

**PARISH TO PARISH RELATIONSHIPS** with the churches in the Diocese of Central Florida and the churches in the Diocese of Honduras are being encouraged and developed through the work of our Diocesan Honduras Commission. To date six of our diocesan churches are in Parish to Parish relationships and more are being added each year.

For Church of the Holy Child, Ormond Beach, July, 2008, marked the 4<sup>th</sup> year of mission work at Santa Maria Virgen de las Mercedes, in Rancho del Obispo, Honduras and by all accounts this was a wonderfully blessed mission trip for the team of 8 travelers and the Church of the Holy Child congregation.

### **THE FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS BELOW TELL THE STORY.....**

TEAM MEMBER, KATHLEEN CARROLL WRITES:

“Si, si!” the voices of the children rang! Think for a moment about the changes that might occur in your life if you answered yes, with the sincerity and enthusiasm of a child, to our Father’s direction!

This year’s mission trip to Honduras afforded us many opportunities to be flexible and trusting and it began before we even left the USA! Due to a plane crash in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa (no anxiety there!) we flew into the manufacturing city of San Pedro Sula and drove five hours through the mountain terrain to our destination. We wondered out loud as to why Hondurans bother painting yellow lines on the paved roads when drivers pay no attention to them anyway!

Our team of eight, though small in number, was consistently strong and supporting of each other as each challenge presented itself. As we placed our feet on the dirt mountain trail to visit and pray with the family of a child who had lost the use of his legs, we literally clung to one another, as silent, individual conversations with Jesus were occurring. We were called to trust and flex when John Jacob’s accident occurred- a fall resulting in the dislocation and fracture of his shoulder. After a bumpy trip to the medical center, complete with a stop by the local police, John was surrendered to the Honduran medical system and VBS somehow continued with half of the team missing!

While participating with the healing campaigns of the evangelistic outreaches, team members viewed first hand the power of Jesus’ love and healing. An elderly woman was able to walk with stability and a young man’s limp arm was raised healed above his shoulder! Eyes wide open, we were able to feel and witness Holy Spirit’s presence and power...right then and there lives were changed.

Every perceived challenge was in reality an opportunity to trust, to bend and to be open to the limitless wonders of our Lord. Looking for His direction in your

life? Open your heart, trust and enthusiastically answer ... si!...yes, Lord Jesus! I did. And I am forever changed.

JOHN JACOBS, WHO FELL BACKWARDS OUT OF THE TEAM'S 15-PASSENGER VAN, DISLOCATED HIS RIGHT SHOULDER, SCUFFED UP THE ROTATOR CUFF AND FRACTURED AND DISPLACED A PIECE OF THE SHOULDER, WROTE OF HIS EXPERIENCE:

It was interesting visiting a third world hospital. The Tegucigalpa Diocese office directed us to one they felt was best. I was a little concerned about cleanliness, but this didn't seem to be a real problem. The service was prompt and great, the staff very competent and the doc's English excellent. We were in and out in 6 hours, complete with emergency room service and a visit to the operating room, for a total cost of \$1,200. You can't even see where they stuck the IV in me. And the pain left once I came out of the anesthetic. Oh to have such service here in America.

FOLLOWING THE MISSION JEANNIE LOVING, SAMS MISSIONARY, WROTE THE TEAM:

Thank you for all you and your mission team did in Rancho del Obispo. I was so impressed with your flexibility, dedication, professionalism and love for the people there. I crave your VBS plans and would be thrilled if you could duplicate them for the deanery of Danli!

El Paraiso is so lucky to have your wonderful team committed to coming here. I praise God for all you were able to do. Thank you for healing me and the many other people you prayed over. Thank you for bringing your translators to a personal relationship with Christ. Thank you for your support of the lay ministers and the school. Would that every community in Honduras could have the good fortune to be under your care!

I pray that God will watch over all of you and continue to guide you, and that He will bring you back to Honduras soon.