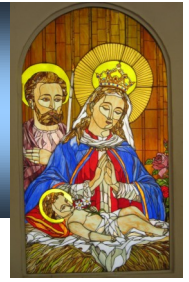




La Sagrada Familia



News from and about our family in the Dominican Republic .

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OUR SECOND ISSUE

Buenos Dias and welcome to our second issue. Just *click* on any underlined article on the left to be taken to that page. There is a link, [To 1st Page](#), on the bottom of each page to take you back here.

From our Sister Parish, we get behind the scenes information on the operation of the bakery as well as updates on other projects. This is one busy parish.

This summer, Sister Rosemary led a pilgrimage to the parish with members of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St Paul. Some of the pilgrims share their reflections of their visit.

We have eulogy for a local friend of the parish.

Do you remember our May, 2009 Friend Raiser? The theme was *Keep the Wheel Turning* - our phrase for increasing the number of friends and showing support for La Sagrada Familia. We have four examples of *Keeping The Wheel Turning*.

Do you have some free time for a life changing experience? Learn about the Lent 2010 pilgrimage.

Read about Mimio, who works in a Fair Trade certified coffee farm. References to Fair Trade websites are provided.

Finally, there is a thought provoking Parting Reflection concerning the prison within the parish boundaries.

Your reflections, your activities which support the parish, and your articles are welcome. Feedback is always appreciated. E-mail your items to troeder@wi.rr.com. Thank you.

— Tom Roeder, volunteer newsletter facilitator

THE BAKERY - LA PANADERÍA

In the Sagrada Familia Parish, we are running a few development projects to help people in this area improve their quality of life. One of these initiatives is a bakery where local families are being employed. It has been almost a year and a half since the project started, with parish guidance and supervision. Today we are interviewing the current administrator, Frank "El Panadero" (the baker), to see what his impressions are.

1. What position do you have in the Sagrada Familia Bakery?

Well, right now, I'm the bakery administrator. My responsibilities consist of administrating the bakery's goods, checking around on how things are working, checking the quality of the bread we're producing, and, in a general way, taking care that all our equipment is functioning at its best and receiving appropriate maintenance. I organize the workers in the project and am responsible for all the financial issues.

2. At the present time, how many workers do you have baking the bread in the bakery?

Right now there's ten of us. One worker prepares the bread mixture while another at the same time mashes the mixture to give it the right texture and consistency. Four more workers cut the mass in the appropriate size and later shape them into small breads forms. Two others finish polishing their shape and grease them with butter. Then, one puts them in shelves to let them rest and swell. Another bakes them in the oven. Finally there is me in the selling side attending our customers and distributors.

3. What is the weekly bread production?

We produce according to the demands of the local market. On average we use around 18 sacks of flour (54kgs apiece). This will produce about 2000 bags of 12 small individual breads per week. The bakery provides the daily bread for the children's meals at the Parish's Nutritional Center. The rest is sold either in the small grocers in town or directly from our shop. We end up getting a profit which allows us to receive slightly higher than a \$200 monthly salary. Besides that, there are a few distributors who sell the bread to the grocers in the neighboring towns. These distributors work on a commission based plan.



Frank with one of the bread distributors

4. Has this new employment affected your life?

How do you think the parish bakery project changed the other worker's lives?

The bakery has provided me and my family with much more stability as it is my source of income. Not only in the sense that, thanks to this job, I'm having higher earnings than I used to have before becoming a baker. Mostly because before I wasn't sure if I'd get a job for the following day. Now I can wake up with the certainty that I'll be able to raise the money to provide food and other items for my children and wife. I think that this is also the way in which the other bakery workers feel, because most of them were in a similar position as I was before being employed here.

5. Do you think the bakery is also contributing to the town?

I think so, especially for the reason that on the days we haven't produced bread due to special circumstances people have always come to ask what's happening. Therefore, I think we've made our place in this town. I think, besides the ones being employed in the project and the retailers that sell the bread we produce, people from Sabana Yegua are also benefiting from our bread production. Our bread is less expensive and fresher than the bread they used to buy that came all the way from the provincial capital city, Azua.

6. What is your opinion for improvements that could be made to the Bakery?**What future plans do you bakers have?**

The first improvement we're really looking forward to and hope to get done soon is to buy a small power generator. We would purchase this from the share of the profits we receive. We have been saving little by little. With the generator we would be able to work better with the machines we use whenever the electric supply goes off. Another objective is to improve our bread production making it more regular, in order to better satisfy the needs of the people here in Sabana Yegua and surrounding villages. Also, we would like to start producing other kinds of bakery products. Two of us recently attended a confectionery course and we are now teaching the other members of the bakery how to produce cakes and different kinds of pastry. So we're getting going on it!

**MU DENTISTS
MAKE BIG DONATION**

Our parish is blessed by a group of dentists from Marquette University who visit each year to do a free service operative for parishioners.

This year they brought and donated two dentist chairs along with all their special equipment and settings. The chairs were installed in our parish Health Center in Sabana Yegua.

We have a local dentist who comes once a week for low cost consults. The chairs allow him to be more proficient in providing needed care.

Also, the chairs will allow the dentists from Marquette to better service clients and to perform surgeries which they couldn't do before.

The chair and equipment are shown in the picture to the right.

We give a big 'Gracias' to these dentists and to the Lord for providing them.





LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Our parish hired a lawyer who comes one afternoon a week to assist people who do not have proper birth certificates. Without these certificates, one is not a legal citizen. The lawyer helps people to get declared 'legal'.

DERMATOLOGICAL OPERATIVES

Since late in 2008, a group of dermatologists comes every second Wednesday to check the 130+ children in the Nutritional Center and their families. These doctors provide treatment for any of their skin problems.

MANANTIALES WATER PROJECT

We are currently working on a project to replace a 7 km. PVC pipeline from a spring to a remote town in the mountains. This project will help the inhabitants to both improve the quality of their household water usage and increase the amount of water available for irrigating their fields. This is important as farming is the villagers only source of income.

PARISH REPORTER

Marc Morales Codina, a member of the Community of St. Paul who is studying medicine in the Dominican Republic, provided the parish news articles. Muchas gracias, Marc!

HOME BUILDING AND REPAIR

We have built five brand new houses for needy families and repaired another twelve more in the last few months. A picture of one of these homes is to the left.

LATRINE BUILDING

So far this year about 400 new latrines have been built in the parish villages.

ALTAR SERVERS AGAINST POVERTY

The parish youth has held fund raisers to assist in repairing a senior citizen's home. After Mass they sold a dessert, arroz con leche (rice pudding) to parishioners. Also, the young servers go door to door soliciting food to distribute to the elderly in need.



CODIAH ASSOCIATION SCHOOL

We are now renting another house in the San Francisco neighborhood for our school programs. The chapel and the other rented house ran out of space for conducting both the Spanish learning program for Haitian immigrants (complemented with other teachings) and the reading and writing lessons for illiterate adults. The need is extensive for these programs in our parish. The classroom is pictured above.

Nancy: The mission trip to the Dominican Republic was eye opening, mind expanding, and such a wonderfully prayerful, unrepeatabe, unique experience. It provided opportunities to learn about God's people in an unfamiliar part of the world, justice, our own country and the impact of its policies on the world. I met gracious brothers and sisters face-to-face, so that I could understand them better and see how our lives are interconnected. Those I met offered me their faith and hospitality and I felt humbly honored to receive it. I hope to share this experience with my third graders by incorporating it into my curriculum and also doing a unit on their culture, stressing the solidarity we have with others in the world.

One person I met was Mareesta, who said she was 99 years old. She walks a mile to get her water and wood for the day. She had just made her only meal for the day and offered to share it with Fr. Oriol and me. We declined as she needed the food for herself - but I did leave my vitamins with her.



Fr. Oriol, Mareesta, and Nancy.



Joanna and her host family

Joanna: Mass was a beautiful experience in itself. Everyone was filled with this joyful spirit of song and faith. The services were held throughout the parish villages – some in small patched up buildings and others in larger chapels that were funded through their sister parish in Milwaukee. It made no difference what the space looked like – what mattered were the people, who didn't hesitate to give strangers strong embraces at the sign of peace (which sometimes lasted up to 5-10 minutes).

I was also overwhelmed with the graciousness and generosity we were shown. My host family for the week were truly givers of light. At night when the electricity was out and it was well into the 90s and humid, they lit a candle in my room and gave me a paper fan to cool myself. When I was sick, they made me rice soup to sooth my stomach. When I was tired, they gave me their best bed to sleep on. When the electricity did come on again in the middle of the night, they moved one of their only fans into my room to make me more comfortable. It was humbling to be served in such a human and Christ-like way. Though their lives are not as filled with material wealth, their spirits are filled with care for each other as they depend on each other for support and survival.

One of the girls in my host family, Cecelia, connected with me on the last night I was there. The family (with 3 teenage daughters) and neighbors were all sitting outside of the house on plastic chairs. I asked what kind of music they liked. She looked up a song on her phone and put it on speaker mode and everyone started smiling and singing along. I figured out the refrain in Spanish and sang along and felt this human connection that broke the language barrier and brought a sense of spiritual peace and unity.

MORE MINNESOTA REFLECTIONS



Group Picture of the Minnesota Pilgrims

Cheryl: In June, nine pilgrims traveled to the Dominican Republic. The ten day experience included an opportunity to learn of the history and struggle of this impoverished nation as well as the role our country has in contributing to their poverty. We developed an understanding of how the Church is working to change the systems of poverty via the work of CRS and Caritas. We were guided through the processing of fair trade coffee. And, during our stay in the parish of Sagrada Familia, we had opportunities to learn about the parishioner's living conditions, build relationships, and experience family life via home stays.

How has this experienced specifically changed me? For me, the Spirit whispered "*Become more informed about our country's trade policies. Advocate with federal lawmakers so our country doesn't make decisions that benefit Americans at the expense of people in other countries.*" The pull of hope -- that all will be able to share in the Kingdom of God.

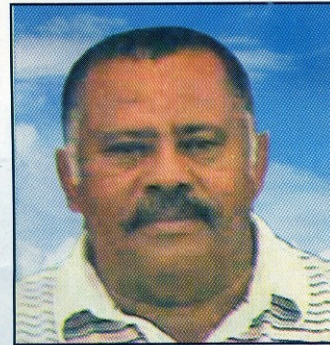


Cheryl helping a student with an art project.

EULOGY TO JUAN CABRAL

Many parishioners of La Sagrada Familia work hand-in-hand with our priests to carry out Christ's work in the parish. Juan Cabral was one of those loyal, hard working parishioners.

Juan Cabral was a man born in Guayabal who latter on moved to the new village of "el 2-C" in our parish. He was shy, but nevertheless he didn't hesitate to wake up every Saturday and get to the road early in the morning. There he would wait on the side of the road for someone to take him all the way to Mordán. Mordán, located 30 minutes away from "el 2-C", is a small village at the foot of the mountains and one of the most neglected towns in the area. There he started the Christian community and formed the local catechists to sustain it. He would also come to the town of Sabana Yegua to attend Sunday mass; and even helped us taking care of a small plot of land where we used to grow



**Ramiro Eulogio Cabral Corcino
(Juan Cabral)**

food for the Children's Nutrition Center. Later on, this plot was used for growing fig trees as part of a program to increase the diversity of products grown in the area.

He had cardiac problems resulting from his diabetic condition and finally passed away the 25th of June. Though he suffered from his heart, his heart was a caring and open one. Juan was always willing to work with others...helping to establish peace in his community whenever there was any conflict. He is and always will be remembered as a man who, without looking for it, earned the respect and love of his community. May he rest in peace.

ST. RAFAEL THE ARCHANGEL SCHOOL

St. Rafael the Archangel school has a strong history on the south side of Milwaukee and familial connections to Latin America. The majority of our student's families maintain connections to their families in primarily Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. These connections include private support as well as mission efforts within the parish and within the school curriculum.

We began a campaign to strengthen our mission work by committing to support our beautiful Archdiocesan sister parish. Our first endeavor, a school supply collection, was a response to the 2008-2009 Catholic School's week call to Service.

The mission work was first introduced by one of our teachers. She did a PowerPoint presentation for each of the fourteen classrooms. She shared information about the Dominican Republic including photos of her travels to the neighboring community of Los Toros, Azua, where her husband was born. Our students engaged in comparative conversations as they analyzed the differences between homes, food, weather, living conditions, clothing, schools, student leisure activities, and language to that of their lives in Milwaukee as well as their international familial ties.

Our fourth grade classroom organized the collection process by creating posters for both school campuses to advertise the event. They created decorated supply boxes for each classroom and designated a particular school supply for each classroom to focus on collecting. Letters were then sent home to introduce our efforts to collect the school supplies which would be delivered by the sisters of the World Mission Ministries. Our students and families filled all of the fourteen boxes with school supplies plus much more. It was a great success!

Next, our spring Lenten offering included a penny collection. Each of the 320 students decorated an empty milk box with thoughts and drawings of our mission efforts. They took the "house" containers home and collected offerings during the Lenten vigil. Our families and students collected \$675.00 for donation to the La Sagrada Familia community/schools.



St Rafael students who *Keep the Wheel Turning*.



Students who worked on this project receive certificates from Sisters Fran and Rosemary.

Sisters Fran and Rosemary joined our school for a service Mass on May 5, 2009 to celebrate the accomplishments of the students and to bless the missions work.

Lastly, this spring marked the 30th anniversary of Father Luis Pacheco's pastoral service. Our school chose to honor his ministry through a donation, in his name, to La Sagrada Familia.

We are grateful for the opportunity to support the familial ancestry of our students through the mission work that extends from the World Mission Office. We look forward to our continued collaborations in Christ.

—Melanie Mendez, *St Rafael the Archangel school*

THE MINNESOTA (OR IOWA) CONNECTION

When Nancy Scholl returned from this summer's pilgrimage, she told her sister (from Davenport, IA) about her experience and the people of La Sagrada Familia.

Her sister was touched and wanted to help. She got together some extra clothes to mail to the parish. The Post Office told her the shipping cost would be \$200.

She thought that was a bit steep. Instead, she arranged for Sister Rosemary to receive the clothes and take them to the parish on the next pilgrimage.

Then, she sent Fr. Oriol the \$200 she would have spent on postage!

TRI-PARISH COMMUNITY

The Tri-Parish Community of St Helen, St Alexander, and St John Kanty is having a special project this Advent. The theme is 'Neighbors – Near and Far'. The parishes will be making donations to support their food pantry, to assist families in need within their parishes and schools, and for La Sagrada Familia.

The Tri-Parish Community held a similar project in 2007 in which \$1,120 was collected for La Sagrada Familia. Also, the parishes held a Lenten collection in 2008 and \$1,525 was donated.

YOU, YOUR PARISH, YOUR SCHOOL

In this newsletter, we read about individuals, school children, and parishes working to *Keep The Wheel Turning* - to support La Sagrada Familia.

Could you, your parish, or your school join in?

Funds are needed to support the priests and their many projects. Any assistance is greatly appreciated. The World Mission Ministries office and the priests and parishioners of La Sagrada Familia need our help.

We hope the next issue of this newsletter will have an article on how you *Keep the Wheel Turning*.

TWO SUPPORTERS OF LA SAGRADA FAMILIA.

Lizanne Schulrud, of St.Josaphat parish in Milwaukee and James Carlson, of St. Patrick parish in Whitewater, are facilitating the dedication of a picture of St Francis, donated by the LaVerna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order, for placement in the new chapel in the village of Barreras. This chapel will likely be the central gathering place for the new parish carved out of the area of La Sagrada Familia known as La Plena. Father Juan will be the pastor. When the chapel is completed, a date will be set for blessing this new facility and its picture of St Francis (see below).

Franciscan friars accompanied Columbus on several of his voyages to the New World. These friars attempted, unsuccessfully, to halt the abuse of the natives of the Dominican Republic. The world is attracted to St Francis because he addresses the poor. The spirit of St Francis and the memory of those friars will be an inspiration for the worshipers at Barreras. Jim and Liz hope to foster an ongoing relationship between the people of this community and local Franciscans.



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LENT 2010 PILGRIMAGE

We can read the newsletter to stay informed on La Sagrada Familia. But, there is no substitute for BEING THERE! You have an opportunity to BE THERE with the Lent 2010 Pilgrimage. Sister Rosemary Huddleston and Father Oriol will be your guides for nine days/eight nights in the Dominican Republic in early March, 2010.

A typical itinerary starts with two nights in Santo Domingo at a retreat house or a comfortable hotel. The first day is travel but on the second day you get a tour of the old city. Then, it's off to Sabana Yegua for four nights staying with a host family. You will have breakfast with the host family each morning and spend the days touring with your fellow pilgrims and learning about the parish. Also, you will learn about Fair Trade products. (See the adjacent article by LeAnn Rogan). Finally, you will spend two nights at Playa Esmeralda, a small all-inclusive resort, reflecting on your experience. It is located on the Caribbean and features a large swimming pool, a beautiful beach, and showers.

The best part of the pilgrimage will be your days staying with your host family and touring the parish. You will learn about life in a third world country. You don't need to speak Spanish. The host families have done this before and you will quickly learn to communicate in other ways.

Living with the host family provides some challenges. You will find the *maybe* on whether the electricity is working and the lack of running water for showers and for flushing the toilet to be an inconvenience. But, it is just an inconvenience. It is only temporary for you. For the Dominicans, it is their way of life.

You will walk a mile in the shoes of your sisters and brothers who live in an area unlike your home in Wisconsin. It is an experience you will want to share with others. An experience you will never forget.

For more information, contact the World Mission Ministries office at 414.758.2280. Space is limited.

This is *your* opportunity to BE THERE!

A FAIR TRADE COFFEE FARMER

Mimio is the nickname of one of the many Fedecares cooperative farmers I met in the mountains of the Dominican Republic when I was traveling with my daughter to visit our sister parish last summer. Fedecares is sold as 'Just Coffee' in the Catholic Relief Services *Fair Trade Work of Human Hands* catalog. Also, the coffee can be purchased from the Just Coffee Co-op in Madison (<http://justcoffee.coop>).

Mimio and I became fast friends. He walked and hitchhiked all the way down the mountain to meet us where we picked him up in Father Oriol's truck and added his slight frame to our already crowded cab. I liked his smile right away and returned it gleefully in place of the Spanish words I wished I'd known. We toured and videotaped the cooperative farm where Fr. Oriol served as our interpreter, and the founders proudly shared their business practices with us. We met the women who shell the beans and toured the whole modest facility getting the low-down on how every machine and every step in the arduous process works, and how every farmer's family contributes and reaps the benefits.

Mimio reminded me of my own grandfather. He had been a poor farmer here in Wisconsin. Mimio dressed like Grandpa in a dress shirt and trucker's cap. He smelled like him, too, after a hard day's work under a hot sun. Mimio's love and joy resembled Grandpa most. Mimio's likeness to grandpa and grandpa's hobby farm became uncanny and I began to cry.

I asked Fr. Oriol to tell Mimio how much he reminded me of my own grandpa who died two years ago and how I'd love to hug him. Mimio came right to me with open arms. We hugged and he patted my back just like my grandpa used to. We held hands through the field and then sat by each other for lunch. Mimio told me I must return and stay TWO days with his family. What a strong gesture of hospitality! We bought 30 packages of coffee and left with full hearts. I keep a photograph of the two of us on the "coffee table" in my family room and pray for him and his family regularly.

— LeAnn Rogan, *St Anne Parish, Pleasant Prairie*

For more information on Fair Trade, check out www.crsfairtrade.org and www.milwfairtrade.org.

You can make a difference.....

PARTING REFLECTION -THE PRISON

I was one of a group of pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul who embarked on a journey of solidarity with the people of La Sagrada Familia in the Dominican Republic. What I hadn't realized was how deep and meaningful this connection would be.

One of the most powerful images I left with was that of a visit to a prison where men were kept under security for violent behaviors. As we walked and visited the people with the priest who leads "prison ministry", I felt this overwhelming sense of inhumanity and sadness. The image of the state of living was unbearable - like nothing I have seen or imagined.

Prisoners or their families needed to pay for water, food, and any other necessities. The government's job was simply to make sure no one escaped. Disease was everywhere including HIV and other diseases that needed medical care, which was not provided.

The image that most sticks in my mind is that of the line of over 150 men lined up for their supper meal. There were two large buckets filled with an oatmeal like substance (which was their usual meal) and prisoners had to find something like an old Styrofoam cup or plate or piece of plastic garbage to hold the "mush" so they could have some to eat. Often they run out of food before everyone is fed.

I felt like I was in another world watching this. A few pilgrims in our group offered to help serve the meal by scooping up the oatmeal with a ladle and saying "God Bless You" in Spanish. After we returned to the village, Fr. Oriol reminded us of the scripture, "When I was naked, you clothed me; was hungry, you fed me; in prison, you visited me." This struck a chord that the prison ministry of these priests is truly God's work and what Jesus lived to do.

I am still struggling to make sense of the many injustices I witnessed and have been made aware of. My eyes were truly opened and now I feel that I want to be part of a solution and not part of the problem. This short-term mission trip opportunity to live with and to witness everyday life and to connect with others in a different culture made me more hungry to connect with others in a "long-term" and Christ-like way.

— *Joanna Paddena, music educator,
St. Michael Catholic School*

PRAYER OF LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

One way in which we can show support for La Sagrada Familia is through prayer. Consider adding this prayer to your talks with God.

God of all people
who blesses us wherever we are
with the wealth of the land you created;
with the water that nourishes our fields.
You bless us, especially
with generous brothers and sisters
in whom we see your face.

We give you thanks for these many years
of mutual care and support
between these two sister churches:
Sagrada Familia parish and the
Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
We have grown in this embrace
that we gave each other so many years ago.

Bless this relationship
and help us always serve without condition
those who need it most,
Amen!

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