

Global Outreach
Ecuador - 2011

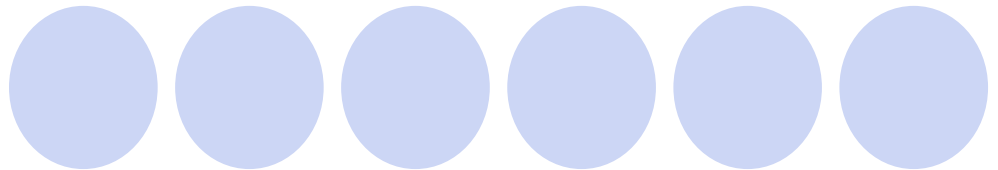
SAINT PETER'S COLLEGE

Campus Ministry



- * **Simplicity of Life**
- * **Quest for Justice**
- * **Community Living**
- * **Spirituality**
- * **Desire to Learn**

May 25 – June 8



**16 Days of Solidarity
with Our Partners**

Thank you!

May 24, 2011

Dear Global Outreach Partners:

On behalf of the Global Outreach Team and the Office of Campus Ministry, I extend my deep appreciation for all the support you have given to this program. You have offered presentations at retreats and training sessions; you have made financial contributions and given frequent flyer miles. Most important, you have kept us in your prayers and given us encouragement. Because of your support, our team will be in Ecuador carrying your spirit of good will.

We offer you this 16 day prayer opportunity as a way of continuing our partnership. We encourage you to follow the team's journey in the day by day reflections. The passages represent readings and themes the GO Team explored throughout its preparation. You may want to read all the passages or concentrate on one small quote a day. You will get to know some of our past and present participants through their observations and reflections.

I thank Clare Ettensohn, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry for Community Service and Fr. Rocco Danzi, S.J., Chaplain for a wonderful year of collaboration.

The men and women of Global Outreach 2011 are truly people for others. They are diverse in personality and background and have enthusiastically approached this adventure from many points of view. We are blessed to have them represent Saint Peter's College on such an important mission.

On behalf of Campus Ministry, and the Global Outreach Team, I wish you God's peace,

Mary Sue Callan-Farley, Director, Campus Ministry

If Jesuit institutions of higher learning are to inculcate a 'service of faith through the promotion of justice' it is imperative that faculty, staff and students engage in concrete learning experience in the 'gritty' realities of our world."

~ Jesuit Superior General Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach

Global Outreach 2011 Ecuador Team



“Go Forth And Set The World On Fire!”
~Saint Ignatius of Loyola

May 25 ~ Commission

Let us entrust:

Michael Bravo '11, Elsy Castillo '12, Erick Cifuentes '12, Fr. Rocco Danzi, S.J. (Chaplain), Linnea Enoch Jansson '13, Clare Ettensohn (Assistant Director of Campus Ministry), Stephen Kenny '14, and Christopher Ware '14

into the hands of the Lord.

Let us pray that God will give them a prosperous journey:

That as they travel they will praise him in all his creatures;

That they will experience God's own goodness in the hospitality they receive;

That through their example they will bring good news of hope to all those they meet;

That they will be courteous and generous toward all;

That they will greet the poor and afflicted with kindness and know how to serve and be served.

If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor.

~Psalm 127

Whenever we look to the interest of our neighbors in order to commit our lives with them, we are, in a sense, God's co-workers. Let us pray for God's help throughout the next two weeks that God will bring this effort to successful completion and that God's protection will keep those who share our work safe. Amen.

May 26 ~ Tradition

Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, to toil and not seek for rest, to labor and not ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do Your will.

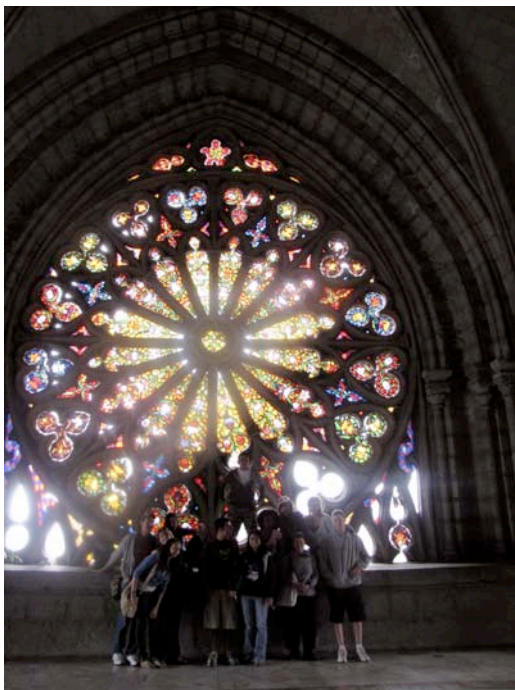
May 19, 2003

Lord, help me to serve and contribute to the group in the way that you see fit. Help me, Lord, to face the realities that I will see: the living conditions, the lack of food to provide a healthy diet, the dearth of many basic needs. Help me to be broken, changed, and transformed by this experience. So many people have told us that we will learn and be changed so much by the people. Help me to be humble enough to learn and strong enough to serve. Although we will not be able to eliminate the problems in Honduras, my only desire is that the Honduran people know that we care. Although we live in different parts of the world, come from different backgrounds, and lead different lives, we are not

indifferent to their fate. Our concern is not limited to the poor of our country, but the poor of the world. Lord, I desire only to be open. Allow me to empty myself completely to You, the Global Outreach Team, and especially the Honduran People. Protect and guide us with your loving hand throughout the trip. I ask you to watch over my parents, family, friends, and others that will be concerned about me. I pray that they will not be very anxious, but that they will be able to trust that you hold me and the members of the group in palms of your hands. I especially ask you to richly bless all those who have contributed to make this trip possible! I thank you Lord!

All my love (and my life), Your Servant,

Andrea (GO Teams 2003 & 2005)



May 27 ~ Mission

Throughout the three months GO team members have considered their talents, skills, ideals and personal strengths. They have considered the challenges that the people of Ecuador face. They have imagined their role as friends who seek to serve and as students who have much to learn from communities they will encounter. The team wrote this statement on the final retreat, May 14th:

We as a family of Saint Peter's College, are travelling to the Working Boys Center in Quito, Ecuador to serve and to learn. It is our goal to bring hope and happiness to the people we encounter; we seek to immerse ourselves in order to gain a better understanding of the Ecuadorian culture. It is our intention to promote social justice by standing as men and women for and with others. We hope to return with our stories from Ecuador and a sense of global solidarity to raise awareness amongst our friends, family, and the SPC community about the issues affecting our neighbors at home and around the world.



May 28 ~ Discernment

A Prayer by Archbishop Oscar Romero

**It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.
We plant the deeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing they have future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.**

Oscar A Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, in El Salvador, was assassinated on March 24, 1980, while celebrating Mass in a small chapel in a cancer hospital where he lived. He had always been close to his people, preached a prophetic gospel, denouncing the injustice in his country and supporting the development of popular and mass organizations. He became the voice of the Salvadoran people when all other channels of expression had been crushed by the repression.



May 29 ~ Ecuador

National Name: *República del Ecuador*

President: *Rafael Correa*

Population: *14,790,608 (2010 estimate)*

Capital: *Quito*

Largest City: *Guayaquil*

Monetary Unit: *U.S. Dollar*

Languages: *Spanish (Official), Quechua, Other Amerindian Languages*

Ethnicity/Race: *Mestizo (mixed Amerindian and White) 65%; Amerindian 25%; Spanish and Others 7%; Black 3%*

Religion: *Roman Catholic (95%)*

Literacy Rate: *93% (2003 est.)*

Land Area: *106,888 square miles*

Total Area: *109,438 square miles*

National Holiday: *Independence Day, August 18th*

Economic Summary: *2010 GDP/PPP Estimate – Total: \$114.984 Billion; \$7,776 Per Capita*



May 30 ~ Service

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love
Where there is injury, pardon
And where there is doubting, let me bring your faith.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is despairing, let me bring your hope
Where there is darkness, your light,
Where there is sadness,
Let me bring your joy.

Oh Divine Master, grant that I may seek
Not so much to be consoled, as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love another

For it is in giving that we do receive
It is in pardoning that we all are pardoned,
And it is in dying, that we are all born again.
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Prayer of Saint Francis



May 31 ~ Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary

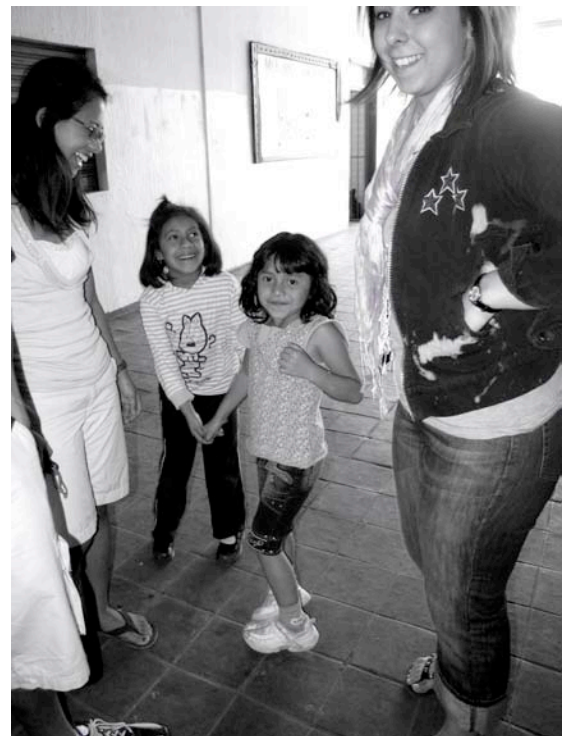
And Mary said "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him. -Luke 1:46-50

The Working Boys Center

We are a Catholic institution, committed to working boys and their families, founded with the objective of creating, developing and strengthening moral values by means of changes in attitudes and behavior, helped by programs of formation and social assistance. This process of change stresses ten important areas of life: loyalty, personal formation, family, religion, education, economy, work, recreation, health and housing.



Our goal is that the families of the working boys will be united in their Christian commitment be financially independent, have access to education, health and quality basic services; become agents of change, oriented to the construction of a just society that promotes equal participation and respect for fundamental rights.



A Family of Families serves the working boys and their entire families. This characteristic makes the WBC a unique agent for social change. The strength of a society depends on the welfare of the whole family. All members of the families of the working boys receive the benefits provided by the WBC and learn a technical profession. In this way they contribute to the elimination of unemployment, one of the determining factors of poverty. Our Ten Values and programs to achieve the goals we propose are:

The family is the essential component of the WBC, which seeks to strengthen union, mutual respect and solidarity of the family and the community.

There are weekly meetings directed at personal formation and strengthening families so that they may become agents of their own prosperity.

Service to the community is an important aspect of formation. Each member participates two hours daily in "family activities" aimed at strengthening commitment in this area.

Consolidation of religious formation is helped by daily Eucharistic celebrations, faith sharing groups and opportunities for annual reflection or "retreat experiences".

Sunday community work gangs strengthen the commitment to the neighborhood. This program focuses on helping one another to build and better housing and basic neighborhood services.

Budgeting and savings programs promote financial planning and putting money aside for housing and other family needs.



June 1 ~ Hope

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

~ Romans 5:5

On this trip to Ecuador it was easy to find God in the things we usually take for granted, like nature or children's laughter. Despite their seemingly gloomy situations, the people that we've met all share a sense of hope. As a witness to their endurance combined with faith, I am personally inspired to challenge myself to have that same strength within me, wherever it is I might I couldn't ask for a more valuable experience.

~ Stephanie Montanez, GO Team 2010



June 2 ~ Community

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” -Matthew 28: 16 & 18-20

When speaking about Community, it essentially can be defined as people who have left their own milieu to live with others under the same roof, and work from a new vision of human beings and their relationships with each other and God.

~Jean Vanier, L'Arche Community

Today, I feel so happy that I have this opportunity to share something with you that means a lot to me and I'm sure it does to you as well. A group that keeps me motivated, a group that is always there for me, a group that will love and care for me no matter what the circumstances...that group is my family....The discussion of my family relates to us. I want you all to know that I will look on all of you as family because the time that we will be spending together will be so crucial: we will depend on each other; we will look for support from each other; and yes, we will annoy each other as well. We are all unique and have different personalities and ways of approaching things. However, instead of being angered easily or giving up on each other, our job is to combine our differences and make things work. Family is based on love, care, trust, understanding, patience, and most of all forgiveness. We have to learn to be tolerant but most importantly, respect each other. Learn to compromise...be open minded...learn to listen. I want you all to know that I am happy to be part of a group that I know shares the same views and beliefs of the world as I do. It is wonderful to be reassured that there are still people out there who care for our fellow human beings and who want to make our world a better place to live.

~Rabia Sattaur, GO Team 2004



Helping the families build their homes was one of the hardest services because we didn't get to see the end result; but what we gained was more valuable. We were able to build a community with the families and that in itself is an accomplishment.

~Suegatha Kai, GO Team 2010

June 3 ~ Celebration

Dedica tiempo a pensar...
Es la riente del poder.
Dedica tiempo a jugar...
Es el secreto de la eternal juventud.
Dedica tiempo a leer...
Es el manantial de la sabiduria.
Dedica tiempo a rezar...
Es la mayor fuerza de la tierra.
Dedica tiempo a amar y ser amado...
Es un privilegio concedido por Dios.
Dedica tiempo a ser amable...
Es el camino de la felicidad.
Dedica tiempo a reir...
Es la musica del alma.
Dedica tiempo a dar...
Es demasiado corto un dia para ser egoista.
Dedica tiempo a trabajar...
Es el precio del exito.
Dedica tiempo a la caridad...
Es la llave del cielo.
~ Madre Teresa



Dedicate time to think...
It's the way to power.
Dedicate time to play...
It's the secret to eternal youth.
Dedicate time to read...
It's the way to being wise.
Dedicate time to pray...
It's the most powerful force on earth.
Dedicate time to love and be loved...
It's a privilege given by God.
Dedicate time to be kind...
It's the way to happiness.
Dedicate time to laugh...
It's the music of the soul.
Dedicate time to be generous...
A day is too short to be greedy.
Dedicate time to work...
It's the price of success.
Dedicate time to volunteer...
It's the key to heaven.
~ Mother Teresa



June 4 ~ Learning

It (the university) needs to be a society in which the art of the possible is practiced by enough people so that those who aspire to grow in their ability to serve society will, in fact, learn. Wonder is the seed of knowledge. Wonder is an attitude; it is the filter through which one perceives the world. It prompts one to ask, 'what is going on here?' before one acts; and, though the provocation may be extreme, it leads to a response of thoughtfulness. To wonder is humbling, it opens one to learn."
~Robert K. Greenleaf



I will be satisfied with what God has given me and avoid materialistic needs. With community I will build community among students to make significant and important changes on our campus. With spirituality, I would like to open the doors to my religious beliefs and find God within everything present to me. My desire to learn will continue because of this experience in Ecuador.
~ Mahum Hashmi GO Team 2010

June 5 ~ Preferential Option for the Poor

In 1979, Latin American bishops met in Puebla, Mexico to address the affairs and the direction of the Catholic Church in Latin America. The document they issued included the phrase “Preferential Option for the Poor,” as a mandate to address the experience of the peoples of the Latin American church: “From the heart of Latin America, a cry rises to the heavens ever louder and more imperative. It is the cry of people who suffer.” Preferential Option for the Poor has had a profound impact on the world wide church. It is based in scripture in which God gives unrelenting attention to the poor and oppressed. It does not assent to the position that poverty is inevitable or acceptable.

Preferential Option for the Poor recognizes and confronts social sin (political and economic activity which marginalizes the powerless) to advocate for the poor. Preferential Option for the Poor is grounded in faith in a generous, loving, and transcendent God. Salvation history is seen as the subverting power of the Gospel of all those structures which are obstacles to the full human and spiritual development of the human community. Preferential Option does not assert that God loves the poor more than the rich. However, the love of God is focused on those who suffer, because they need God more. Imagine the love of parents when one of their children is seriously sick. They dedicate themselves to the recovery of the sick child with special care, all the while not loving any less their healthy children. God’s intention, as is any parent’s, is that each person live a life of dignity and abundance. (www.uscatholic.org/1997/11/featb9711.htm).

Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

~Luke 6:20

June 6 ~ Simplicity

There's Hope

By India Arie

Off in the back country of Brazil

I met a young brother that made me feel

That I could accomplish anything

You see just like me he wanted to sing

He had no windows and no doors

He lived a simple life and was extremely poor

On top of all of that he had no eye sight

But that didn't keep him from seein' the light

He said, what's it like in the USA

And all I did was complain

He said livin' here is paradise

He taught me paradise in your mind

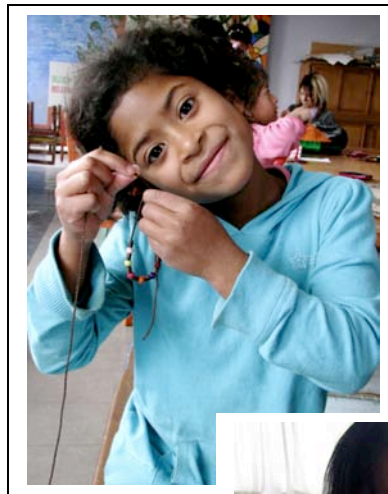
You know that

This song gives me an optimistic view of life, allowing me to see that the true gift of life is not material things, rather it is life itself, and the loved ones who give meaning to it. We cannot see the people in Ecuador as inferior because of their living conditions. In doing so we also need to learn to appreciate our own lives and embrace who we are.

-Suegatha Kai, GO Team 2010

The people and the way of life are calmer than the life we left behind in the United States. The days flowed at a leisurely pace. It was not easy to leave our North American ways behind though. We are all so conscious of time that I often wanted to know exactly what, when, where, and for how long we would be at certain sites. Sometimes it mattered and sometimes it did not, but often I found myself asking these questions. It is curious how we all adapted to the lack of running water, the limited lighting, the bugs (which we find in our own back yard!), and the heat (which can be more bothersome in New Jersey). We obsessed about bug spray, sun block, hats, sunglasses, and drinking gallons of water, and thus easily took care of our physical needs. However, it was more difficult to leave behind our mindsets and habits regarding time.

-Dr. Patricia Santoro, GO Teams 2002 – 2010



I certainly believe that my, as well as many others', perception of poverty will change drastically, hopefully in a way that allows me to view my own life with more ease and also learn what Albert Einstein once said—"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." Furthermore, in spite of everything that separates the rich from the poor and the north from the south, what ultimately unites us all is that we may experience the same amount of happiness no matter the wealth of our families. -Linnea Enoh-Jansson, GO Team 2011

June 7 ~ Gratitude

Theologically, “every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Father.” (James 1:17). But historically, gratuity has its mediation in the poor. The poor themselves acknowledge that they who before were not, now are; that they who were not a people are now a people, and on the way to becoming God’s people. And these poor, in their totality, as a poor people, with their failings and mistakes, but with values that dwarf their shortcomings, have been transformed into gift and grace for those who seek to walk with them, defend them, and struggle at their side. The experience is universal. Not everything the poor are and do is gospel. But a great deal of it is. At all events, we may quite safely assert that the poor evangelize us. And “evangelize” has its original meaning for us: good news that God, out of goodness, has determined to communicate and make present. This good news has been given to us, and inasmuch as it is received as gift, it shapes the deepest reaches of the spirit of those who receive it, so that they not only accept it with gratitude, but put it to work.

~Jon Sobrino, S.J. Spirituality of Liberation., Orbis Press, 1985,p 38



The experience in Ecuador has instilled in me the values that The Working Boys Center stress to all their students — the values of work, love, and family. Words can’t express how grateful I am for the memories I’ve made and the beautiful relationships I built.

~Mike Murcia, GO Teams 2009 & 2010



June 8 ~ Justice

“And who is my neighbor?”

“Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? He said, “The one who showed mercy on him.”

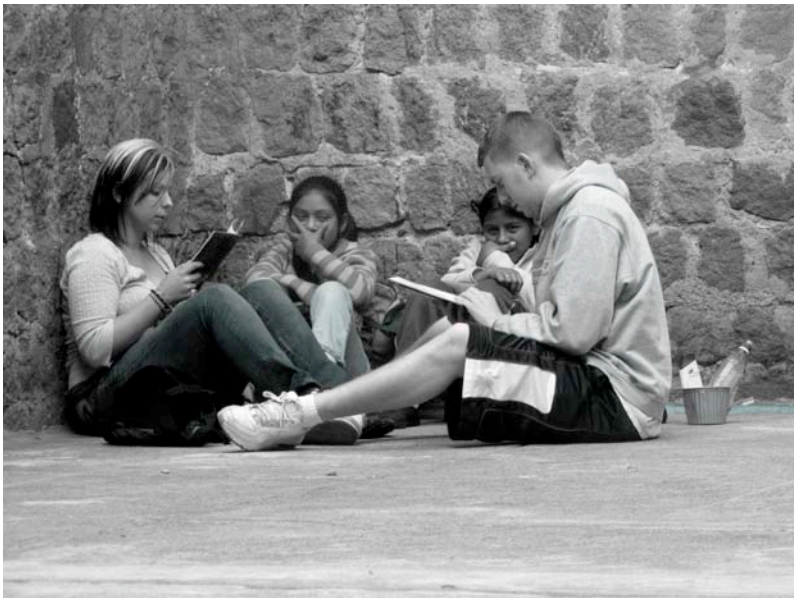
When the Good Samaritan comes along, the victim was alone. The robber has already left. We might ask ourselves, “What if...”

...the robbers hadn't yet left the scene of the crime?

...the victim was still resisting becoming a victim?

...the robbers hadn't struck yet but were still hiding in the bushes, waiting to ambush?

The dilemma for the Good Samaritan thus becomes a little more complicated.



When we draw near to the poor in order to accompany them and serve them, we are doing what Christ taught us to do when he became our brother, poor like us. Hence service to the poor is the privileged, though not exclusive gage of our following of Christ.

-Latin American Episcopal Conference.

This is an option or a special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness. It affects the life of each Christian in as much as he or she seeks to imitate the life of Christ, but it applies equally to our social responsibilities and hence to our manner of living, and to the logical decisions to be made concerning the ownership and use of good.

-Pope John Paul II



June 9 ~ Reverse Mission

This has become a renewed awareness in the missionary experience. The missionary process is a gift exchange, and at times it is easier to teach someone than to accept to be a student to someone who does not have the 'qualifications' we do.

-United States Catholic Mission Association - In the News - Periodic Paper Autumn 2000 www.uscatholicmission.org



Reverse Mission has another outcome. The individual “missioner” gathers up his/her experience and brings it back to his/her place of origin to live out lessons learned and give account to others. Jesus understood the concept of reverse mission well. How many times did he invite a person of lesser “qualifications” to the community, through shared meals or healing, as an example to his resistant disciples? These suffering outcasts responded by being signs of great faith and spreading the Good News among their own communities.

This experience has molded me in such an extraordinary way. Seeking extreme poverty in a different way and place, gave me greater awareness of the injustices that exist around the world. It enabled me to start living because as the great Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “an individual has not started living until she/he has let go of the narrow confines of her/his individualistic concerns for the broader concerns of all humanity.” I know that I have the responsibility to spread awareness of suffering and injustices I witnessed. I will do so by sharing my experience with every opportunity I am given. I will take action by continuing to serve my local community. By doing so, I will always remember the faces of the boys and girls at the Working Boys Center.

-Suegatha Kai, GO Team 2010

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, we pray for our returning friends, that they might speak what they know; continue to encourage the hesitant, the alienated, the poor; and celebrate your goodness. We give thanks for their safe return to us. We pray for the Ecuadorian people, especially those who welcomed members of Saint Peter's College into their lives. May you strengthen them.

Amen.

The Invitation: ITHICA

When you set out on your journey to Ithaca, pray that the road is long, full of adventure, full of knowledge...The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops, the angry Poseidon – do not fear them you will never find such as these on your path if your thoughts remain lofty, if a find emotion touches your spirit and your body. The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops, the fierce Poseidon you will never encounter, if you do not carry them within your soul, if your heart does not set them up before you.

Pray the road is long. That the summer mornings are many, when, with such pleasure, with such joy you will enter ports seen for the first time; stop at Phoenician markets, and purchase fine merchandise, mother-of-pearl and coral, amber and ebony, and sensual perfumes of all kinds, as many sensual perfumes as you can; visit many Egyptian cities, to learn and learn from scholars.

Always keep Ithaca in your mind. To arrive there is your ultimate goal. But do not hurry the voyage at all. It is better to let it last for many years; and to anchor at the island when you are old, rich with all you have gained on the way, not expecting that Ithaca will offer you riches.

Ithaca has given you the Beautiful voyage. Without her you would never have set out on the road. She has nothing more to give you. And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not deceived you. Wise as you have become, with so much experience, you must already have understood what Ithacas mean.

-Unknown

Global Outreach Ecuador - 2011



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