

# 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.”

– Fr. Ron Lengwin

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

Spring 2007



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## Mission Update

In March, Monsignor John Kozar, National Director for the Propagation for the Faith, and Mr. Eugene McCarthy, Chimbote Foundation board member briefly visited the Chimbote mission.

Monsignor Kozar and Mr. McCarthy stayed with the Bishop of Chimbote, Angel Francisco Simon Piorno, who attended the Chimbote dinner in Pittsburgh in October 2005. The Diocese of Chimbote has been assuming responsibility for the Center and the hospital. The Bishop of Chimbote has enormous admiration for the work of the Center, which he visits frequently.

The Social Works Center and the Maternity hospital continue to thrive. The Maternity has been responsible for almost 80,000 deliveries over 40 years, almost all of them to poor women, while the Outpatient Clinic continues to provide vital health services and home visits to desperately poor households scattered over Chimbote. The Center's finances have also made great strides, with local contributions in 2006 now at half a million dollars, more than covering the payroll costs of the staff.

Monsignor Kozar and Mr. McCarthy commented that the legacy of this



**Baptism in the Neo-Natal unit:** Caring for sick and abandoned newborns is an every day need at the mission. Here, Father Roos baptizes a newborn with a congenital heart problem. The mission will provide maintenance treatment until she can be transferred to the children's hospital in Lima.

work is not only seen in the faces of the patients and children, but also outside of the hospital in the dilapidated streets of this coastal fishing port of more than half million inhabitants. Taxi drivers talk about the Social Works Center; the facility is discussed in the hotels and restaurants and the youth who meet at the local plazas all share similar feelings of gratitude and affection for those in Pittsburgh who continue to support Chimbote.

# Peru Experience Moves Medical Students

*Since 1991, the International Health Program at the West Virginia University School of Medicine has offered medical students interested in global health the opportunity to experience the health problems in impoverished countries. Recently, two medical students, Olivia Carrick and Alzira Leques, traveled to the Chimbote mission. Here is Ms. Carrick's account of her experience.*

I want to describe home visits, because this was how I spent the majority of my time in Chimbote. Our first day was intense. I was grossly unprepared.

We arrived at the house and cautiously went inside, trying to be respectful of their space. There was a young girl frantically sweeping the floor, as though she were embarrassed that she hadn't done it earlier. Looking down around me, I noticed that the floor was mainly dirt and I considered the irony of sweeping a dirt floor. Then I saw what she was sweeping. The floor was covered in cat and chicken feces, most of it tinged with blood.

There were boney kittens playing near her broom, creating a little dust cloud. Two chickens were in the hallway fighting over some piece of bread or plastic.

We spoke to the girl while she cleaned. She was the sister of the patient that we were about to see. As we listened to the girl, I caught a glimpse of our patient in the hallway.

"Dear God," I think I said aloud. The girl was a skeleton. There is no way that she should have been alive. Her mother carried her limp body into the bedroom so that we could examine her. The poor emaciated girl was clearly in great pain but had no energy to cry.

I studied her face, temples sunken and eyes wide. There was blood in the corners of her mouth. Every bone in her body was visible. She had fever, productive cough, chronic diarrhea. Her exam seemed to indicate pneumonia. She had been unable to eat for days.

She had terrible sacral ulcers. It was painful to watch her. What was worse was observing her mother, obviously exhausted and desperate. We tried to offer some comfort to her mother who was crying and rocking back and forth, telling us how hopeless she was. I offered the woman a tissue. In this situation with my very basic level of Spanish I could think of nothing else to do.

This experience was my first window into the reality of medicine in the third world. This is not to say that we didn't have successes in Peru. There were many along the way. And the gratitude shown to us was something that I honestly have never seen before. It was staggering.

After returning from Peru, I feel that it should be a requirement for medical students to spend time studying medical care in the third world. This is something that I can not put into words because it is too raw, too powerfully real. It can only be experienced, and I feel lucky to have been given that opportunity.



**A HOME VISIT:** Dr. Olivia Carrick, a WVU medical student, on a home visit.

# Sharing and Giving

*In a constant outreach across “a bridge of love and hope,” the thousands of students in Pittsburgh Diocesan schools manifest the scripture message of sharing and giving. All of the schools, through intense involvement, have raised approximately \$35,000 during the past fiscal year for the Chimbote Foundation. Here is how some of them did it.*

## **Kids Sharing Lunch Program**

This endeavor encourages every youngster to learn about needy children in Chimbote, to pray for these children, and to sacrifice the equivalent cost of a lunch in support of the pediatric malnutrition programs at the Center. The Children are taught that they are missionaries, not only helping the physical need of the children by sharing lunch with them, but they are also spreading the Word of God through our missionaries from Pittsburgh, who minister in Chimbote.



## **St John Neumann Regional Catholic School**

These students took Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical to heart. Despite the fact that these students live in a poor disadvantaged area themselves, they became aware of the need to reach out to the children who were even poorer in Chimbote. Mike Clark, a WTAE anchor, who visits many of the schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, had touched the hearts of the children during one of his visits by sharing with them details of his experience in Chimbote. The students had car washes, bake sales, jeans days and other events to raise money for those less fortunate than they.

## **Holy Trinity School**

These students chose to “build a bridge of love” to families in Peru. Each child made a paper doll with their name on it that could be purchased by others and placed on their cafeteria wall. After selling six hundred dolls, the monies raised were provided to the Chimbote Foundation.

## **Saint Athanasius School**

As a result of a moving presentation from Mike Clark, these students initiated a campaign titled “Stepping up for Chimbote.” They sold footprints, made of brightly col-

ored paper, for \$1 each, on which the name of the donor was written. The footprints “walk” the halls of the school, and are still presently displayed on the walls and stairs of the first, second and third floors of the school building. A dance is planned, where pledges will be solicited and a tee shirt has been designed-proclaiming their support for Chimbote. The selected students will also attend the Peru Mission Dinner this year with a display of their initiatives.

## **Saint Patrick School**

The school assembled “Chimbote Mission Packets.” Each packet contained two “Jeans Day” passes, two homework passes, and two ice cream treat passes. The packets were \$5 each, and the cost of the ice cream treat passes was donated by the school principal. Over five hundred of the packets were sold in only one month's time.

## **Saint Maurice School**

The students conducted two “New for U” flea market sales, which were for the entire school. Students brought in items, set up tables for the sale of these items, and charged no more than \$2.00 for each item. Each class was given a period in which to shop. The students had fun, eagerly participated, and raised money for the Chimbote Foundation.

## **Saint John the Baptist School**

The confirmation class students did lessons and student council had a lollipop sale, the combination of which raised almost \$1,000. In addition, they conducted a “penny wars” collection and raised over \$2,200 and are still wrapping coins.

## **Saint Therese School**

The students conducted a pumpkin decorating contest and vie to be “principal for the day.” Their endeavors have raised \$1,200.

*These are just a sampling of outstanding examples of the interest, commitment, and involvement of the students in our schools. They truly believe they can make a difference, and strive to do so.*

# The Chimbote Foundation

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

Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

## 3rd 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 29, 2007

South Hills 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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## Changing the World, One Person at a Time

Throughout the world, the extreme poverty is the norm, not the exception. Increasingly, the world is realizing that humanitarian crises are not only moral crises that challenge our hearts but are also political, social, and military crises that threaten human existence as a whole.

In 2000, the world's developed nations announced eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating epidemic diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a partnership for global development.

Still, a look at the statistics makes the problem seem insurmountable:

- According to the World Bank, one out of every six people on the planet—over one billion people in the developing world—lived on less than a dollar a day last year. Two out of every five—over 2.6 billion people—lived on less than two dollars a day.
- A decade ago, the World Food Summit pledged to reduce the world's hungry population—around 820 million people in the developing world according to United Nations estimates—by half. Today, the number has remained largely unchanged.
- Climate change could worsen these conditions. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released in April 2007 revealed that the developing world, disproportionately spread along the equator, will bear the brunt of any global warming that occurs in the next century. Too poor to afford drought resistant crops or build homes safe from storm surges, the world's poor could become even more vulnerable.

What can a single diocese do? In partnering with the mission in Chimbote, the Diocese of Pittsburgh has joined the struggle, responding to five of the eight Millennium Development Goals. Through its Medical

Clinic, it helps malnourished children and meets the health care needs of children, expectant mothers, and others, reducing mortality rates and treating diseases.

But perhaps the most important effort is the partnership the diocese has made with the people of Peru. Across the bridge of love and hope between Pittsburgh and Chimbote, the people of Pittsburgh and the people of Peru stand in solidarity.



This solidarity enables even ordinary people to become missionaries in an extraordinary work. “Being missionaries means stooping down to the needs of all, like the Good Samaritan,” Pope Benedict XVI said on World Mission Sunday in 2006, “especially those of the poorest and most destitute people, because those who love with Christ’s heart do not seek their own interests but the glory of the Father and the good of their neighbor alone.”

The Holy Father’s message is a powerful and timely reminder of the dedication and commitment of the many Pittsburgh missionaries who have worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor in Chimbote. By contributing to the Chimbote Foundation, people in Pittsburgh can work alongside them.

*Save the Date!*

**The 42nd Annual  
Peru Mission Dinner**

**Wednesday, October 24, 2006**

**Grand Ballroom  
Sheraton Hotel  
Station Square**

*Invitations will be mailed in September 2007.  
We look forward to seeing you again!*

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## 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.***