



St. Mary Parish MISSION STIPEND PROGRAM



Let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help those in need. –Pope Francis

Report from the Field

This past summer, I had the honor and privilege of going on a mission trip to Santa Maria De Jesus in Guatemala. I was asked by a Parishioner and friend to go with her to work at a Catholic School called Los Angelitos De Dios. While there, I worked with teachers to help them to learn Google and all the software associated with it. In addition, I worked in the classrooms reading with the students and doing different activities with them to help them understand the books. Over the course of 5 days, I worked in several classrooms and with several teachers to show them different activities they could do with books. One of the things that struck me is that the books, school supplies and medicines that we brought to them were all that they had. There were no extra books, pencils or paper for them to use. They did not have bookshelves, computers in the classroom or any extra supplies. It made me feel very grateful to work here, where we have the means and opportunity to have all of these resources available to students and us whose parents supply their children with what they need.

The joy and gratitude of the Guatemalan teachers and students is something that I will take with me the rest of my life. I will never forget the smiles, hugs and laughter throughout the days that I was there. I am excited to share my experiences on the mission trip with you and my students. I would also like to thank my home Parish of St. Mary in Ridgefield, Father Martin and St Thomas Aquinas for helping me be able to go on this trip. I am forever grateful for this amazing experience.



The St. Mary Parish Stipend Program offers up to \$1000 to St. Mary Parishioners interested in missionary work.

For more details, go to www.smcr.org, click on the About tab, then go to Finance.

