

# Friends & Disciples

Official Bulletin of the Community of the Missionaries of Jesus-USA  
June 2013

Missionaries of Jesus



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*[Ad usum privatum]*

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# I Have a Dream

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We have just mailed letters to families and friends inviting them to the Dinner Dance (August 31) and to advertise in our souvenir program. In that letter I mentioned that we had to double our efforts in raising funds for the mission because this year, we did not receive enough parishes to visit for the Mission Appeals. Almost 85% of the budget of our missionaries working in Guatemala, Papua New Guinea and in the Philippines depend on the money collected during the summer Mission Appeals. Having been assigned to very few parishes, our main source of income for this year is the Dinner Dance and the Souvenir Program that comes with it.

With the expected returns of the fundraising activities, we hope to support the Missionaries of Jesus who work among the poor in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, USA and Guatemala. In this issue, Fr. Wren Reyes, MJ expresses his gratitude for helping the parish scholars for poor students. We hear from Fr. Norman Soriano, MJ about a dream of a Young Christian Worker. We learn from Bro. Dennis Batucan, MJ about a school for the poor Manobos in Sothern Mindanao. The Missionaries of Jesus Lay Associates (Marissa Mariano, Rene Mariano and Dr. Rene Calugcugan) share their experiences and reflections on the Medical-Dental Mission done among the poor in Guatemala. Fr. Joseph Guerrero, MJ shares his refection on the said Medical-Dental Mission of the MJ Lay Associates.

Yes, despite the financial difficulties, we carry on the mission. We invite you, friends, family members and benefactors to continue praying for us. Hopefully, we can convince our friends and benefactors to donate a monthly donation as low as \$5.00. Imagine, if every friend and benefactor of the Missionaries of Jesus (there are more than 500 of you) gives at least \$5.00 a month, we will receive at least \$2,500.00 a month. And if everyone can convince three to five more people, the 500 people in our list will easily become between 1,500 to 2,500. And if everyone gives at least \$5.00 a month, that will be between \$7,500.00 to \$12,500.00 a month. That will be of great help to our missionaries working in the fields; to our missionaries to be (our seminarians) and to the poor we serve.

**This is our dream.** I thought of sharing this dream with you. **But the reality is, of the more than 500 friends in our list, less than twenty people give a monthly donation.** I am sure, we will attain this dream slowly but surely – with you helping us making our dreams come true.



- Fr. Melanio Viuya, mj

# Making Dreams Come True

Pope Francis in his recent homily encouraged the youth not be afraid to dream big.

I am proud to say that Sto. Nino Parish (Modesta, Rizal – Diocese of Antipolo, Philippines) has done that through the help of the Missionaries of Jesus since its erection as in 2003.

Concretely, in 2004 the Student Assistance Program (SAP) was created to help financially poor but deserving students. Scholarship Fund was started.

Enclosed are two pictures: one taken in 2004 (the first batch of our parish scholars composed of elementary students) and the other one taken this year, 2013 (our first college graduates, namely, Isabel de Leon, Maricar Rubias and Joyce Reyes).

Both mothers of Joyce and Isabel are “labandera”, meaning, they wash manually the laundry of other people to earn a living. Both had lost their fathers: one went to heaven as his home; the other found “a new heaven” in another home. Yes, Joyce’s father has abandoned them since she was a child. Maricar's father is a tricycle driver.

Next year, three will also finish their college education.

All of our scholars are actively involved in the different activities of the parish.

This short letter is a simple way of expressing our sincerest gratitude to our families, friends and benefactors who had helped and who continue helping our youth dream beautiful dreams and assist them to make these dreams come true. Indeed, we dare to dream with others.

- Fr. Efren “Wren” Reyes, mj

SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
Sto. Nino Parish, San Mateo, Rizal

## UNANG ALAY NG SAP

### SA HAPAG NG PAG-ASA NI JESUS

**Salamat Aming Panginoon**



Isabel Joy de Leon  
Bachelor of Secondary Education  
Major in Mathematics (PNU)  
LET PASSER MARCH 2013



Maricar Rubias  
Bachelor of Secondary Education  
Major in English  
(Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina)



Joyce Reyes  
Bachelor of Science in Business Admin.  
Major in Marketing Management  
(Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina)

Sa lahat ng tumulong at patuloy na tumutulong SALAMAT PO!  
Ang inyong Sakripisyo AT Panalangin ang patuloy na  
nagbibigay ng buhay sa S.A.P  
We thank you and may the Good Lord reward you a hundredfold.

Sa lahat ng gustong makiisa please give your love offering sa  
Sto. Nino Parish (Tel. no. 942-75-49)



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## Dare to Dream with Others

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“To be a pedicab driver is not an easy job; but I have to do it because I need to work to sustain my family and fulfil the dreams of my three children” says Randy Samudio, 28 years old from Lawang-Bato, Valenzuela City.

Randy is among the thousands of unemployed in Greater Manila Capital region. He migrated to Valenzuela City from Labo, Camarines Norte to find greener pastures for his family. He only finished primary education by the meagre resources of his parents. He is the eldest of the seven siblings.

His dream to find a better job in Manila turned out to be in the informal sector doing odd construction jobs with two town mates. Later, he was able to find a job as maintenance worker in a factory of plastic and sacks. With P4, 500.00 (around \$100.00) monthly salary he received, he tried to



make both ends meet but to no avail. By the end of the month, he usually ended up with P250 (\$6.00) or less since he pays P700 (\$17.00) as bed spacer in a room together with three co-workers; he contributes to pay the electric and water bills. His daily transportation and meals amount to P100.00 (\$2.50). Randy's hope to send something worthy to his parents at home took him one year and

four months, but something unexpected came - the organized Union of his factory went on strike and the factory closed. Left with nothing but to subsist for a week, he tried his luck to rent a pedicab (a bicycle with a sidecar used to transport passengers) in his place. From then on, his life started to change.

It was May 2004. The Young Christian Workers (YCW) of the Philippines, an affiliate of the International Young Christian Workers, founded in Belgium by the late Cardinal Joseph Cardijn, has contacted Randy with seven other young pedicab drivers of Valenzuela City. Step by step, YCW provided and assisted Randy and companions with social

inquiry, meetings, formation and Review of Life and Workers' Action where they discovered the importance of organizing themselves. They then involved others (young and old pedicab drivers) of the place and motivated them to form a group with the only objective to improve their work and life situation. With Randy's leadership, they have organized themselves into an Association – the Lawang-Bato-Mulawinan-Ulingan Pedicab Operators and Drivers Association (LMUPODA). They registered their Association and negotiated and lobbied for their demands. In 2007, LMUPODA received full recognition by the local Barangay officials and has been issued the Social Security Commission's Certificate of Registration. In its first General Assembly, LMUPODA elected Randy Samudio as its first President.

Randy's first job was to orient, strengthen and consolidate the Association. They had serious discussions among themselves, with the support of YCW, on how to unify the pedicab groups in the area, how to bargain for a parking space for them, how to stop the competition among themselves, how to define a tariff or fare, how to improve the service to their passengers, and to let themselves be recognized as workers with rights and social protection. These, too, became their concrete demands to the local government.

As results of their actions, LMUPODA received a parking space facilitated by the local government, local authorities and the Communities recognized them as workers, competition among them was resolved and better relationships have been attained. They have developed self-confidence, worth and sense of pride. Moreover, they have worked hard to own new pedicab units, increased their income from P150/day to P300 and benefit Social Security (SSS).

Today, LMUPODA has joined a Federation of forty-seven Pedicab Associations of Valenzuela City and Randy as their education Committee officer. When asked of his journey in life, Randy expresses firmly: "What I am now, my family and that of my fellow young workers of the Association, I owe them to God's blessings and to the motivation of Cardinal Cardijn that 'a young worker is worth more than all the gold of this world'. I dared to dream but only by believing in myself and collectively struggling with others that I can fulfil that dream."

- Norman Soriano, mj  
(Fr. Norman Soraino, MJ is the Chaplain of Young Christian workers in Asia)





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## “Lent: an invitation to Pray, Fast, Build”

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Lent is understood as the liturgical season of 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This liturgical practice aims to imitate Jesus’ forty-day fast in the desert.

In the Philippine context, lent becomes more and more a seasonal faith practice. People go to different churches (*visita iglesia*), pray different forms of novenas, and do acts of charity. However, the Missionaries of Jesus formation community found a new way of observing lent.

This season of lent, we joined the people of Mindanao grieving the loss of lives, loved ones and properties caused by typhoon Pablo last December 12, 2012. We celebrated with them as they were rebuilding and making life anew from the experience of wretchedness, pains and afflictions. We journey with them as they rise from the loss to reclaim life with dignity.

One of the affected schools is the Salugpungan Ta’Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center, a community-based school administered by the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines in Southern Mindanao. The school is in a remote village of Barrio Mangayon. Manobos live there, and today, while their children yearn to go back to school, there is nowhere they could hold their classes because their learning center was destroyed. In response to this difficult situation and condition, the MJ scholastic community decided to support the advocacy of DAMBANA (Damayang Simbahan Sa Panahon ng Disaster - An Ecumenical Disaster Response) entitled “Pray, Fast, Build” that aims to rebuild the alternative schools for the Manobo children.



It is through this advocacy that we observed lent in a very different way. This season of lent we have embraced a different way of praying, not only through popular novenas or visiting big and old churches but also by remembering the victims of the typhoon. As religious brothers, we sent them our silent prayers of hope, love and solidarity. We have also embraced a more fruitful and meaningful way of fasting. What we save from fasting was shared for the rebuilding of the Manobos' alternative schools. As they say, "we fast so that others can feast".

As young religious, we do realize that we are privileged enough to receive all the moral, spiritual and financial support from our friends and benefactors. We do feel that the season of lent invites us to share what we have received. In the spirit and manner we do hope that our simple act of sharing will help and support the Monobo children in rekindling their dreams and hopes, in restoring their normal life, and in upholding their human rights and dignity as God's children; as all of you hope that all of us in the formation community would make it until the priestly and missionary ministry.

Indeed, lent invites us to a deeper spiritual encounter with God in our own life's desert. The season of lent leads us deeply into fellowship and kinship to our God and people who are in need. Lent also encourages us to deepen a special sense of love, concern, and solidarity for people who are continuously pushed into the margins of our society. Hence, lent invites us to a conscious act of self-emptying for the sake of others in need so that we all become concrete expression of God's love and compassion.

In the spirit of sharing and sacrificing we create millions of miracles. In behalf of the scholastic community - the young MJ professed brothers - and all those in formation we would like to extend our sincere gratitude in helping us to grow in the different aspects of our formation by sharing your resources with us. Thank you for all your prayers and financial support so that we can continue to uphold life with joy, happiness, peace, and dignity among the very least members of our society. We continue to ask for your fervent prayers and support as we continue building a society that is just and friendly to all. May all of you also discover meaningful and fruitful ways of doing and observing lent. Amen.

- Bro. Dennis Batucan, mj



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# Medical-Dental Mission 2013

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## March 20 (Arrival)

Sixteen Lay Associates of the Missionaries of Jesus arrived at La Aurora International Airport in Guatemala City, for Medical-Dental mission. We traveled to Tierra Blanca, an eight-hour drive from Guatemala City. When we reached San Marcos Evangelista Parish, some elders welcomed us in silence, swaying burning incense. We walked with them up to the altar and prayed – again in silence. And then, Fr. Aris Villanueva led us into a short and creative prayer focusing on the Rostro de Jesus (Face of Jesus). “Open our eyes, O Lord, help us to see your face in people we are about to encounter.”

## March 21 through March 23 (Three-day Medical-Dental Mission)

There was hope in the air as the MJ Lay Associates of the Missionaries of Jesus Medical-Dental Team arrived in the three centers (La Ceiba, Santa Isabel and Tierra Blanca). Many children and adults from these rural communities had never had a dentist examine their teeth before. For them, the visit of the Mission Team provided hope.

The team consisted of: two dentists, Dr. Renato Calugcugan and Dr. Priscilla Legaspi; six dental assistants, Cora Lamila, Carlos Juco, Rene Mariano, Planeta Canaveral, Estrelita Sajor; four nurses, Vicky Mariano, Lulu Juco, Alma Montoya and Geraldine Legaspi; two Hygienists, Lindsey Fugate and Sugar Legaspi; cleaning and sterilization, Fr. Melanio Viuya; dispensing station, Nelly Custodia and Marissa Mariano; Registration, Fr. Joseph Guererro and several other helping hands – Fr. Aris Villanueva, Fr. Rey Tejico and Francesca.







Almost 300 people received dental care. In addition to extractions and fillings, many received prophylaxis and fluoride treatment. Each patient also received toothbrushes, toothpaste and instructions on how to properly brush their teeth. Some patients were given antibiotics and pain relievers after their extractions. Toys were given to the children.

The village of Santa Isabel definitely placed us outside our comfort zone and helped us to have a deep spiritual experience that changed our life. We arrived at Santa Isabel in the evening of March 22, 2013. The people were very hospitable. They gave us scrambled eggs and tortillas for dinner. There was no running water to take a shower. But nobody complained. We decided to bathe in the river; we also experienced brushing our teeth with limited bottled water.

There was never a boring moment and everyone had something to contribute. We could feel the Holy Spirit at work throughout our stay. What a true blessing and honor it was to serve our needy brothers and sisters. Our teamwork accomplished many things and thus the mission was very successful. Everybody was committed and shared one's talents and gifts (kindness, love, patience, and joy).

How happy we are that God used us as His instruments in bringing joy to His people. This was a very rewarding experience and a life changing experience. As St. Therese says: "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness, kindness in face, in your eyes and smile". We thank God for making us work and be part of this missionary work and found fulfillment in whatever we accomplished. One of the amazing

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joys of a missionary experience is not just what it does to those who received the services, but how the lives of those who give the services are transformed.

Every day, we prayed the Novena meditating on the Faces of Jesus according to the four gospels. Every night, we celebrated the mass where some members had the opportunity to share their experiences and reflections. It was indeed a spiritual journey as Fr. Melanio told us during our preparatory recollection in Los Angeles.

Our group is very grateful to the Missionaries of Jesus for giving us this chance to live up by our actions the love of God. They provided us this opportunity to grow spiritually.



### **March 24** (Palm Sunday with the faithful of Tierra Blanca)

We had an occasion to make our own palms and joined the procession of palms which ended with the Mass of the Passion officiated by Fr. Joseph Guerrero.



### **March 25 (Back to Guatemala City)**

We had the chance to meet the local MJ Lay Associates at the residence of Don Manuel in Antigua Guatemala. There was sharing (with interpreters); eating and dancing.

### **March 26-31 (Holy Week in Antigua, Guatemala)**

Fr. Michael Montoya, MJ who was perfecting his Spanish in Antigua joined us. Our stay in Antigua during the Holy Week was an extraordinarily rewarding and unforgettable experience. We experienced a very beautiful religious celebration. Antigua streets were filled with processions and alfombras (carpets of colorful sawdust, flowers, fruits and vegetables). The processions consisted of big floats bearing the Nazarene being carried by several men in purple robes. The float of the Mater Dolorosa followed being carried by women dressed in black.

Led by Fr. Michael, the MJ Lay Associates made an alfombra of the Missionary of Jesus Logo. It was a labor of love. We were very grateful to God for giving us this chance to participate in making the alfombra.

Everybody was satisfied with the experience. Everyone found his and her niche and got along with each other. We developed friendship with our new members (Lita, Lindsey, Nelly and Sugar). At the end of our short term mission we all treated each other as members of one family.

- Marissa Mariano, mjla



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# God is an Awesome God

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The peace of Jesus Christ be with you!

God is an awesome God. He makes a way where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we can't see. He makes a way for me.

I was one of those who had planned to go to Guatemala last year. I was really ready to go physically & spiritually to follow God's call to mission. Things happened beyond my control that impeded me to go. I felt bad but I told myself that things happened for a reason. This year, at last, I together with my wife Marissa, crossed barriers joined the mission in spite of many hardships and trials. I almost gave up; however, I totally offered it all to God and I said "Lord, let your will be done. Make a way for us to follow your call. And He did.



The moment I stepped inside the Church of San Marcos Evangelista in Tierra Blanca, I had goosebumps and deep inside me I heard, "Welcome, my son, at last you made it." I shed tears and said "Thank you, Lord." This is the start of my mission together with my wife. We went with some of the members of the Lay Associates of the Missionaries of Jesus. During the duration of this mission, I saw the many faces of Jesus in each and every person we served and in every co-missionary we worked with.

The power of God, the Almighty, and the Holy Spirit was present on everyone. I saw the frustration of the devil that tried to mess up with our

mission. We trusted Jesus' words: "Do not be troubled I conquered the world." The gospel passage from Matthew 25:34-36 and 40 struck me:

*Come, you that are blessed my Father! "Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me; thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; in prison and you visited me. I tell you whenever you did this for one of the least brothers of mine you did it for me".*

I told myself, so this is the passport to heaven. A visa to enter the Kingdom of God. I kept reading the passage and in the silence of my heart, I asked God; what do you want me to do, Lord?

I invite you, brothers and sisters, to do the same and ask the same question. I invite you to join us. There are many ways you can join us and be one of the Lay Missionaries of the Missionaries of Jesus. Be our prayers partners (pray for the mission) and support us financially; join us in raising funds for the mission like caroling and other fund raising activities.

To you, God Almighty Father, you are really an awesome God. Thank you for everything that you have done. To Jesus, you are great and wonderful... "for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Rene Mariano, mjla



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## An Ode to Guatemala

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I read about being thankful how beautifully God has given you another chance in your life, not because you need it but because someone else needs you. That was exactly what happened to us when for the second time, we were given the opportunity to go back to Guatemala for the dental and medical mission.





The first time, we were blessed with eight lay associates, this time sixteen people were touched by God to share their time, talent and treasure with the poor people of Guatemala. And because of our previous experience, the travel was so smooth. We felt that God was with us from the beginning up to the end of our trip. We were equipped with the right instruments. We brought too much and heavy instruments, that I have to pay extra money for the excess pounds.

Reflecting on how each of us were visibly touched by our Lord, I dare to say that most of the people who joined us for the first time were tremendously happy. The experience was one of the defining moments they had and felt as they did the task assigned to them with full of love and enthusiasm. The mission experience changed their lives significantly!

As one of the participants was saying repeatedly, she applauded the faithfulness as well as the sacrifices of the MJ priests stationed in Tierra Blanca. I myself can only be proud of and thankful to them and all the fifteen people who left their comfort zones and heeded the call of God to mission. The Almighty had heard our prayers to increase the number of missionaries. Bravely they said yes! Up until the day of our flight that people other people were still raring to join us in this spiritual journey.

Each one has fond memories of the beautiful encounters with the simple people of Guatemala. When God opens a door, we can all hope and dare to be brave to step forward for we are assured of what is behind the door of possibility and what it offers. Our God never ceases to amuse us!



True Enough we Are Missioners (TEAM) in the true sense of the word! In terms of love, compassion, humility, tolerance and sensitivity to the needs of the poor people of God.

Second chance. As I have said before: one is rewarded when you do good things especially when you do it with love and with a pure heart. With God's limitless mercy, we are given a second try to improve, to correct.... We came and we were blessed, pursuing our desires to help those in need. As the writer J. Kniff wrote, "Our group mission is contagious and it motivates." We all agreed that this is just the start of our journey towards improving one's life by doing the Mission of God.

With one voice, we are shouting Philippines 2014, here we come. And that's a promise we hope to be done. We want to pass it on to everyone!!!



## Ode to Guatemala

I have several friends  
We've prayed and made a promise  
To help those who are distressed  
As well as those who are oppressed

God helped us as we planned  
Commissioned us to fly to a foreign land  
Not knowing what is at hand  
Beyond that we just flew and gathered as a band

As we traveled on some bumpy roads  
What we've carried were some heavy loads  
Relieving them were hard we were told  
We just left everything in the hands of the Lord

Soon as God led us to the designated place  
Where faces of Jesus adorned and interlaced  
One can feel the breeze of hearty joyous mob  
As we rendered services full of Love

- Dr. Renato Calugcugan, mjla







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## Faith in Action

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**“This elderly woman had plaques all over her entire set of teeth. She came for dental cleaning and I gave her my time. I told myself that she was my project – to give her a good dental cleaning. I spent more than thirty minute cleaning her and she left very happy.”** Lindsay, who was part of the dental and medical missionaries who came to Tierra Blanca, shared these affectionate words during one of our Eucharistic Celebrations.

This is the second year that we received visitors from Los Angeles, U.S., to do medical and dental mission here in Tierra Blanca. Many people here are not financially able to see a dentist when they have dental troubles. Dental clinics are found only in bigger towns. The people do not have money for transportation and dental fees. They were just glad when these volunteer missionaries came to check and clean their teeth and pull out decaying ones.

The MJ Lay Associates from Los Angeles arrived in Tierra Blanca on March 20. Some of them came last year for the same mission work. Those who came for the first time wondered what to expect in this far-flung rural area in Guatemala.

A few did not have any plan in joining the group. However, they all shared a common feeling that they were called by God to share themselves with the humble people in Tierra Blanca.

The humid and warm climate tested and dissuaded the group from accomplishing their work and the lack of resources had at times made them anxious. These, and many other discouraging factors, did not bring their spirit down. Enthusiastically, they served the people in kindness and gentleness.

I was so much touched by Carlos and Lulu's option to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on March 23, during this mission experience. They chose to recall the love that they have been sharing for these long years, serving deprived people. We had a simple Eucharistic celebration to cherish this meaningful event. Carlos and Lulu renewed their covenant with each other manifesting that only death will part them. Our teary eyes expressed how much we admired this love being shared by Carlos and Lulu.

Loving members of the families of Carlos and Lulu were missed in this celebration. We, in turn became their family. The traditional Filipino food, *pancit* (noodle), signifying long life, was served and other delightful food was prepared. Glasses of margaritas and wine cheered us up. We felt sad when the group left us on March 25.

The people are grateful for having visited them in their communities and served them in joy and kindness. Their gesture of support and solidarity with us encouraged and inspired us as to be steadfast in mission.

- Fr. Joseph Guerrero, mj







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## Fe con obras

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**“La anciana tenía sarro en toda su dentadura. Llegó pidiendo una limpieza dental y le di todo mi tiempo. Decidí considerarla como mi proyecto – darle una buena limpieza dental. Trabajé más de treinta minutos limpiando su boca y se fue tan feliz.”** Son las palabras afectuosas que Lindsay compartió con nosotros durante una celebración de la Eucaristía. Ella formaba parte del equipo misionero médico-dental que llegó a Tierra Blanca.

Es el segundo año que recibimos visitantes provenientes de Los Ángeles, EE.UU. para realizar una misión médico-dental en Tierra Blanca. Mucha gente aquí no tiene oportunidad de visitar a un dentista cuando tienen problemas dentales, ya que clínicas dentales se encuentran en pueblos más grandes y lejanos y no les alcanza el dinero para pagar el pasaje y los honorarios de los dentistas. Por eso estuvieron tan felices cuando llegaron los misioneros para examinar y limpiar dientes o para extraer dientes muy deteriorados.

Los Laicos Asociados de los Misioneros de Jesús (Los Ángeles) llegaron a Tierra Blanca el día 20 de marzo pasado. Algunos de ellos ya vinieron el año pasado para el mismo trabajo misionero. Los que vinieron por primera vez se preguntaban qué iban a encontrar en estos lugares lejanos de Guatemala. De hecho, algunos no tenían plan alguno de unirse al grupo. Sin embargo, todos se sentían llamados por Dios para compartir con la gente humilde en Tierra Blanca.



El tiempo húmedo y caliente probó y disuadió al grupo de seguir trabajando y la falta de recursos a veces les produjo preocupación. Sin embargo, estos y otros factores desalentadores no lograron desanimarlos. Entusiasmados sirvieron a la gente con paciencia y ternura.

Me conmovió la celebración de 40° aniversario de boda de Carlos y Lulú. Optaron celebrar este día especial, 23 de marzo, en la misión. Escogieron recordar el amor que han compartido por largos años, sirviendo a la gente necesitada. Juntos celebramos la Eucaristía de manera muy sencilla, pero con profundo aprecio por este evento tan significativo. Carlos y Lulú renovaron su promesa nupcial de amarse hasta que la muerte los separe. Las lágrimas en nuestros ojos dieron testimonio de nuestra admiración por el amor compartido entre Carlos y Lulú.

Echamos de menos a los miembros de la familia de Carlos y Lulú en esta celebración. Así nosotros nos hicimos su familia. Se sirvió una comida tradicional filipina, pancit (fideos), simbolizando larga vida, y otras comidas deliciosas. Copas de margaritas y vino completaron la alegría de la celebración.

Nos sentimos tristes cuando el grupo se fue el día 25 de marzo. Los visitantes llenaron de alegría a la gente por su amable servicio. Sus gestos de apoyo y solidaridad nos animaron e inspiraron a ser fieles en la misión que Dios nos ha confiado.

- P. José Guerrero, mj





After the Medical-Dental Mission in Tierra Blanca, Petén, Guatemala, the Missionaries of Jesus Lay Associates (MJLA) enjoyed the beauty of the Land of Eternal Spring. Above, Lake Atitlan; below, Cerro de la Cruz in Antigua City.

**Come join the MJLA! Join us serve the poor! Join us in our meeting at St Kevin Church every second Sunday of the month from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**



# Prayer for the Missionaries of Jesus (MJs)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Let the Holy Spirit take hold of  
all the Missionaries of Jesus.

Consume them with the fire of your love  
as you did with the First Apostles at Pentecost.  
Always lead them where you want them to go.

Enable them to proclaim God's reign  
to those who seek you.

Son of God and Son of Mary, show them the way  
to our brothers and sisters where the need  
for you is felt most.

Inspire young men to join the Missionaries of Jesus,  
to live as friends and disciples,  
and to proclaim your Good News.

O Provident and Abiding Love,  
guide and protect the Missionaries of Jesus  
both now and forever.  
Amen.



## Join the Missionaries of Jesus Lay Associates

Missionaries of Jesus **PRAYER PARTNERS:**

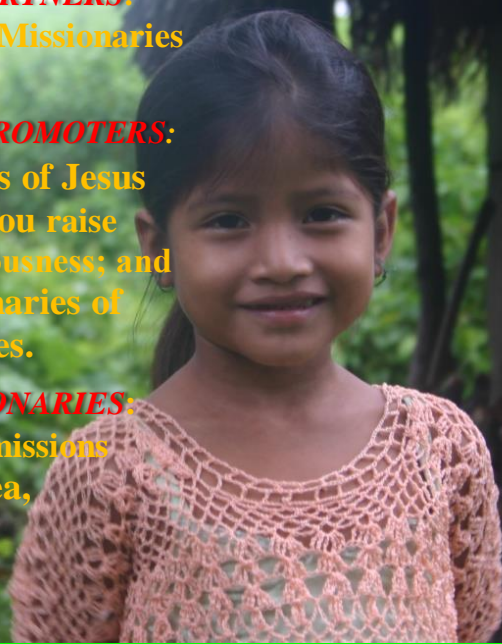
Commit to pray with and for the Missionaries  
of Jesus.

Missionaries of Jesus **MISSION PROMOTERS:**

Commit to help the Missionaries of Jesus  
raise funds for the mission as you raise  
other people's missionary consciousness; and  
recruit vocations for the Missionaries of  
Jesus and for MJ Lay Associates.

Missionaries of Jesus **LAY MISSIONARIES:**

Commit to work with MJ in the missions  
(Philippines, Papua New Guinea,  
Guatemala and the USA).





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# Help the Missionaries of Jesus

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Help the Missionaries of Jesus in their mission to bring the Good News to the poor and marginalized children, women and men!

Remember the Missionaries of Jesus in your planned or deferred gifts that may include the following:

- ✚ You can establish a charitable gift annuity with Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ Bequests: You need to name specifically in your will the Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ In writing your will, choose to set up a living trust to avoid probate. You can list specific gifts from your estate to Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ Your estate consists of all the assets you own at the time of your death: cash, securities, jewelries, art, your home or other real estate. Any of these assets would be an acceptable gift to make to the Missionaries of Jesus.
- ✚ Missionaries of Jesus can be named as one of the beneficiaries in your life insurance policy.
- ✚ Missionaries of Jesus can be named as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement account.

For more information, please contact  
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## Mission Statement

We, the MJ of the District of the Americas,  
Friends and Disciples of Jesus,  
heard and responded to God's call to mission.  
We are called to assist in the emergence  
of a new face of the Church  
and we journey together  
integrating into the life of the people,  
in reclaiming their stories,  
in the struggle of self-determination,  
in the celebration of life and culture.

Please remember the  
Missionaries of Jesus  
during the Combined  
Federal Campaign.



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