



Social Justice

Social Justice Proposes Sister Parish

Last month 21 teens and 11 adults from St. Cecilia Catholic Church and St. Thomas Aquinas, traveled to Nicaragua on a youth ministry trip over spring break. They were joined by Father Don Czapla from Marshalltown, Iowa. After several months of planning and fundraising, the trip became a reality and it left the missionaries speechless at times. Amid the sweat of the hard work, the team was able to experience the heart as well.

While in Nicaragua, the group spent some time at Divino Niño school and parish in El Viejo, just outside of Chinandega, Nicaragua and helped out in many ways including bringing needed school supplies to the school, having PE classes for the 157 children (lots of jump ropes, bubbles, soccer and even parachute play), and were blessed to attend an all school mass on the last day. Father Jose', the priest that serves the school and parish, invited the teens to visit some of the homebound sick and elderly of his local parish community. About thirty five families were visited in their homes by the teens, who presented each family with a bundle of basic supplies including rice, beans, sugar, soap and toilet paper. One woman was 104 years old and kissed all of the teens that came to her hammock with their small gifts of needed supplies.

Father Jose' has 46 districts in his parish and about 5000 total parishioners. The elderly and homebound that we were able to visit all lived within a mile of the parish. However, some of his parishioners live three hours away in the mountains and can only be reached by mule or horse. During those visits he is able to celebrate mass, as well as the other sacraments, but he is only able to visit about six times a year. This is partly because he has no mode of transportation and has to hitchhike or "borrow" a ride from someone.

Many parishes in our diocese have sister parishes and have been blessed by the relationship shared with a parish from a developing country. St. Cecilia is considering "adopting" Divino Niño parish and school as our sister parish. This relationship could include sending down missionaries on a regular basis to help with labor, holding and supporting an annual fundraising event, designating a portion of the black bag funds to go towards the needs of the sister parish, as well as collecting specifically requested donations to take to Divino Niño.

The average daily income in Nicaragua is about \$2/day and Divino Niño is located in the poorest part of Chinandega. The homes that we visited were about 8 to 10 sq. ft. and made of various materials including sheet metal, cardboard, and thatch. The teachers at the school make only \$40 per month (about 1/5 of what a government teacher makes). St. Cecilia could make a huge difference in the lives of many by adopting this special parish and school. We could also receive many blessings as well from the relationships built and nurtured over the years with the people of Nicaragua.

Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET -
1-800-842-2243 **STC Contact:**
Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

AMOS STC - Contact: Mary Ross
232-6232

APPALACHIA WAREHOUSE -
2019 Pullman Street, Ames. **STC**
Contact: Lynn Franco 232-0898

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES -
108 Hayward Ave., Suite 202, Ames
515-292-8414. **STC Contact:**
Kathy Ridnour 232-1697

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAS - STC Contact:
Sharon Jenkins 233-2570

EMERGENCY RESIDENCE
PROJECT - STC Contact:
Julie Haas 232-7138

FOOD AT FIRST - 516 Kellogg
Ave., Ames. 515-344-4357 STC
Contact: Doreen Berg 956-3414

GABRIEL PROJECT- STC
Contact: Beth Dahlke 460-0403

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE, INC. - 3206 S. Duff,
Ames 515-296-1449. STC Contact:
Doreen Berg 956-3414

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF
CENTRAL IOWA - 515-232-8815.
STC Contact: Alan Christy 231-8099

MEALS ON WHEELS (Homeward)
- 1114 S. Duff, Ames. STC Contact:
Cathy Kaspar 233-0517

OPERATION RICE BOWL - STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY - STC Contact:
Dave Temple 232-9271

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUS-
TICE COMMITTEE. STC Contact:
Mary Ross 232-5080

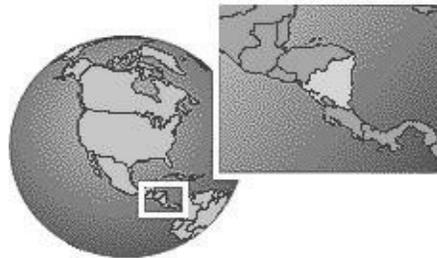
The Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sunroom. Everyone is welcome to attend.

(Proposed Sister Parish—continued)

Currently we are accepting donations to help Father Jose' purchase a motorcycle that will be equipped with a side carrier (\$1300) as well as gas money (about \$100 per month). Matt and Dawn Aitchison are planning to return to Nicaragua later this summer and hope to be able to give Father Jose' these funds. We are also accepting donations of used First Eucharist dresses as well as dark pants, white shirts and black shoes for boys. Please consider giving to either the motorcycle fund or donating items that can be used for first communions.

Questions? Please call Dawn Aitchison at (515) 460-7655

The 2014 Nicaragua Mission trip was coordinated by Matt and Dawn Aitchison, and daughters Delaney and Claire, all parishioners at St. Cecilia. Matt and Dawn have been married for almost 22 years, have nine children and have been a part of five international mission trips. This was the second visit to Nicaragua and to Diviño Nino parish and school by members of the Aitchison family.



ST. CECILIA SHARES CARPET TILES WITH ERP



Two years ago, McFarland Clinic donated a large amount of carpet tile to St. Cecilia School. The carpet tiles were laid in the school and business office and there are many more remaining. St. Cecilia Parish has shared some of these carpet tiles with the Emergency Residence Project.

Thank you St. Cecilia Parish for sharing some of the extra carpet tiles with ERP. (aka Emergency Residence Project). On Tuesday March 25, a group of ISU students pulled up 2 rooms of badly stained carpet in the living and dining room at the ERP shelter and replaced it with carpet tiles donated by St. Cecilia Parish. The rooms at the shelter are much improved with the addition of the carpet tiles.

ERP also needs to renew carpet in all of the Transitional Housing Units so if anyone has carpet to donate, please call Vic Moss at the Emergency Residence Project 232-8075.