

## Why Chimbote Is So Close to My Heart by Mike Clark



WTAE-TV anchor Mike Clark and Bishop Wuerl in Chimbote.

Almost six years after my visit to Chimbote in the fall of 2000, my experience continues to play a vital role in my life.

I have been visiting many schools in the Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese, as well as schools in the Greensburg Diocese who have heard about the mission and wanted to help. I'm always amazed at how attentive and respectful the young elementary students are, and how many excellent questions they ask about the work at the Maternidad de Maria and the Social Works Center.

Watching the videotaped reports we produced for WTAE-TV, the students learn about the scope of the mission and the importance of what Fr. Jules, Sister Margaret, and Sister Lillian have been doing there in the desert for over 40 years, quietly imitating the life of Jesus by caring for the poorest of the poor on earth.

The students often ask questions about religious life, and explaining to them how three special people live their vocations in the service of strangers is a special joy. They learn that God calls us all to live a holy life, whether it is in the 100 degree desert of Peru or here in Western Pennsylvania.

It is such a rewarding part of my vocation as a father and as a broadcaster to share with my four children and with children all over our region about how God is very much alive in the people of Chimbote.

As part of my nighttime prayers with my own children, we also recite the Hail Mary in Spanish, asking God to bless the families in Chimbote and watch over the work that's being conducted so unselfishly in Peru. In every school we visit, the students also pray that prayer in Spanish.

In addition to their prayers, I've seen students carry out many school projects to raise awareness and money to support the work. Through car washes, dance marathons, paper building projects, penny drives, hoagie sales and basketball tournaments, these students continue to impress me with their hard work and creativity. I would love to let the parents of these school children understand how deeply their sons and daughters care.

And I would encourage ALL the parents reading this to join us this May for our second annual golf tournament and in October at our annual dinner. In addition to great fellowship and fun, parents can learn all about the heartwarming efforts by our students as we celebrate the life-giving and life-affirming work done in Chimbote, in the name of our Lord. Please consider joining us at one or both events.

*Mike Clark anchors the news at WTAE-TV Channel 4 in Pittsburgh.*

*Save the Date!*

**The 41st Annual  
Peru Mission Dinner**

**Thursday, October 26, 2006**

**Grand Ballroom**

**Sheraton Hotel**

**Station Square**

*Invitations will be mailed in September 2006.*

*We look forward to seeing you again!*

## The Chimbote Foundation

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*The Chimbote Foundation*

*"...a bridge of love and hope."*

Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

**"It is a spirit of Christ that is passed on to us through the Gospels that motivates us to reach out to the poorest of the poor, whether it be here in Pittsburgh or as far away as Chimbote."**

*— Bishop Donald Wuerl*

*If you would like additional copies of this newsletter, please contact us at the number below.*

**Spring 2006**



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## A new moment

This is a new moment in the history of the Centro de Obras Sociales. Echoing this sentiment, the current Bishop of Chimbote, Bishop Francisco Simón Piorno, has expressed his wish that the hospital become the "jewel of the Diocese of Chimbote."

To this end, Bishop Simón has assumed the role of "ente rector," or governing head of the Social Works Center, a role he will exercise through a local Board that will be appointed shortly.

While the Bishop's responsibilities will be limited to moral and spiritual matters, the day-to-day administrative responsibilities for the Centro will continue to rest with the current president, Msgr. Roos, and an Executive Administrator to be appointed by the Board.

Bishop Simón was born in Corbellino de Sayago, Spain, and completed his seminary studies in the diocese of Zamora. He received a degree in Philosophy from the Pontifical University of Comillas, and a degree in Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University. He was ordained a priest in February 1973.



**The Jewel of the Diocese:** Bishop Francisco Simon Piorno, Bishop of Chimbote, has expressed his wish that the hospital become the "jewel of the Diocese of Chimbote."

Bishop Simón was named Bishop of Chachapoyas in 1991, and in 1992, was also nominated as the Apostolic Administrator "ad nutum Sanctae Sedis" of the vacant diocese of Cajamarca. Later, in 1995 he was named Bishop of Cajamarca. Most recently, in 2004, he was appointed and installed as the current Bishop of Chimbote.

*Msgr. Roos would like to thank all those who have been praying for him and asks for your continued prayers for his recovery from recent hospital visits.*

## Helping in Focus...

The following list offers a glimpse of how your generosity translates into care for God's children.

**\$14,000** operates Medical Clinic for one week

**\$300** underwrites cost of ultrasound tests administered during an average week

**\$6,000** operates Well Baby Clinic for one month

**\$150** underwrites cost of Electronic Fetal Monitoring tests for one month

**\$3,000** underwrites the cost of vaccinations administered during an average week

**\$75** underwrites cost of medicine, supplies and labor used in Clinic for one hour

**\$1,500** operates Outpatient First Aid Treatment Unit for one month

**\$40** underwrites cost of medical treatment for 10 people during an average day

**\$750** provides a month's worth of medical treatment for high-risk newborns

**\$20** underwrites the cost of medical treatment for 5 people during an average week



**\$3** pays for a year's worth of essential vitamin and mineral supplements for a malnourished child

**Please use the envelope provided with this newsletter to make your donation. Thank you.**



## Chimbote Mission Financial Overview

Support for the Mission in Chimbote over the past 41 years has totaled millions of dollars in cash and in-kind contributions, as well as innumerable man-hours from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Roos family, Pittsburgh-area businesses, the Peru Mission dinners, and countless others helping to continue the bridge of love and hope to the needy of Chimbote.

The Foundation was created in December 1991 by the Diocese of Pittsburgh to help perpetuate support for the charitable and educational works of the Social Works Center in Chimbote, Peru, known there as the Centro de Obras Sociales. The goal and purpose of the Foundation is to provide quality health care and spiritual development for the poor and needy in Chimbote, especially in the maternal and child health-care field. Since the creation of the Foundation, Diocesan support for the laboratory and other related facilities and programs has exceeded \$2 million.

Net donations in 2005 – totaling \$290,851 – came from several sources: direct donations to the Foundation and from the Roos Family; the annual Peru Mission Dinner and Chimbote Golf Outing (initiated May 2005); Diocese of Pittsburgh schools and investment income.

Costs to operate the Peru Mission have been increasing, while donations have been declining slightly. As a result, the past several years have seen some changes in the financial trends of the Mission and the Foundation. In spite of tightening controls over disbursements by the Foundation to the Mission, and despite increased local revenues raised by the Mission, there has been a decline in Foundation assets. This decrease slowed somewhat in 2005, however, due to increased efforts by the Mission and the Diocese to enhance revenue.



AN ISLAND OF HOPE: Orphans play at the Social Works Center.



Clinic workers conduct tests in the laboratory.

## Other News

### Chimbote Ambassador's Program

Over the past seven years, young people throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh have raised more than \$240,000 for the Peru Mission, encouraging and fostering mission awareness and faithful stewardship among our youth.

Brookline Regional Catholic School, for example, has had numerous opportunities to connect with the mission in Chimbote. Its Mission Ambassadors, students Kiley and Steven, attended the Mission Ambassador workshop, where they met with Mike Clark, a news anchor from WTAE in Pittsburgh, and others who have worked in Chimbote. Returning to their school, Kiley and Steven coordinated an Advent "Penny War" for Chimbote – collecting over one million pennies, or \$10,000. In addition, they planned two school-wide Mission Days where they asked their fellow students to donate to the Peru Mission what they normally spend on à la carte items at lunch. They also recently appeared as guests on "Education Plus," a radio program broadcast on KQV 1410.

Two other student ambassadors, Ryan and Michael from St. Therese School in Munhall, will receive the "Future Leader Award" in April at the Steel Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner, in recognition for their leadership and interest in promoting mission awareness. Since they attended the Mission Ambassador program sponsored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh in October 2004, both Ryan and Michael have worked hard to educate St. Therese students about Chimbote, and have been instrumental in raising over \$3,000 for the mission through various fundraisers. As noted by the administration at St. Therese School in their nomination form, we live in a world where mission awareness is not as strong as it used to be, and Michael and Ryan have done an excellent job of promoting mission awareness.

The date for the next Mission Ambassadors Program is scheduled for October 23 at Brookline Regional.

### Meet the Board of Trustees

Dr. Eugene McCarthy has been involved with the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Peru mission for more than 40 years, and has been a Board Trustee for the Chimbote Foundation since 1991.



Dr. Eugene McCarthy

Dr. McCarthy was born in the United Kingdom and was educated by the Rosminians – an Italian order of priests. The former headmaster of the school, Fr. Claude Leetham, met Bishop John J. Wright at the Vatican Council in 1965. The bishop invited Fr. Claude to be a chaplain at the then Mount Mercy College – now Carlow University. Dr. McCarthy was doing graduate studies at Berkeley at the time, and through Fr. Claude, met Bishop Wright, and his assistant at the time, Fr. Donald Wuerl.

Dr. McCarthy was married in 1968, and he and his wife, Mandy, were interested in doing volunteer work for a year in the developing world before starting work full time. They learned about the "mission" of the four Pittsburgh priests in Chimbote – Frs. Shanahan, Roos, Lutz and Price – and expressed interest in spending a year there as the first lay volunteers. Dr. McCarthy and his wife arrived in April 1968 and stayed until 1969. Mandy worked in the Maternidad with Sister Margaret Mary, Sister Lillian and Fr. Jules Roos, and Eugene taught in the new school, Mundo Mejor, which, at the time, was being run by Fr. Gerry Lutz, the school's first principal. Since that time, Dr. McCarthy has kept in regular touch almost yearly.

The experience of Chimbote catalyzed a strong interest in economic development, and in 1972, Dr. McCarthy joined the World Bank where he spent the next 28 years living in Washington, DC. Eugene and Mandy have nine children, and one of their children, Erin, also did volunteer work in Chimbote for about six months in 2002.

Dr. McCarthy received B.A. and M.A. degrees from Cambridge University, a Ph.D. from Berkeley, and did Post Doctoral Research at Harvard University.

*The Chimbote Foundation*  
 "...a bridge of love and hope."

Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

## 2nd Annual Chimbote Foundation Golf Outing

Helping to Support the  
 "Bridge of Love and Hope"  
 of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's  
 Mission in Chimbote, Peru

May 30, 2006

Edgewood Country Club

11:00 a.m. Registration and Lunch

1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

- Entrance fee includes golf, cart, driving range, skill prizes, beverages on course, lunch and dinner.
- Registration is limited to 144 players.

**For more information, contact:**

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