

St. Raymond's, East Rockaway — Each year in June, Deacon Richard LaRossa runs two mission trips to Guatemala. The trips are held at the end of each school year to accommodate teens who may wish to attend. St. Raymond's has two sister parishes in Guatemala: St. John the Baptist and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Aside from visiting the parishes and working with the people there, St. Raymond's also has a sponsorship program for the children, *Proyecto Don Bosco*, where people can "adopt" a child for \$20 a month. The money provided has a direct effect on the lives of these children: one hundred percent of the money goes to the child's family to provide food, medical and dental care, clothing and school supplies. Participants are encouraged to communicate with their sponsored child through letters and visits. In this way an on-going connection is maintained between the communities. This interaction has benefited both St. Raymond's and the lives of the people in their sister parishes.

For more information on the mission trip or *Proyecto Don Bosco*, contact Deacon Rich LaRossa at 516-593-5000. First consideration for inclusion in the mission trips is given to parishioners.



Websites for mission activity include:

- Catholic Network of Volunteer Services: www.cnvs.org.
- Comboni Lay Missionaries: www.laymission-comboni.org
- From Mission to Mission: www.missiontomission.org
- Glenmary Missionaries: www.glenmary.org
- Maryknoll Missionaries: www.maryknoll.org.
- Pontifical Mission Societies: www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org.
- U.S. Catholic Mission Association: www.uscatholicmission.org.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

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**Evangelization
 and
 Mission Trips**

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*How beautiful
 the feet of those
 who bring the
 Good News!*



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Mission is a natural outreach of our lives as Christians; it is allowing ourselves to be transformed by God's love and, in turn, helping to transform the world in which we live. Short-term mission trips give people the chance to both give and receive the hope and love of Christ. By sharing other's lives, even for a short time, people bring home new realities, beliefs and dreams. A true transformation takes place, and both the missionary and those they visit come away with new resolve to live their lives differently, with more hope, love, and joy through Christ. In his Angelus of July 8, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that, "In God's field there is work for everyone...This Gospel (Luke 10:1-12, 17-20) reawakens in all the baptized the awareness of being missionaries of Christ, called to prepare the way for him with words and with the testimony of their lives."

Several parishes throughout our Diocese promote regular mission trips. The Diocese itself also sponsors a mission in the Dominican Republic. We offer the following information to inspire people to step outside of their "comfort zones" and to take advantage of the opportunity to share in other people's lives, and to encourage other parishes to form similar relationships outside of our own Diocese.

Diocesan Mission in the Dominican Republic — Our Diocesan Mission has been in existence since 1979. We have three missionaries serving there: Sisters of Saint Joseph Jane Reilly (at the Parish of NUESTRA SENORA DE FATIMA in Hondo Valle) and Beatrice Barry (at the POSADA del BUEN SAMARITANO in Santa Domingo), and Msgr. John Cervini (at the parish of SAN PEDRO APOSTOL in El Cercado).

Participants in the eight-day immersion experience have the opportunity to live out our faith with our Dominican brothers and sisters as they face the reality of daily living in a world much different than our own in terms of modern day comforts. Life in the mountains is hard, but it does not dampen the joyful spirit of a people formed to be the Body of Christ. Life for the ailing who stay in the capital city with Sister "Babs" is given new hope through her compassion and caring. All participants are prepared for their special journey with an orientation session before departing and a reflection session upon returning. For more information contact this office at 516-678-5800 ext. 309.

Our Holy Redeemer, Freeport — This parish has a long-standing relationship with the Missionaries of the Poor, an international religious institute of priests and brothers located in Kingston, Jamaica, who work with the homeless, destitute and terminally ill. Since 1996, Msgr. Richard Figliozzi and parishioner Annette Ferrarella have been bringing people down to Kingston, usually during Lent, to work with the brothers and share in their prayer life. The trips normally run five days, culminating with Mass on Sunday with the residents and the brothers. There are five different apostolates to work in: two for men and boys, one for women and girls, one for infants and small children, and

one for AIDS patients. The Missionaries of the Poor have recently opened additional shelters in Haiti, the Philippines, India, Kenya and Uganda. For more information, contact Annette Ferrarella at 516-312-4646.



Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Centerport — *Project Nicaragua* is a religious and social ministry of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs parish. In 2000 Msgr. Peter Ryan and several volunteers visited the village of Amatitan with the help of two local missionary sisters. The village was essentially abandoned by the local government and received no other help. The parish has taken on the responsibility to give aid to this community in whatever ways they can. Since that time they have helped to construct a church, *La Iglesia de Espiritu Santu* (The Church of the Holy Spirit), built and repaired homes, and supported scholarships to help keep children in school. The program has expanded to include a breakfast and lunch program that often supplies the major source of nutrition for these children.

For more information on *Project Nicaragua*, please contact either Paula Dodge or Tom Pirro at 631-757-8184. First consideration for inclusion in the mission trips is given to parishioners.