

Mission Accomplished!



Faith, hope, love, charity and service defines Nativity's vision for our sister parish in La Victoria, Dominican Republic. This summer 38 teens and 12 adults from our Nativity LIFE TEEN Youth Group took our annual trip to La Victoria. It was most defiantly a mission accomplished.

Before we even arrived in the Dominican Republic much preparation and effort went into making this trip a success. One of our teens began to collect school supplies to bring down to La Victoria in hopes of getting enough supplies for one classroom for a year. She was eager to complete this project for her Girl Scouts Gold Star Award. This project went above and beyond the call as she collected from friends, family and parishioners enough supplies for at least two classrooms for the year. As we donated the school supplies we sang to the kids "Si Senior" as they sang us a tune or two of their own. The spirit of the kids was invigorating.



Another project was in the works as Nativity parishioners donated working computers to put on our shipment that went out earlier this year. Those computers were unloaded safely in La Victoria and will begin to get set up later this year when the new computer lab for the school is built.

On the first day of work the shipment of donations from Nativity came into La Victoria on a huge container. Lined up like worker ants we unloaded the container. Much needed supplies for the clinic and schools were delivered as well as cloths, furniture, and appliances.



During this trip we were able to deliver 35 food baskets and 35 vegetable plants to some of the poorest families in La Victoria. It was an experience that many of the adults and teens on the trip will never forget. Most of these families live in houses no bigger than a 12' x 10' shed with dirt floors, very little furniture, and primitive conditions. Yet what many of the missionaries felt

from the people there was great gratitude, joy, a strong faith in God, and a pure spirit.

The families we visited kindly invited us into their homes. They were overjoyed to see us and wished we could have stayed longer to visit with them. Each family has a certain story of joy and strife. It was beautiful to share in that. We prayed over each family, laying hands on them, and asking God to bless them as Fr. Tim Cummings gave them his blessing. Everybody in turn felt blessed by the people there as they began to see the face of Christ in each person.

An honest day's labor also seemed to be a blessing as many of the teens and adults on this trip shoveled their hearts out in the blazing heat mixing cement for the 2 cement floors we were able to put down. The key word for the cement crew was "water". It was so hot that some said they could feel the water leave their body as soon as they took water in.

We were also able to work in the nutrition center and clinic as well. It is there we began to see Christ's healing power especially in the faces of the children.



After a few close calls with heat exhaustion doing the floors and a personal encounter with the people in La Victoria delivering food baskets an appreciation for what we have in the United States began to sink in for our missionaries on this trip. Our teens learned on their last retreat that love is not true unless it is shared. This experience made that statement come alive as true love between Nativity parish and La Victoria was shared. The thing that every missionary takes home with them

after these trips is true joy and true love is when we become like Christ to another and offer ourselves up in service and by making ourselves a gift to another.

We would like to say thank you to all of those people, especially our Stock Holders, who made it possible for us to serve the people in La Victoria. We also thank our parishioners who give every week to the collection that helps support this mission. None of this would be possible without your prayers and money. Thank you!

