

Remembering Archbishop Wuerl By Msgr. John Kozar

In June 2006, Bishop Donald W. Wuerl was named Archbishop of Washington, DC. While the bishop's commitment to the missions in Peru is well known, his personal interaction with the poor in Chimbote deserves special mention. Msgr. John Kozar, who accompanied him on pastoral visits to Chimbote, offered these thoughts on Pittsburgh's former bishop.

Archbishop Wuerl, I suspect, found his most satisfying and also most poignant moments of his pastoral visits, when he accompanied nurses on rounds to visit patients who were unable to come to the hospital for treatment, medications or checkups.

During these visits walking over sandy, sometimes hilly terrain, the bishop would embrace and be embraced by the poor. Many times there were subtle grimaces on his face upon seeing the conditions of one's home or their physical condition, but there was always a deep affection, a warm embrace or a gentle outreached hand. And with his signature prayer and blessing over each *Chimbotano* he met, he often received a smile as a sign of thanks for his visit.

And then there were the countless children who would flock to surround him as he walked through their slum neighborhoods. They would come running from shanties to embrace this man of God and to place their outstretched hands to receive a religious medal or crucifix from Archbishop Wuerl.

After receiving a religious medal from him, children would immediately put the medal and chain or crucifix around their neck and proudly display it for everyone to see. It was a special gift from a special visitor.

Some children that the bishop met either in the slums or at the hospital made a lasting impression on him. He was so deeply troubled by the plight of children he met that, in some instances, he made personal interventions to provide special medical and economic assistance available. In that sense he spiritually adopted many children he encountered on these pastoral visits. And on successive visits he would inquire by name about individual children and how they were doing.

Archbishop Wuerl was most comfortable with his "family" at the Social Works Center. Beginning with Monsignor Jules Roos and Sisters Lilian and Margaret Mary, he related to all in the hospital community as the father of this extended family.

The staff always welcomed him with warm embraces and broad smiles. He would greet and chat with each one, as at a family reunion. And joining him at the celebration of the Eucharist was special treat for them and for him.

As our former bishop, Archbishop Wuerl often referred to the relationship between the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Social Works Center in Chimbote as "a bridge of love and hope." No one embodied and personified that bridge more than Donald Wuerl. He made it real and personal for each one of us, in Pittsburgh and in Chimbote.

But because of the legacy of love and support demonstrated by Archbishop Wuerl, Pittsburgh will always have special affection and a "family" connection to the Social Works Center in Chimbote.

The Chimbote Foundation

Diocese of Pittsburgh
111 Boulevard of the Allies
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
www.chimbotefoundation.org
development@diopitt.org

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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."

— Fr. Ron Lengwin

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

Summer 2006



www.chimbotefoundation.org
development@diopitt.org
412.456.3085

Local Linksmen Turn Out in Support of the Poor

Extreme heat, thirst, and fatigue were par for the course at Edgewood Country Club where local golfers participated in the Second Annual Chimbote Foundation Golf Outing on May 30. Despite the vagaries of Mother Nature, 100 duffers turned out for this year's event in support of the poor. Tom Shanahan, Committee Chairman, reported that more than \$50,000 was raised for the Foundation. "I am proud to share the final results from this year's outing. Archbishop Donald Wuerl made sure that he issued his matching grant before leaving, and we should all recognize the tremendous support he has given us over the years."

Food Service Management Associates, Massaro Corporation, The Pittsburgh Steelers and Voss TV and Appliance were among those who gave generously. Individuals, in typical Pittsburgh fashion, contributed many popular auction items and we extend our appreciation to Gretchen Roos and Edward and Mary Daly for their kindness.



Although the heat and humidity were formidable foes, all 100 golfers finished the course, and while no one made the enviable hole-in-one to win the car, provided by #1 Cochran, all were grateful to return to the clubhouse and enjoy an evening of good food, camaraderie and the knowledge that, through their participation, hundreds of "the poorest of the poor" will receive the critically needed medical care that is provided by the Centro de Obras Sociales. On their behalf, we extend our deep appreciation to everyone who was involved—in any way—in making this event a success!

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.

Save the Date!

The 41st Annual Peru Mission Dinner

Thursday, October 26, 2006

Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, Station Square

Invitations will be mailed in August 2006.
We look forward to seeing you again!

Chimbote: Two Teenagers' Impressions

By Megan Zagorski and Shannon Lane

In May, Megan Zagorski and Shannon Lane, two eighth graders from Pittsburgh, had the opportunity to visit Chimbote, Peru and travel where few tourists ever venture. Shannon, the 14-year-old great niece of Monsignor Jules Roos, and her mother, Gretchen Roos, invited Shannon's 13-year-old friend Megan and her mother Joann to travel with them to see the Maternidad and Social Works Center that Monsignor Roos and so many others have developed and supported over the last 43 years. Their story follows.

It takes two days to reach Chimbote from Pittsburgh: one for the flight to Lima and the next for the 6-7 hour bus ride up the Pacific Coast to Chimbote. Monsignor Roos and Sister Margaret Mary—she asked us to call her Sister Maggie—met us in Lima to be our guides and translators, and with their help, we had an interesting trip. It felt good to finally arrive at this place we had heard so much about!

On Monday morning, Sister Maggie gave us a full tour of the premises, and we were amazed by the massive amount of work that is done there. Our favorite stop was at the orphanage that was added to the mission opera-

tions in the last several years. At the time we visited, there were 22 orphans. Some of them were older children with severe disabilities, but many were abandoned as infants at the local public hospitals and turned over to the mission for care.

After the tour of each of the clinics, the laboratory, maternity hospital and other service areas, we returned to the orphanage and immediately fell in love with all the little babies.

This was the one time that it didn't matter that we couldn't speak Spanish. The babies just enjoyed being held. We took a few of them outside into the courtyard for the rest of the day, exchanging them for others when they fell asleep or needed a diaper change. We wondered about their futures, especially the older ones. Will they go to good homes? Will they be adopted at all? What will happen to them when they grow too old to stay in the orphanage?

The next day we woke up early to accompany Sister Maggie and two staff members, Serida and Elizabeth, on "home visits" to gain a better appreciation for the people's struggle and to take pictures to help us raise money for the mission on our return to Pittsburgh. Although we had both seen pictures from the home visits that Shannon's mom had made on a previous trip, we were still not prepared for this experience.

We had never before seen anything like the poverty there. In fact, "poverty" doesn't even begin to describe it properly. The conditions were below poverty. These people had almost nothing. Their houses consisted of four walls, sometimes with a roof, sometimes with a bed, a table or a chair. None of the homes had running water. Most had dirt floors and open fires for cooking. Wild dogs moved freely in and out of the huts.

The people that we met were wonderful but each had their own terrible story:

- A woman had a severe hernia, but she could not leave her six fatherless children alone to go to the clinic.
- Three children, no more than three years old, suffered from severe asthma, but their mother could only manage to bring them to the clinic for emergencies.
- A 22-year-old woman, bedridden since the age of five because of microcephaly, a severe brain deformity, weighed a total of 30 pounds. Her mother spoon-fed her soup every few hours to keep her alive and managed to run a small café in her home at the same time.

Seeing several beautiful little children suffering from malnutrition—their hair had begun to turn from black to golden-brown from lack of nutritious food—was enough to break a heart of stone. We knew these people needed all of the help that we could give them. And more.

We spent much of our remaining days returning to the orphanage in order to hold each baby as much as we could. When Friday finally came, we made our difficult goodbyes to the children in the orphanage. When we left, little Solache, one of the tiniest, was sobbing her heart out and begging us to pick her back up. Thankfully she was the only one awake, and after turning her over to one of the staff, we slipped out quickly. We could not have left a dozen wailing orphans behind.

On the return trip, we had some time in Lima before our flight back to the States, so Sister Maggie took us on a short tour of the capital city. Amid the hustle and bustle of the big city, poverty was still evident. More than once, children came up to the taxi and begged for money as we were stopped in traffic. Seeing children selling handmade items on street corners became almost routine. The contrast was stark, especially when we were standing in front of a huge fancy hotel, complete with valets and bellboys, while a little girl tried to sell us a doll for one sole (about 33 American cents). To us, that was almost worse than the slums we saw in Chimbote.

Chimbote is a place where the entire city is in desperate need of help. We have both decided to take an active role for the support of the mission and the beautiful people in this remote area of the world.



Megan Zagorski, Gretchen Roos and Shannon Lane (Photos: Joann Zagorski.)



Sr. Maggie comforts a 22-year-old woman with microcephaly.



The four youngest children of a woman with a hernia.



A visit to a desolate home. Notice the cross in the background.

Guaranteed Income For Life and a Gift to the Chimbote Mission

Participating in the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Charitable Gift Annuity Program can benefit our mission in Chimbote as it benefits you from an income standpoint. For example, a 70-year-old person can initiate a gift annuity that pays 6.5 percent for life. Someone who is 80 will receive 8.0 percent for life, and so on, up to 11.3 percent. The minimum investment/gift is \$5,000. The average is about \$40,000.

A charitable gift annuity is a form of charitable giving whereby one or two people may invest cash or securities in order to receive an unusually high rate of return, based on their age. The rate is guaranteed for life. A significant portion of the income is tax-free, and a generous income tax deduction may be claimed. If appreciated stock is used, significant capital gains tax will be eliminated as well. After the lifetime of the annuitants, the remainder of the annuity (usually over 50 percent) will be used for the charitable purpose you select – in this case, the mission in Chimbote.

There are one-life, two-life and deferred gift annuities that may be initiated. For a free prospectus, please complete and send the attached form to Paul Stabile, Director of Planned Giving for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, or call him at 412.456.3055.

Thank you for considering this opportunity that enables us to become grateful stewards of those gifts God has given us to use during our lifetime. If this is not something you are interested in at this time, please recommend it to others. In this era of low interest rates, it may make dollars and sense to cash in a CD, even if you need to pay a penalty, and then invest in a charitable gift annuity.

Sample of Rates Offered

Age	Rate
60	5.7%
65	6.0%
70	6.5%
75	7.1%
80	8.0%
85	9.5%
90	11.3%

For a **FREE** personal prospectus, call 412.456.3055 while these rates are still offered.

Minimum investment \$5,000

Average investment \$40,000

Single or two-life agreements offered. Birthdate needed to determine the specific rate you will receive.

Diocese of Pittsburgh Charitable Gift Annuity Program to Benefit the Chimbote Mission

1. I am interested in receiving information about the following annuity: One-life Two-life

2. Amount (\$5,000 one-life minimum, \$10,000 two-life minimum): _____

3. I would plan to fund my annuity with: Cash Appreciated securities Both

4. First Annuitant (Preferred minimum age for an immediate payment gift annuity is 55.):

Distribution (Monthly distributions for contracts of \$50,000 or larger): Quarterly Semi-annual Annual

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ___/___/___

5. Survivor Annuitant (For a two-life plan):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Please send a free prospectus to:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Home Work (optional)

Please clip and return in enclosed envelope to Paul Stabile, Planned Giving, Diocese of Pittsburgh, 111 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or call 412.456.3055.