



In this issue: more from the summer delegation to San Marcos, a letter from a catechist in San Marcos, and a report and pictures from Delight Night.

Letter from Griselda Ochoa, catechist in El Rodeo, San Marcos

On behalf of my brother and sister catechists in St. Joseph's Parish, El Rodeo, Diocese of San Marcos, gracious thanks to all for the moral and economic support that you have provided for our formation. We are 18 active catechists that attend to an equal number of communities. Each month, we meet in the parish center to share our experiences from our communities. It is an enjoyable time we spend with each other as we follow our catechetical mission. My name is Griselda Ochoa, and I coordinate the work of my fellow parish catechists.

This group of catechists have received catechetical formation in the Costa and Boca Costa areas of our diocese. Their names are (left to right) Felipe, Juan Alberto, myself, and Blas Gilberto. Every two months, we travel to Pajapita parish to receive instruction / formation. This year, we plan to study the encyclical of Pope Francis, "The Joy of the Gospel." We need two sessions to finish. Each trip costs \$25 for our food and travel.



Continued on next page...

Delight Night A Big Success!

Our annual Delight Night bash to benefit the San Marcos and Wilmington sister diocese partnership was a smashing success! (See page 4 for some pictures from the evening.) The Guatemalan chicken with rice and tamales were delicious, the silent auction was superb and the entertainment could not be beat. We loved the folkloric dances put on by Mexico Lindo, a folkloric dance troupe of children, teen and adult dancers, and by some young adults from Immaculate Conception, Marydel. What enjoyable performances! The evening netted about \$6,500 and we are very grateful for all who supported us with program ads, donated silent auction items and came to the dinner. A big thanks to Holy Family parish and especially to Mare Draper and her youth group for all their hard work! Gracias a Dios!

See www.cdow.org/solidarity.html for more information on the Solidarity Partnership.

Letter from Griselda Ochoa, continued...

One of the characteristics of our communal assemblies is the joy when we sing together. After so many difficulties that happen in work and our family lives, it is very joyous. When we speak the word of God, “we will have joy”, we live it in each celebration of the Work in our small communities.

In the liturgical celebrations, they (the catechists) participate in other ministries: music, lecturers, and extraordinary ministers of communion. They also participate in formation for children and teens in our communities. Other activities that we perform in our catechesis include pre-sacramental preparation for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Matrimony. It shows in our youth in this photo of our students and their respective parents.



Reflection by Nestor Hernandez, Good Shepherd Parish, Marydel, delegate to San Marcos

Like the disciples who were sent out by Jesus to different villages to spread His ministry - with only walking sticks in their possession - I joined this mission to Guatemala with no idea as to what was in store for us, armed only with my desire to know and experience the culture and way of life of the people of Guatemala. But as the days went by, I began to see the importance of this mission and really enjoyed our stay in San Marcos. I felt the presence of God in every rough road we traveled, in every greeting and hug we received from the people we met, children and elders, in every Mass Fr. John and Fr. Glen celebrated with Sor Irene and the sisters, in the laughter and jokes we shared with the nuns, and especially the sharing we did every night.

The meeting between our diocesan delegation and the Catholic leaders and people of San Marcos was like an extended friendship and family reunion - with every one having in mind the sincere wish to give our Guatemalan brothers and sisters a chance to have a better life. Certainly, the preparation and reception extended to us by the leaders and people of San Marcos, especially the school children, were really very touching.

As we traveled around and visited the different parishes of San Marcos, we saw the various problems the leaders and people face. But deep in my heart I feel that God will always be there to lift up the poor and the lowly. Through the generosity of the faith-filled people of the Diocese of Wilmington together with our Guatemalan brothers and sisters, the people of San Marcos can have, one day, a better tomorrow.

Truly our trip to Guatemala is an eye-opening and rewarding experience for us. Many times we take for granted the blessings God has given us. When we came back from the trip and reflected on these things we became more aware of the presence of God and His generosity.



Visiting with a family whose children receive scholarships.

Reflection by Fr. Glenn Evers, Ss. Peter and Paul, Easton, delegate to San Marcos

On July 30th, we returned to the United States after nine days in Guatemala. As we arrived back into Maryland, I did so with a smile on my face and a happy heart. I felt very blessed by God to have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful, kind, and generous people. We traveled to several of the churches, schools, and homes that had been helped by our own communities here in the Diocese of Wilmington. Time and time again the people we encountered warmly and enthusiastically greeted us expressing their gratitude for our friendship and all of the good work that had been done for them. New and efficient wood stoves and water purification systems were found in their homes. A church destroyed by the most recent earthquake had its foundation reset. A school was given new bathrooms, computers, and a generator. There was much to be celebrated.

However, one of the most memorable moments for me happened as we were finishing dinner one evening. We stayed with religious sisters in a convent that served as a house of formation for them in San Pablo, Guatemala. They were gracious enough to prepare breakfast and dinner for us every day of our stay. During each meal we would eat with the sisters and converse as best as possible, as not all of our seven member delegation from the United States could speak Spanish. After one dinner was drawing to a close and trying to find common ground between us I asked them if any of them knew the Salve Regina, a popular Catholic Latin Marian hymn. I knew that Fr. John Hynes and I knew it by heart and could sing it with them. And so intoning the hymn, we began to sing and to my great joy and surprise, several members both from our group and theirs began to sing together. At that moment, there were no longer borders between us as our common Faith and this traditional hymn brought us together as one.

What then ensued was an absolute delight. The sisters with their angelic voices then began to sing a hymn in Spanish, then in turn our group followed singing a song in English. We went back and forth singing songs to each other in our native tongues into the night. Everyone had great joy and happiness on their faces and in their hearts as we shared that beautiful evening together in song. After that evening concluded, I then knew that we had friends in Guatemala, because I felt it in my heart. And so for that experience and so many others, I thank God and our Diocese for reaching out and befriending the good people of San Marcos, Guatemala.



Original text in Spanish of letter from Griselda Ochoa...

En nombre de mis hermanos y hermanas catequistas de la Parroquia San José, El Rodeo de la Diócesis de San Marcos, agradezco todo el apoyo moral y económico que ustedes nos han brindado en nuestra formación. Somos dieciocho catequistas activos que atendemos igual número de comunidades. Cada mes nos reunimos en el salón parroquial para evaluar y compartir nuestras experiencias de comunidades. Es un momento muy agradable ya que nos animamos unos a otros para seguir con nuestra misión en la catequesis. Mi nombre es Griselda Ochoa y coordino el trabajo de mis hermanos catequistas a nivel parroquial.

Este es el grupo de catequistas que estamos recibiendo formación catequética en la región de Costa y Boca Costa de nuestra Diócesis. Cada dos meses viajamos a la parroquia de Pajapita para recibir dicha formación. Este año propusimos estudiar el documento del Papa Francisco "La alegría del Evangelio" (Evangelii Gaudium). Nos hace falta dos fechas para terminar. En cada viaje gastamos \$ 25.00 para nuestro pasaje y comida.

Una de las características de nuestras asambleas comunitarias es la alegría que nos contagia los que cantan. A pesar de muchas dificultades que pasamos en el trabajo o en la familia nuestros encuentros es muy alegre. Como nos dice la Palabra de Dios “Estén alegres”, nosotros lo vivimos en cada celebración de la Palabra en nuestras pequeñas comunidades. En las celebraciones litúrgicas participan otros ministerios: canto, lectores, ministros extraordinarios de la comunión. Forman parte de nuestras comunidades los niños y jóvenes.

Otras de las actividades que realizamos en la catequesis pre-sacramental. Prepara a los padres de familia para la recepción del sacramento del Bautismo, Confirmación, Eucaristía, ya Matrimonio. Así como estos jóvenes que aparecen en la foto con sus respectivos padres y nuestro párroco.

Pictures below from Delight Night: Top row: young adults from Marydel. Other pictures of Mexico Lindo, table of items from silent auction.



This newsletter is published quarterly, with input from members of the Solidarity Committee in Wilmington, members of previous delegations, or other interested parties. If you would like to contribute, please email Pat.Sormani@gmail.com or Brother Chris Posch at chrisposch@gmail.com. If you have a question or comment about this newsletter, please email Pat.Sormani@gmail.com.