

ST. THERESA PARISH

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 3, 2013



Mission Trip to Belize, January 2013

2013 St Joseph/St Theresa Belize Mission Trip January 12 - 25, 2013



Pat McGrath, Dan Maxey, Bob Anderson, Mike Derdzinski,
Nancy Benninghouse, Karen Maxey, Joan & Jim Schwai,
Barb Jatczak, Char Vargo, Linda Klingler

**Thank you for your efforts at the St. Peter Claver parish in
the Toledo district of Belize. Your efforts accomplished the following:**

- The work on the school and with the students in San Lucas
- The work on the Hope Senior Center and sharing time with some of the Seniors.
- The work on an Olla garden and compost pile at the Nazareth Retreat Center.

Bob Anderson

By serving others you served the Lord

Thank You! Bantiox! Botic! Seremein! Muchas Gracias!

Belize Mission Trip 2013

Eleven of us went to Punta Gorda, Belize from January 12-25th this year; five people from St. Joe's and six from other parishes. We stayed with the Pallottine sisters at their beautiful retreat center. Parrots, bird song, howler monkeys, birds-of-paradise flowers - it was a tropical paradise.

A new center for the elderly (H.O.P.E.- Helping Older People Equally) is being built in Punta Gorda. The center is sponsored by the Pallottine sisters. Seniors will come for blood pressure checks, blood sugar testing, diet information, juice, a snack, and fellowship. Currently, they are crammed into a building so tiny that only 20 people can receive this minimal care once every three months! Part of the time we laid concrete block for the interior walls. The local crew we worked with was terrific, but the conditions and equipment were primitive. Despite this, the workers were smiling, warm, and optimistic. We laid over 500 blocks while we were there. The Pallottine sisters are praying hard for more funding so this extremely important project can go forward.

We also went out to a remote Mayan village where our guys worked on renovating a school. (The old one had been plagued with termites and bats). The women spent the day with the children - older ones in the morning and little ones in the afternoon. Those kids sure knew how to do the

Hokey-Pokey!!! They get their drinking water from a polluted stream and the leaders of our group are working with *Sustainable Harvest International* on a plan to bring them clean water and compostable toilets.

We met amazing people everywhere we went. A group called *Plenty Belize* is working on helping people learn about environmentally sustainable farming methods to replace their slash and burn practices. One morning, an expert from *Plenty Belize* worked with us to build an "Olla Garden" and compost pile for the sisters. We all came home with new ideas for our own compost piles.

Our group felt like family by the end of two weeks. We worked, prayed, and had fun together. Some people went fishing one Saturday and a local restaurant prepared the fish for our dinner. We shopped in the market, explored the ruins at Lubaantun, and toured the gardens & nursery of Bella Campo.

The trip was a transformative experience. Now we know what real poverty looks like and yet the people we met were uncomplaining and joyful - reflecting God's goodness and grace back to us.

Nancy Benninghouse