to take on one such project and have provided the necessary material.



Blessed is he who considers the
poor,, the Lord will deliver him in
time of trouble

Psalms 41:1

Our Ron Covey and Fredy Sanchez assisted with the 2018 Maryknoll Mission Immersion

Following our welcoming sessions with Rosa Betriz and Rose Marie (Maryknoll Affiliates) we began our week long experience of missions in Guatemala City.

During the course of the week the group visited: Xela where we visited Two SEIPA schools and had a briefing at CRS (Catholic Relief Services) headquarters. Next we visited the programs of both Sister Dee's clinic and hospice for HIV individuals. Following mass on Sunday we visited the museum of Blessed Stanley Rother on Lake Atitlan. Monday we headed to our visit with Sisters Connie and Helen in Lemoa, Quiche. After visiting the sisters and hearing the history of their efforts in Lemoa we headed to Antigua where we experienced home stay with typical Guatemalan families and the next day we visited SEL school and enjoyed a day long program of presentations by the students. That evening we returned to Guatemala City. For our final day we visited the scene of the murder of Bishop Garaldi before spending our final afternoon with the program of Caminando Por La Paz in one of the most marginalized sections of the city. Here we heard the history of the program and walked the neighborhood meeting many of the people serviced by the program.. A highlight of this visit was a free form opportunity to interact with the kids who come to the program for tutoring and other services.

It is our sincere hope that some of our readers will choose to participate in mission immersion next year.

Sister Dee does not ordinarily have children needing help the one below is a special case



Lugging suitcases the hotel



Sister Dee and a supported Child



Our Leader dances with student at SEL school in Antigua.

Remember: We are all in mission by virtue of our Baptism

You can become a part of our on-going efforts at Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala

Some ways you can help:

Pray for our success (This really helps more than you can ever know)

Visit our website:

<https://www.fathertomsmission.org/>

Here you can find links to donate to our efforts and/or sponsor the education of one of our children.

Visit family Coffee website where you can purchase our premium Family Coffee. The profit supports our Educational Programs:

<https://www.fathertomfamilycoffee.org/>

You can send a tax free donation to the address below



Sometimes we take kids for glasses

Caminando Por La Paz
Post Office Box 1583
New Caney, Texas 77357