



Through Faith and Action

A Transformative Experience

REFLECTION BY BRUCE TIMM, 2024 LENTEN RETREAT PILGRIM TO LA SAGRADA FAMILIA



Bruce Timm and the children at the nutritional center

"It turns out I was made for this mission... parts of my life prepared me to visit La Sagrada Familia parish in Sabana Yegua, Dominican Republic," says Bruce Timm, 2024 March Lenten Retreat pilgrim.

Bruce first encountered Spanish in his 4th grade classroom at St. Peter's school in Minnesota. He recalls Don Miguel being on the TV and his class would respond to the show in Spanish. "My love for Spanish grew in later school years but I had little chance to use it," recalls Timm. However, God paved a way for the culture and language to influence Timm's life as he now works as a substitute teacher in retirement, where he often teaches in Spanish at a dual language elementary school in Sheboygan. "I really enjoy teaching, reading, and singing to the youngest students. I also teach English to increasing numbers of Spanish speaking adult immigrants coming to Sheboygan."

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Bruce Timm and Fr. Javier Guativa with the Prison Ministry

Timm, a frequent donor, has been watching the work of the Office of World Mission at La Sagrada Familia for several years now, and he has always been discerning if and when he should go to visit the mission site. "The development work seemed incredible over the past 40 years. Finally, the March Lenten Retreat in 2024 was my time to see firsthand, as an observer and a helper, on a trip unlike any other I've ever taken."

Upon visiting the mission location, Timm was initially drawn to the fact that the parish is the center and heart of the community at La Sagrada Familia. During the 2024 March Lenten Retreat, he had opportunities to visit the lab, health clinic, dental clinic, pharmacy, schools, and nutritional centers to name a few of the ministries at the mission. Due to the initiatives of La Sagrada Familia, education has become a reality for an area of the country where literacy levels were much lower 40 years ago. This left a profound impact on Bruce's heart, as he is very involved with education here in the United States.

Upon the visits to the nutritional centers, Bruce engaged with the 3-4-year-olds by reading and singing with them in Spanish. In addition to visiting the nutritional centers, the pilgrims visited several houses built by the mission, including a home of a man, who recently lost a leg, with five children. On another home visit, the pilgrims met a woman who did not have the financial means to build a home sufficient for her family. Thanks to the initiatives and ministries of the mission, she now shares a beautiful, sturdy home with her granddaughter and great-granddaughter, "I feel rich!" joyfully exclaimed the new homeowner.

The trip consisted of other visits throughout the week: Casa Misión (praying the Rosary outdoors in the community of Proyecto 4), multiple water project tours, a Stations of the Cross procession throughout Sabana Yeagua, time with the prison ministry, helping with the food pantry for seniors, and celebrating Mass with the community. "I spoke Spanish every day and what was communicated to me by the people were messages of joy and gratitude." After having this opportunity to embark on this journey of encounters, Timm confidently stated "I must return some day."

Women in Mission

On Sunday, April 7th, the Office for World Mission had the opportunity to celebrate the missionary calling of women through our *Women in Mission* event. As we think about this calling in light of our faith, we cannot fully understand it without looking at the role of women in the Bible, like Mary Magdalene. She encountered Jesus when He healed her from demons. After this initial encounter, she became a faithful follower of Jesus and continued to be loyal even after the Crucifixion.



Throughout her life, Mary Magdalene took action by caring for Jesus and the disciples. However, she also took time to intently listen and be present with Jesus.

Luke 10:39: 'Mary sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.'

Just like Mary Magdalene, at different moments in our life we are called to take action and we are called to be present.



Lisa Abbott on various mission experiences

At the event, Lisa Abbot and Sr. Carmelita de Anda were recognized for their missionary service, accompanied by Maria Gonzalez Edwards, who was the keynote speaker.

Lisa Abbot, parishioner of Holy Apostles in New Berlin, received the Bridge Builder Award, inspired by Sister Frances Cunningham. The award is presented to a woman who sees each encounter as an opportunity to connect while sharing the Gospel of Christ. Lisa's journey towards mission work was ignited during her transformative trip to Honduras with Mount Mary College, where her eyes were opened to the profound impact of cross-cultural experiences. Since then, she has embarked on short-term missions to Uganda, Bolivia, Ghana, and the Dominican Republic, fostering a deep connection with the Haitian Ministry of La Sagrada Familia.

As a beacon of faith and service, Lisa urges others to heed the call to serve without hesitation, embracing the opportunity to embody compassion and grace. Her unwavering commitment to

the Haitian Ministry exemplifies the spirit of selflessness and dedication.

Sr. Carmelita, sister of the Santa Mariana de Jesús Institute, received the Being Present Award, inspired by the life and legacy of Sister Rosemary Huddleston. This award is presented to a woman willing to identify with and accompany individuals while building solidarity with and for causes that impact human dignity. Sr. Carmelita, born in Tijuana, Mexico, currently dedicates herself to serving the Spanish-speaking communities of St. Anthony and St. Hyacinth parishes, offering invaluable spiritual support and guidance.



In addition to her parish duties, Sr. Carmelita extends her ministry to support various religious retreats, including Cursillos and Emaus-Women, where she delivers talks and provides spiritual guidance to retreat participants. Furthermore, Sr. Carmelita shares her wisdom and expertise by delivering talks and presentations for adult couples across the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



Her dedication to serving others exemplifies the essence of selflessness and compassion, leaving a lasting impact on the hearts and souls of all who have the privilege of encountering her ministry.

When asked about the motivation for missionary involvement, she says it comes from a love for God and Blessed Virgin Mary, and a desire to bring hope and light to those who are in darkness and loneliness.

We are filled with gratitude for the work of both Lisa and Sr. Carmelita. Thank you to all who attended the event to celebrate with us!



Sr. Carmelita de Anda working with various groups within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Luke 10:39: 'Mary sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.'





Apostolic Administration in Kyrgyzstan

REFLECTION WRITTEN AFTER A VISIT WITH FR. ANTHONY CORCORAN

Fr. Anthony Corcoran, a Jesuit missionary priest who is a graduate from Marquette University, was in town for a mission appeal, which took place at St. Monica Parish in Whitefish Bay, a parish that is in a twinning relationship with the Apostolic Administration in Kyrgyzstan.

Dr. Antoinette Mensah (Director of World Mission Ministries) and Lucca Kenyon (Administrative & Events Assistant at World Mission Ministries) had the opportunity to listen to the missionary experiences and to learn more about the realities of the Church in Kyrgyzstan.

"These people have received the Faith and attempt to live Christian conviction within a society with a very small percent of Christians," says Fr. Anthony. Despite the challenges faced by the realities of the country and the religious beliefs, Fr. Anthony calls to mind a fostering of hope stemming from the inspiration of Pope Francis. During the Central Asian Bishop's Conference last year, the Holy Father reminded them that 'Small is not a problem for God... it is an opportunity.' When hearing this, our Christian mind is drawn to the parable of the mustard seed.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32

As we think about what our Church faces in different countries and cultures around the world, we must be filled with the hope that through God all things are possible and nothing is too small for Him. So, we ask you, where have you planted your mustard seed?

More information on the twinning relationship between St. Monica and the Apostolic Administration in Kyrgyzstan can be found at <https://www.st-monica.org/around-the-world>.

**Additional missionary appeals will be occurring throughout the summer. Stay up to date with your parish bulletin for announcements regarding these appeals.*

Upcoming Events



Saturday With Mary

Reflection & Prayer with Our Mother

Register by May 17, 2024 using
the QR code or URL below.
<http://tinyurl.com/2024swm>



May 25, 2024

Schoenstatt Retreat Center
W284N698 Cherry Lane
Waukesha, WI 53188

12 PM Arrival | 4 PM Dismissal

An afternoon of prayer and
reflection to honor
Mary, our Mother.

*There is no registration fee, but free will donations
are welcome to offset our costs and provide for future programming!*

Feast of Ugandan *Martyrs*



Photo Credits: <https://staugustines.house/the-martyrs-of-uganda-4/>

Saturday, June 1, 2024 | 4 PM

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

128 W Burleigh St.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

Fellowship Following Mass | Featuring African Cuisine & Music

Save the Date!

More details to come



2024 Lenten Appeal



Your donations directly contribute to promoting healthcare, providing essential resources, and making a tangible impact on the overall well-being of the community.



<https://tinyurl.com/LentenAppeal2024>

Give Today!



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