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In this issue: Transforming Encounters, St. Ann Fiesta, visit by Padre Silverio from San Marcos to St. Ann's school, pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of Fr. John Hynes, chair of solidarity committee.



Congratulations go to Fr. John Hynes, who celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination this May. Fr. Hynes has been chair of the Wilmington Global Solidarity Committee since its inception more than 10 years ago, and is widely loved and recognized for his commitment to his ministry. We are blessed to work with him in this solidarity partnership!



*Photo above left: Fr. John Hynes preaches at the Mass celebrating his anniversary; Above right: celebrating Mass with fellow priests of the diocese.*

### **Save the date!! Transforming Encounter, Saturday, June 20, in Marydel**

All are welcome to celebrate *Shared Experiences, Enriched Lives* on **Saturday, June 20 at 10:00AM** at Immaculate Conception Church Hall in Marydel. There will be story-telling and faith-sharing with local Guatemalan immigrants. Wilmington Diocese parishioners will present accounts about their recent visits to San Marcos. If you plan on attending or for further information, please contact Brother Chris Posch at 302-655-0518 or [chrisposch@gmail.com](mailto:chrisposch@gmail.com).

See [www.cdow.org/solidarity.html](http://www.cdow.org/solidarity.html) for more information on the Solidarity Partnership.

## **20+ Participants in Easton Transforming Encounter**

by Brother Chris Posch, ofm

Clergy, mainstreamers, and immigrant parishioners from Ss. Peter & Paul, Easton engaged in meaningful storytelling and faith sharing on May 14. Guatemalan and Salvadoran immigrants offered powerful personal testimonies about life in their homelands, the tumultuous border crossing journey, life in the US, and the welcoming faith community of Ss. Peter and Paul. (See photo at right for some of the participants.)

Participant Alex Handy said, “I especially enjoyed the stories from the Guatemalan refugees. The warm atmosphere helped everyone to open up. Everyone was very relaxed.” Alex is now seeking ways to integrate the Hispanic community into the St. Vincent de Paul Society and its services.



Millie Houck concurred: “Yes, it was very powerful!! What courage and trust was displayed!!! I believe building community always starts at a personal level. We shared stories about our lives. Knowing about each other's journey in life helps build community. We share a common faith, we are all Roman Catholics. By sharing our faith and life experiences, we can build a stronger church.” Millie, a co-founder of the parish Hispanic community originally from Cuba, recalled during the gathering that the all of original Hispanic Ministry goals from twenty years ago were completed, except for fellowship between Hispanic immigrants and long-time parishioners. “Tonight is a great beginning for realizing this dream,” Millie proclaimed with great joy. Everyone in the room agreed, nodding their heads and beaming with smiles.

Fr. Jim Nash recalled his delegation to San Marcos last year and glowed as he spoke about his efforts to be a welcoming pastor, such as studying to celebrate Spanish Mass once a month and to create excellent bi-lingual Triduum services and First Holy Communion Masses. He said that he had no idea of the sufferings many of his flock have endured and has the highest support and affection for them.

Fr. Glenn Evers, associate pastor, signed up to participate in the July delegation. Other parishioners hope to go next year to San Marcos.

The evening concluded with sharing homemade popusas, pasta, tres leches cake and other delicious treats prepared by the Hispanic community.

### **Delegation to San Marcos in July!**

Fr. John Hynes and Mary Jo Frohlich will lead a delegation to San Marcos July 21 through 30. At least 4 additional delegates with medical or educational expertise will join the delegation, so visits will highlight medical clinics and schools. Delegates are especially looking forward to a July 29 meeting with ***Monsignor Carlos Enrique Trinidad Gómez***, new bishop of San Marcos. Fr. Hynes and the team want to personally extend an official welcome and signs of affection and support.

### **Would you like to Spend a Year in Service in San Marcos?**

For more information, see <http://www.cdow.org/catholic-diocese-of-wilmington-offices-and-ministries/solidarity-partnership/>

**Fr. Silverio Visits St. Ann School, Wilmington**

**By Marilyn Vallejo**

On April 24, Fr. Silverio Chum from San Marcos talked to the 4th and 5th graders about the St. Ann School (Wilmington) partnership with Santa Ana School in his parish of San Jose, El Rodeo, and how their support helps the children get an education. Parents of the students in San Marcos earn about \$5.00 a day and work is available only 3 days a week, so many children also work to add to their families' income. Most attend school only up to 6th grade so they will not be able to get better paying jobs as adults.

Fr. Silverio also talked about the deep faith in Jesus the families have. The partnership between both dioceses includes prayer, communication and material support. He asked the children to continue praying for him and his parishioners in Santa Ana and thanked them for their support.

Most of his presentation consisted of answering questions from the children. The children presented him with cards they made to take and give to the children in Santa Ana.

After this presentation, he went to the 6th grade class and thanked them for their support of the partnership including the fiesta fundraiser last year, their cards and prayers. He then gave the cards he brought from Santa Ana in response to the cards the 6th graders sent when they were in 5th grade. The students loved the cards since they were addressed to them personally.



*Above: Padre Silverio with Marilyn Vallejo.*



*Above: Padre Silverio speaks to students at St. Ann School.*

**St. Ann School Fiesta Raises \$2,300 for Escuela Santa Ana**

See below for photos from the fiesta!



## Padres Silverio and Toribio from San Marcos Join Some Solidarity Team Members in Holy Land Pilgrimage

From April 13 – 23, Solidarity Committee members joined with others from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and San Marcos to journey to the Holy Land. Enjoy the pictures below capturing some of the blessed and good times enjoyed by all. Shalom and paz!



Top Row: Fr. John Hynes and Padre Toribio Garcia at Caesarea; Padre Silverio Chum during boat ride on the Sea of Galilee; Br. Chris Posch, Fr. John Hynes, Sr. Ann Dailey, Padre Silverio Chum, Padre Toribio Garcia at the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem. Middle Row: Fr. John Hynes at Mt. Tabor; Br. Chris Posch and Fr. John Hynes after Mass on Mt Tabor. Bottom: Padre Silverio Chum, Fr. John Hynes, Padre Toribio Garcia, Mary Jo Frohlich reading prayer of Zechariah at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Ein Karem; (bottom row) Fr. John Hynes, Br. Chris Posch, Pat Sormani, (back row) Mary Jo Frohlich, Padre Toribio Garcia, Padre Silverio Chum, Deacon Luke Yackley, Ein Karem.

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](mailto:Pat.Sormani@gmail.com) or Brother Chris Posch at [chrisposch@gmail.com](mailto:chrisposch@gmail.com). If you have a question or comment about this newsletter, please email [Pat.Sormani@gmail.com](mailto:Pat.Sormani@gmail.com).