

Global Outreach Honduras - 2008

**May 19–
June 2**



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

Saint Peter's College

Campus Ministry and Community Service

-
- 16 Days of
Solidarity With Our
Partners

Thank you!

May 19, 2008

Dear Global Outreach Partners:

On behalf of the Global Outreach Team and the Offices of Campus Ministry and Community Service and Service Learning, 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 Honduras 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 Dr. Patricia Santoro, faculty advisor; Doug Demeo, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry; Gail Guarini, Campus Ministry Office Coordinator; and Jonathan Bouranel, GO student assistant for a wonderful year of collaboration. This year we also welcome Rocco Danzi, S.J. and Dr. Enrique Delamonica.

The men and women of Global Outreach 2008 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, Community Service, 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

Commission...May 19

Let us entrust :

Miroslaw Bilinski '08, Noel Borges '09, Jonathon Bouranel '08, Ismael Cid '09, Christina Clarke '10, Marisa Ferris '11, Stephanie Galvis '09, Nancymarie Mattner '08, Audrey Wekesa '10, Rocco Danzi, SJ, (Jesuit companion), Douglas Demeo (Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, Patricia Santoro (Faculty Advisor).

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.

Honduras Team 2008



Tradition...May 20

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 '03, '05

Discernment...May 21

NOTHING IS MORE PRACTICAL THAN
FINDING GOD,
THAT IS, THAN FALLING IN LOVE IN A
QUITE ABSOLUTE, FINAL WAY.
WHAT YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH,
WHAT SEIZES YOUR IMAGINATION,
WILL AFFECT EVERYTHING.
IT WILL DECIDE WHAT WILL GET YOU
OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING,
WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR EVENINGS,
HOW YOU SPEND YOUR WEEKENDS,
WHAT YOU READ,
WHO YOU KNOW,
WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART,
AND WHAT AMAZES YOU WITH JOY
AND GRATITUDE.
FALL IN LOVE, STAY IN LOVE, AND IT
WILL DECIDE EVERYTHING.

*Attributed to: Pedro Arrupe, SJ (Superior General of Society of
Jesus, 1961-1984)*

Mission...May 22

Throughout the six months GO team members have considered their talents, skills, ideals and personal strengths. They have considered the challenges that the people of Honduras 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 9-10:

Our mission as men and women of the Saint Peter's College Global Outreach Team is to develop a sense of community with the people of Honduras. As we visit orphanages, schools and rehabilitation centers, and as we meet our host families in Guaymas for five days, we seek to grow spiritually and gain a more profound understanding of the world's social realities. Through cultural immersion, taking risks and teaching school children we will celebrate life in Honduras and seek to overcome adversity wherever it may find us. With our open hearts and minds, enthusiasm, and faith we strive to learn in order to teach and teach in order to learn. Upon returning to the United States, we hope to remain committed to the ideals of justice and equality as we look for effective ways to continually live in solidarity with the people of Honduras and the developing world.

Global Outreach Honduras, '08
"Men and Women for Others"

Honduras...May 23

"It is very important to notice and 'drink' in the details of everyday life, to use all your senses: clapping of hands making tortillas; smell of buses and what travels on buses; who has shoes; sounds of sweeping; voices of women conversing about urban domestic life; silence of rural villages; sizzle of fire in stone ovens; human warmth of hugs; smell of burning garbage; kids everywhere; how far people go for water; physicality of life – people fixing, pulling, pushing things to use; how dirty feet and clothes can be....." **Former Missioners Mark Graceffo, Librarian and Fr. Jack Martin, on retreat**

Republic of Honduras

National name: República de Honduras

President: Manuel Zelaya (2006)

Area: 43,278 sq mi (112,090 sq km)

Population (2006 est.): 7,326,496 (growth rate: 2.2%); birth rate: 28.2/1000; infant mortality rate: 25.8/1000; life expectancy: 69.3; density per sq mi: 170

Capital and largest city (2003 est.): Tegucigalpa, 1,436,000 (metro. area), 1,248,300 (city proper)

Monetary unit: Lempira

Languages: Spanish (official), Amerindian dialects; English widely spoken in business

Ethnicity/race: mestizo 90%, Amerindian 7%, black 2%, white 1%

Religions: Roman Catholic 97%, growing population of evangelical Protestants

Literacy rate: 76% (2003 est.)

Economic summary: GDP/PPP (2003 est.): \$20.21 billion; per capita \$2,800. **Real growth rate:** 4%.

Inflation: 9.2%. **Unemployment:** 28%. **Arable land:** 10%. **Agriculture:** bananas, coffee, citrus; beef; timber; shrimp. **Labor force:** 2.47 million; agriculture 34%, industry 21%, services 45% (2001 est.).

Industries: sugar, coffee, textiles, clothing, wood products. **Natural resources:** timber, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, antimony, coal, fish, hydropower. **Exports:** \$1.457 billion (f.o.b., 2004 est.): coffee, bananas, shrimp, lobster, meat; zinc, lumber (2000). **Imports:** \$3.332 billion (f.o.b., 2004 est.): machinery and transport equipment, industrial raw materials, chemical products, fuels, foodstuffs (2000). **Major trading partners:** U.S., El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico.

Communications: **Telephones:** main lines in use: 322,500 (2002); mobile cellular: 326,500 (2002).

Radio broadcast stations: AM 241, FM 53, shortwave 12 (1998). **Radios:** 2.45 million (1997). **Television broadcast stations:** 11 (plus 17 repeaters) (1997). **Televisions:** 570,000 (1997). **Internet Hosts:** 944 (2003). **Internet users:** 168,600 (2002).

Transportation: **Railways:** total: 699 km (2004). **Highways:** total: 13,603 km; paved: 2,775 km; unpaved: 10,828 km (1999 est.). **Waterways:** 465 km navigable by small craft. **Ports and harbors:** La Ceiba, Puerto Castilla, Puerto Cortes, San Lorenzo, Tela, Puerto Lempira. **Airports:** 115 (2004).

International disputes: in 1992, ICJ ruled on the delimitation of "bolsones" (disputed areas) along the El Salvador-Honduras border, but they still remain largely undemarcated; in 2002, El Salvador filed an application to the ICJ to revise the decision on a section of bolsones; the ICJ also advised a tripartite resolution to a maritime boundary in the Golfo de Fonseca with consideration of Honduran access to the Pacific; El Salvador claims tiny Conejo Island, not mentioned by the ICJ, off Honduras in the Golfo de Fonseca; Honduras claims Sapodilla Cays off the coast of Belize but agreed to creation of a joint ecological park and Guatemalan corridor in the Caribbean in the 2002 Belize-Guatemala Differendum; Nicaragua filed a claim against Honduras in 1999 and against Colombia in 2001 at the ICJ over a complex maritime dispute in the Caribbean Sea.

<http://www.infoplease.com/atlas/country/honduras.html>



Honduras, cont.



How much do you know about our Central American neighbors? Can you imagine the obstacles to overcoming issues of inadequate housing and lack of utilities and clean water? Can you imagine what North Americans share in common with Hondurans?

Service...May 24

And they were bringing the children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:13-16

It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant to make sure that other people's highest priority needs are being served. The best test is: **Do those served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And what is the effect on the least privileged in society; will they benefit, or at least not be further deprived?**

Robert Greenleaf

Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.
Luke 22:26

Some people would ask, why go to Honduras to do volunteer work when you can do it here? The answer is simple. The experience gained through the complete involvement of the body and mind in service work is memorable and unique. If I can help and bring a smile to a person in need while experiencing first hand their culture and observe their necessity, I would choose to go to Honduras. Cecilia Peraza, '05

The people in the village work so hard on many levels. I learned more than I ever imagined. I loved meeting everyone, but it was very hard leaving the children." Michele Clossey, Honduras 2002





Guaymas..May 25

On Monday, May 31st, around 11:30a.m., we all jumped into the van and headed for Guaymas. An hour later, we entered the remote village that seemed to be a world on its own, a separate entity from the rest of Honduras; a little community hidden away where no one can see. A few minutes later as we drove deeper in, waves from everywhere popped out, and I immediately felt a warm welcome by strangers who were going to become my family. The people were immediately friendly. As I sit here right now in La Champa (the place we have our daily meals) writing this, I am surrounded by ten kids just watching me write. We are all placed with different families. Edna and I are staying with Dona Flores who cooks our meals for us. She's the best! Lunch today was rice and vegetables with tortillas. Man, they serve tortillas with everything. However, because the community is so small, there is obviously very little food for everyone. But for some reason, I am still satisfied with the little that I received. It took some time to take in everything. I wasn't completely shocked at the poverty of the Guaymas community for I've seen the same in Guyana. Edna and I were very lucky to have a bed to sleep on. However, the toilets took some time to get accustomed to, but hey, I'm hanging in there. Jeez, talk about challenges; this is my biggest yet...

The one thing that keeps me alive and happy here is the love and energy from the children. They follow you everywhere!!! Even when I'm taking a bath, there were kids hiding behind (yesterday it was the pig!). The kids run after you in the streets and hold on to your hands, never letting go. It is such a wonderful experience. **Rabia Sattaur, GO'04**

Reflections from GO '03:

The mornings begin at 5 am or earlier. School begins at 7 am for all 7-12 year olds. The women who don't have a paid job will spend the day cleaning, washing, and taking care of the little ones. There will always be time to chat with a neighbor.

The smell of burning trash. Little hands grabbing at my hands. Mashed up beans and eggs for breakfast. Sweet and salty bananas.

Thursday, 3 o'clock Norma took us all to local river in Guaymas. There, I washed my clothes and helped her wash her family's clothes. The next day my back hurt very much.

I will never forget the sound of birds or roosters that crow in the morning to awaken us to a bright new day. I will never forget the sight of the eathtaking mountains, the tropical trees, the soccer field and the dirt that flies up in the road.



Guaymas was the most amazing experience and I will never forget it for the rest of my life and I feel so connected to those I interacted with. '07

Hope...May 26... Memorial of Philip Neri, priest

"Bear the cross and do not make the cross bear you.....A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than one that is cast down...Let me get through today, and I shall not fear tomorrow." Saint Philip Neri

The Honduran people are full of joy and generosity. I am especially impressed with the children who are able to have so much joy in the face of such poverty. What impacted me strongly was the faith in Christ that the Honduran people had. I was amazed as well as inspired many times by how present Christ was in so many conversations and experiences. Evaluation GO '07

Though the unpleasant conditions seemed overwhelming at times, I realized that they were only external. Truthfully, at times the level of discomfort consumed my thoughts. However, the joy of the children, generosity of the people and natural beauty around me always seemed to bring me back to peace. Sarai Lavendaro, GO '07

Dreaming is a necessity to life because if people want true fulfillment, they must occasionally strive for what seems unattainable to others.
Jonathon Bouranel,'07





Learning...May 27

I know that my perspective has changed now. When I started in Global Outreach, I wanted to give. Now I know that I go first to learn.” Frederick Rivera, retreat, May 2003

May 24, 2003. That day I also had a very emotionally draining conversation with Juana’s (my host mother) husband, Jeronimo, whom they affectionately called Pain (pronounced pa-eeen). He was telling me how hard life was for the people that live in the area. His face was serious, so hardened by the experiences he had had. He told me that the Honduran government spends more on military than health and education combined. He correctly rationalized that if the people don’t have sufficient health and education, the quality of life deteriorates. The quality of health remains inadequate, the people remain ignorant, and ,therefore, unable to ameliorate their situation. He described the fate of many who tried to emigrate to the United States. Some were bitten by snakes in the jungle; some were robbed and left for dead; others were snatched up into trucks and were asphyxiated. After a while, I wanted to get up from my chair and wander inside to play with Evelyn (Jeronimo’s niece). I remained glued to my chair, and I remember making a conscious, deliberate effort to listen intently. In between our conversation, Evelyn would run over to us and ask a question. Although adults are very serious, the kids still maintain their childish glee. Not only Evelyn, but also all of the kids of the community were always running around everywhere. They are so full of energy and life just as any kid is. They are curious about the world around them, although they are not yet familiar with it. Above all, they love so freely, making them so easy to love.

Andrea Freeman, GO ‘03, ‘05

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

Gratitude...May 28

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)

Six days living in Guaymas was the heart of our mission and the story I will try to tell. To the outside world these are a socially and marginalized people. What I saw was God's grace flowing from the faces of its villagers. I believe in some mysterious way they are blessed. During my time in this poor village, I felt God’s presence and felt blessed. Paul Laracy, GO '03

You sanctify whatever you are grateful for.—Anthony de Mello, S.J. (d. June 1, 1987)



Gratitude cont.

We were able to gain insight into Honduran culture through the families that we stayed with. I appreciated the life I have in the United States by seeing how people in Guaymas live. If I am given an opportunity in life that helps me, I am going to take it. Hearing a man from Guaymas say all he wants to do is to send his kid to school makes me stop being lazy and want to work hard in college. Why be an okay student when I can be excellent student? Global Outreach evaluation, 2006

While in Honduras I discovered a culture that worked with nature not against it. We rose with the sun and went to bed when it got dark. The cycle was natural. The entire day goes into food preparation. Fast food is not everywhere. Time is spent sitting around the table and enjoying each other's company and conversation, not just grabbing a burger on the run. One of the gifts I took home with me is the desire to incorporate receiving into my life. Often I like to feel self-sufficient and have a hard time asking for help or taking what others offer me. I guess it is in part a pride thing. Often when we are given a gift or offering here in the US, it is common to say no thank you. We don't want to feel like we "owe" anyone anything. In Honduras it is rude to not take what is offered, even if you don't want it. This is how wealth is spread. Not taking something is insinuating you are too good for the other person and you don't need her goods or services. *Cristi Carbone, GO 2003*

Community...May 29

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 '04*

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7,13

Witness...May30...Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Mt. 11:28-30

"...attitudes of suspicion and distrust close us off from the everyday lessons to be learned from the lives of the poor, who still have an impressive capacity to resist the system. Although many succumb to desperation, the majority resists constructively. It is the poor and impoverished population that teaches the rest of society the value of plain hard work, that has enormous reserves of goodwill and honesty and that sustains hope despite the great difficulties facing it and the sometimes inhuman conditions in which it lives. Fr. Ismael Moreno, S.J., Jesuit Superior in El Progreso and Director of the Center for Reflection, Investigation and Communication. (Source: Central America/Mexico Report, December 1999.)

We offer up our story, we offer up our failures, we offer up our wonders and our unyielding hope. The people of Honduras embrace the seeming complexity of this life and travel throughout it with a grace that makes their day seem almost simple, when it's really so much more. We tell their story and we tell ours in the hope that it will be heard and felt throughout the minds and hearts of those who choose to listen.

Margaret Goatley, Jesuit Volunteer,

GO '03

I must admit that lately I have been asking God why he is not doing more to help the poor, the suffering, the children, and all those who are caught up in wars. I could be asking God to open up the eyes and soften the hearts of those, including myself, who do not see and feel the suffering of others. I recognize that each of us must do more, and that is what God intended when he created an entity capable of thinking, reasoning, feeling."

Patricia Santoro, '02-'05

Preferential Option for the Poor...May 31...

Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed 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 generation 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
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm,
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted
those of low degree;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his posterity for
ever.

Luke 1:46-55



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



Simplicity...June 1

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. The houses are one room cement block homes with tin roofs. . The one large room has 8 windows and an area for a kitchen. Many of the families, however, cook outside, on stone stoves heated by firewood. These outdoor kitchens are protected by a roof mounted on wooden poles. Each house has an outhouse that is large enough for a large basin for water for bathing and a porcelain toilet bowl. Water is used to flush the toilet. The water leads to a septic tank. The water waste is drained and the solid waste is cleaned out periodically. This outhouse is surprising clean and efficient. We stayed with families in several of these houses. They have no running water or electricity, although each block has access to potable water from a spigot on each street corner. Inside, the families use candles in the evening and go to bed when the sun sets, which is about 7:00, and get up with the sunrise.

Dr. Patricia Santoro 2002

Searching for mangos in unknown territory was a rush. Washing clothes and riding bikes through Honduras can be fun despite the intensity of the fully alert and always on time, sun. The tenderness, love, and caring made me drunk with emotions until I stumbled upon a place simply known as peace of mind.. **Asmar Smith-Bey, GO '03, '04**

The love and kindness of Don Carlos and Dona Lydia, the dedication of the Jesuit Mission, especially Marta and the nice feeling of smoking cigars by the sea at night. **Freddy Rivera, '03**

My most important need in Honduras was accepting God's time and learning to full understand my surroundings. Evaluation **GO '07**

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched...they must be felt with the heart. **Helen Keller, d. June 1, 1968**

Justice....June 2

“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.”

In telling the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) Jesus responds to the questions, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” and “Who is my neighbor?” and also answers another, “How shall one be neighbor to another?” The dialogue takes place between a Jewish legal expert and Jesus. The lawyer is posing a question about righteousness before God. The parable concretely illustrates real obstacles inhibiting people from living in the most life affirming way: religious and cultural loyalties, prejudice, crime, competing interests, risk, and fear. The parable recognizes not only human potential to respond heroically and righteously, but circumstances and human failure which inhibit courage.

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.

If you were to write a modern day scenario for this parable who would be the characters? Is the “robber” always an armed assailant? Is the victim always nameless, without a story? Do we know those who walk by the victim? Is the Good Samaritan the only one who might suffer the consequences for taking a risk to act with courage and mercy? Place your self in Luke’s parable, ask yourself, “What if?” Now place yourself in your modern parable. What would you do under these circumstances? How does your perspective change when the victim of robbery isn’t just one person, but a community; when the assailant isn’t one lone actor but an organized group of people?



Reverse Mission...June 3..Home again at 12:48 am

'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)

Last year eight of us made the journey to Honduras, in the city of El Progreso and the country village of Guaymas, where we introduce English to school children. Each night as students rotated leading reflections on their experiences of the day—the surprising joy and playfulness of children mired in poverty, the ‘widows mite’ generosity of families who welcomed us into their humble homes, or the lushness of tropical environs—you can see their attitudes and perceptions about life being changed, beautifully. These are powerful, transforming moments. Doug Demeo, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, GO '05.

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.

The team definitely became aware of world suffering and injustice by watching the faces of many children who don't have much. The faces of children are the ones that make us change and reflect on what one is doing to make a difference. GO evaluation, '06

This experience has truly been the experience of a lifetime. While in the village of Guaymas, I befriended a young girl, about 12 years old, who suffers from some type of obvious retardation. She sadly is a child of incest, as her mother was abused by her father (the child's grandfather) and many people tend to shy away from her, however for some reason I was drawn to her. Her name was Gladys. As a result of her learning and mental disabilities, Gladys was not allowed to attend school with the rest of the children. Words cannot express how my heart ached for her and I would give anything for her to be able to learn and get help, however they just do not have the resources there to help her. I think about her all the time and hope to one day go back to see her smiling face again soon. Meeting her has inspired me to make an important career decision. Gladys and my trip to Honduras made me realize what my passion is- helping children. Gladys will be my pushing force throughout my career. Honduras has forever changed my life because of her, and all the children. Tracey Clark, '06

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 Honduran people, especially those who welcomed members of Saint Peter's College into their lives. May you strengthen them. Amen.



We have been teaching the children English. In the morning, we began with the kindergarten class, children 4-5 years old. So far, we've taught them numbers in English from one to five, and also colors. Think they're having a hard time on "red" and "green." Then, there are the older kids, about 10-13 years old. We've gone ahead with conversation, seasons, numbers etc.

Well, I'm now headed off to dinner. It's now 5:40p.m., and I think I should stop; beginning to have a fan club out here watching me write so fast.

Two more days in Guaymas, and already I feel that I will miss this place....



Be a gardener. Dig a ditch, toil and sweat, and turn the earth upside down and seek the deepness and water the plants in time. Continue this labor and make sweet floods to run and noble and abundant fruits to spring. Take this food and drink and carry it to God as your true worship.

Julian of Norwich, 1343-1423



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