



friends

a publication of *The Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle*



August, 2011

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Dear friends,

The economic crisis arrived at about the same time as I arrived in Boston from San Francisco, Moquegua, Peru. Banks were failing, the value of the stock market was plummeting, and the unemployment rate was rising. Shortly after assuming my duties, the effects of the crisis began to be seen in the Society. Month by month income dropped, along with the value of our savings. Thankfully the savings have recovered their value and this month it was noted that contributions have nearly returned to their 2008 level. This turnaround has enabled the Society to fund some special projects of the missionaries. This month we'll read about two more projects, one in Peru and the other in Ecuador.

Fr. Danny O'Sullivan writes: "The St. James Society has enabled me, like St. Paul to build upon my own foundations. San Antonio, on the outskirts of the city of Moque-



Fr. Danny O'Sullivan baptizes a parishioner in the newly constructed church of San Antonio Parish, Moquegua, Peru.



Students from the parish school in Jesucristo Pan de Vida (Jesus Christ bread of life) Parish, where Fr. PJ Hughes is working.

gua in the south of Peru, was nothing more than a desert plain when I arrived here 15 years ago. The population was small and mostly lived in houses made of reed matting. The first task was to find a place to live and also a place to celebrate Holy Mass and the Sacraments. A small two-room concrete block house solved the first problem and an adobe brick structure with a reed-matting roof solved the second problem. Later the Sunday liturgy was celebrated in a classroom of a local school. Then in 1998 a reed mat structure was built to be the church. And so we began to train catechists and form parish groups. As more and more families took up residence in San Antonio the parish began to grow and we began to dream of building our parish church. This has now become a reality with special thanks for the support of my diocese in England and the many parish activities organized by an enthusiastic local community.

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Our parish complex is beginning to take shape. We have been able to build a house for the three catechist Sisters of the Sacred Heart who work here in the parish. We have also received a grant to build a facility where our food program can operate. Meanwhile our new parish church has some way to go before we can celebrate the consecration. We lack permanent altars, a tabernacle, confessionals, benches, doors and, of course, a house for the pastor! It was wonderful that the St. James Society will provide finance for the church doors. A big thank you to the so many good people who support the St. James Society every month financially and spiritually.

It's good to be able to say that we are very near to declaring: "Mission accomplished." Fr. O'Sullivan requested and received a grant of \$10,000.

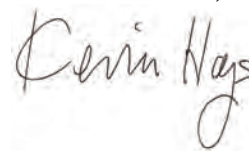
Fr. PJ Hughes tells us: "I arrived here in the Archdiocese of Guayaquil, Ecuador, in June 2009. Since my arrival I have built a church with the support of the people of my diocese at home in Ireland. There are so many good people who gave so generously so that I could build a church for a community in a very large parish.

The school extension is almost finished. Six extra rooms have been built on to the school that Fr. Frank Jones originally built. This extension has cost a lot of money. Thanks to people from Ireland, Australia, the United States and Ecuador, it has gotten this far. It will be officially opened

next April, finished and ready for use. There is no main church in the parish as yet. We use a cane church, which Fr. Frank built shortly after he arrived back in 2005. Over a year ago we built a grotto. This was built with the help of the people of Ireland and some friends of Fr. Frank here in Ecuador. As the school has grown in size and with more children, more space was needed for recreation time. So, last year I developed the land near the road, which was just a large hole. With the help of people at home and the U.S., I transformed the place and built a playing field. It is not completely finished but, like the school, it will be ready for next April and the new school year. We are also making a garden and park area for the children of the parish who wish to come in and play here." Fr. Hughes requested and received a grant of \$10,000.

So many people have suffered so much in the economic crisis. Thanks to your generosity, a great deal of good work continues to be done. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Kevin Hays
Director



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

The Chicago/Joliet Banquet

- Monday, Sep. 19th, Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
- Honoring: Most Rev. Francis J. Kane, Dr. Robert C. Lawler, Rev. Henry Wilkening & Deacon Alexander McConnell
- Event Begins: 6 pm
- Tickets: \$100
- Please contact Mr. Dan Chorney at 630-964-2075 or Mr. John Racila at 630-705-0248 for more information.

The Boston Banquet

- Sunday, October 23rd, Boston College High School
- Honoring Mr. William L. Burke, III, Sr. Janet Eisner, SND & Rev. John J. Unni
- Event Begins: 5 pm
- Tickets: \$125
- Mass in the chapel at 4 pm for those who wish to attend.

For updates and information on sponsorship packages and placing messages and ads in the program books, please visit www.socstjames.com/upcomingevents.html.

— *Fr. Daniel Sheehan* —

May 30, 1928 - July 2, 2011

Fr. Daniel J. Sheehan, of the Archdiocese of Boston, was ordained a priest in 1953 and following his ordination was assigned to St. Paul Parish in Hingham, Massachusetts. He joined the Society in 1958 as one of the members of Cardinal Cushing's first group to go down to South America. There he served for six years in Peru, and then as assistant director of the Society for one year. Fr. Sheehan held many other assignments in Boston, including pastor of St. Thomas from 1985 to 1998 when he retired. Since then he had served as senior priest in residence at Gate of Heaven and St. Brigid parishes in South Boston. Fr. Sheehan was a dear friend and priest to those who knew him. He will be greatly missed.



For the purposes of wills and bequests, our official name is:
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