



friends

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

September, 2011

"I HAVE SEEN THE LORD."

- JOHN 20:18 -

Dear friends,

The grinding poverty and consequential suffering to be found in all the St. James mission sites make it easy to understand why the people identify so deeply with the Crucified Christ. Suffering is a key ingredient of their lives from the beginning. Their religious art depicts the Lord's agony in graphic detail. As missionaries in this setting, we have been given a special call to proclaim the Good News of new life in the Risen Lord.

In this month's review of the projects made possible by your generosity, I would like to focus on a mission site named after the Risen Lord – el Resucitado in the Diocese of Chosica to the east of Lima, Peru, along with our Center House in Barranco, Lima. Fr. David Costello, a priest of the Diocese of Limerick, Ireland, has been working in Chosica since 2006 in addition to his duties as the Country Coordinator of Peru since 2008. He has requested and received \$10,000 to construct a parish hall and to finance the salary of the mission site's social worker. Your generosity enables the work of evangelization and social outreach to continue in this abjectly poor area.



"He rose and filled us with life."



The Way of the Cross, Good Friday

The Amauta Valley is a densely populated area with well over 100,000 residents, spread over many square miles of steep terrain. Like so many of our mission sites, it is a community of communities. Ten chapels are strategically located throughout the territory of the mission, each led by a team of committed lay people. The chapels are gathering places for faith formation and liturgical celebrations. There are now nearly one hundred catechists who teach religion. It is a sign of hope for the future that most of the instructors are young people between the age of fifteen and twenty-two. A young theology graduate spearheads the faith formation and sacramental preparation programs.



Education programs in the parish enable adults who have never had the chance to attend school and to learn how to read.

A qualified social worker with over twenty years of experience spearheads the vast social service outreach ministry. The parish recognizes the importance of promoting human development under the light of the gospel. The social services, which the mission offers, are diverse.

Though the majority of the population is under the age of thirty years, there are many ministries available that serve the Senior Citizens. In my visit to the mission site upon becoming Director, I observed another fascinating service in which the mothers of families are instructed on how to grow vegetables in the limited land available. A community dining room for small children grows its food right outside. There



Many houses are first made with thatch; as people are able to save money over time, they rebuild with wood and eventually stone.

are some 300 children who receive their lunch each school day. There is a dental clinic. In my visit I received a polo shirt with the name of the parish, which had been made in the cloth-training workshop. For the adults who did not attend high school, there is a “back to school” program. Fr. David can be very proud of all that he has accomplished.



Frs. David Costello & Derek Leonard



The Society serves the poorest of the poor.

Working right along with Fr. David is another priest from the Diocese of Limerick – Fr. Derek Leonard – who joined the team at the end of 2007. Along with contributing greatly to all the evangelization and social service efforts, he had to assume more administrative responsibility once Fr. David became the Peru Region Country Coordinator. One of the parish dining rooms is in need of reconstruction work. As in any thriving parish community, there is always need for religious education and sacramental preparation material. He has requested and received \$10,000 to finance a response to these needs.

During his term as Country Coordinator, Fr. David has continued the development of a Conference Center at the Society’s Center House. Many groups come and conduct their conferences for a day while others are able to stay



The inauguration of one of the chapels of El Resucitado Parish.



Frs. David and Derek have organized summer camps which include classes in reading and writing, English, math, religion and physical education, as well as field trips to museums and the movies.

overnight. The Center is used for retreats and lay ministry training. Occasionally tour groups will enjoy our hospitality, noted by the excellent meals that are served. And the cooking staff operates in a kitchen that hasn't changed much in over forty years since it was built. A \$10,000 grant was requested and given to help cover the \$15,000 project to remodel the kitchen. It is hoped that soon enough the Conference Center proceeds will cover the costs of the Center House entirely. Fr. David is to be applauded for his administration.



On Good Friday morning, young people and adults climb the mountain overlooking the parish and celebrate a prayer service at the top at sunrise.

Now there is another reason for him to feel justifiably proud. In February he will become the next Director of The Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle.



The elderly of the parish gather together each week to socialize and take part in activities such as knitting.



Every year more people migrate from the jungles and mountain regions to live in the parish.

Fr. David is the third of the five children of Molly and the late Noel Costello from Limerick, Ireland. After completing his initial studies, he completed a program in theology at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. His ordination to the priesthood was celebrated on June 18, 1995. His ministry in Ireland was devoted to parish and education work. After Spanish language study in Bolivia in 2004, his first assignment with St. James was in Chimbote, Peru. Two years later he took responsibility for the new mission site in the Diocese of Chosica. His home diocese has adopted this mission as the Limerick Peru Mission. Certainly he will be greatly missed there.



The North End of Boston in February, 2011.

Let us all pray for Fr. David and wish him the best as he heads for his new duties in Boston. Hopefully come February there won't be another eighty inches of snow on the ground to welcome him. God bless, always, David.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Kevin Hays
Director



Children of El Resucitado Parish enjoy a hot meal at one of the parish comedores (soup kitchens.)

— 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 St. James Golf Tournament

- Wednesday, October 5th, 2011
- Windham Country Club, Windham, NH
- For more information please contact Fr. Peter Quinn or Fr. David White at 978-692-6353.

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 book, please visit www.socstjames.com/upcomingevents.html.