

“Kids Share a Lunch Program” Raises Over \$240,000

Over the past seven years, young people throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh raised more than \$240,000 through the “Kids Share a Lunch Program” sponsored by the Secretariat for Education. This program encourages and fosters mission awareness and faithful stewardship among our youth. Almost 100 schools, youth ministry and religious education programs participated during the 2004-2005 school year.

Of these schools and programs, ten schools impressed dinner attendees with displays of their creative fundraising events and activities in support of the Social Works Center in Chimbote. Their work represents the broader School Ambassadors Program that raises mission awareness and faithful stewardship throughout the diocese – under the auspices of the Secretariat for Education and through the inspiration of Chimbote Foundation Board members Mr. Mike Clark and Mr. Thomas Shanahan. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, our diocesan youth raised

\$43,044, their largest donation yet to the Chimbote Foundation.

School Ambassadors were represented this year by:

- St. Alexis, Wexford
- Brookline Regional Catholic
- Butler Catholic
- Holy Trinity, McKees Rocks
- Immaculate Conception, Bloomfield
- St. John the Baptist, Monaca
- St. Mary of the Assumption, Glenshaw
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Burgettstown
- St. Therese, Muhnall
- St. Thomas More, South Hills

The Chimbote Foundation

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The Chimbote Foundation

“...a bridge of love and hope.”

Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

40th Annual Peru Mission Dinner Raises Over \$100,000

Bishop Donald Wuerl welcomed more than 740 guests to the 40th Annual Peru Mission Dinner, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Station Square Hotel on October 27, 2005. The Dinner was emceed for the seventh year by Mike Clark, news anchor for WTAE TV.

Monsignor Jules Roos, who founded the mission’s maternity hospital in 1966, and Dominican Sisters Lillian Bockheim and Margaret Mary Birchmeier made the journey from Chimbote to join their friends in Pittsburgh who have supported their work for more than four decades.



A WARM WELCOME: Bishop Donald W. Wuerl greets Minister Jorge-Félix Rubio, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Peru in the United States.

Also in attendance was the Most Reverend Ángel Francisco Simón Piorno, Bishop of Chimbote, who communicated his appreciation and love for the generosity displayed by so many in Pittsburgh through Monsignor John E. Kozar, National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, who translated for the bishop.

Representatives from the Embassy of Peru were also in attendance – Minister Jorge-Félix Rubio, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Peru in the United States, and Augusto Salamanca, Head of the Political Department of the

Embassy. Minister Rubio told the audience how impressed he was to see “the heart and soul of Pittsburgh, the heart and soul of our faith,” supporting his home country of Peru. “We Peruvians,” he continued, “are very grateful. And on behalf of the Ambassador of Peru in the United States, Eduardo Ferrero, I would like to thank you for attending this wonderful gala.” Minister Rubio emphasized what he believed to be one of the most impressive characteristics of the American people – its “solidarity with

Continued on back page

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.

Mission Dinner continued from front page

the less fortunate.” Minister Rubio concluded by pledging his support – on behalf of the members of the Peruvian Embassy – “as volunteers of the Chimbote Foundation.”

Thanking everyone for their participation and generosity, Bishop Wuerl reminded us that “the Church’s social teaching emphasizes that we are all sisters and brothers in God’s family and must love and care for one another. In preparation for the recently concluded Synod of Bishops from which I recently returned, Pope Benedict XVI reflected with us ... that ‘love for the poor and those on the periphery of society was not simply the subject of Jesus’ preaching; it gave meaning to his entire life.’ The Chimbote Foundation was established to mani-

fest the power of Christ’s love for each of us through our works of faith and charity. ... This evening, by rededicating and reinforcing the ‘bridge of love’ that we have built together between the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Diocese of Chimbote, we are demonstrating our love and compassion for our less fortunate sisters and brothers, the young and the old alike.”

The dinner raised more than \$100,000 to support the work of the many dedicated persons who daily serve the needs of the poor in Peru.

Save the Date!

2nd Annual Chimbote Foundation Golf Outing

**Edgewood Country Club
May 30, 2006**

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

December 2005



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Pittsburgh Seminarian Visits Chimbote Mission



Joseph Freedy

Diocesan Seminarian Joseph M. Freedy had the extraordinary opportunity to spend three weeks this past summer serving the poor of Chimbote and recounted his experiences in the following letter. Mr. Freedy has returned to North American University in Rome to continue his studies and encourages other seminarians to work among the poor as part of their priestly formation.

Dear Friends of the Poor:

My experience in Chimbote was a powerful time in which the Lord was truly forming my heart. I was able to spend three weeks there, during which I lived at a parish in a Barrio called St. Peter, about fifteen minutes from our diocesan mission. The arrangements worked out perfectly because I had the opportunity to live right with the poor and experience regular parish life, with funerals, weddings, baptisms, daily Mass and so much



GLIMPSES OF POVERTY: Photos from other home visits in Chimbote, Peru.

more that goes with running a parish, as well as to work closely with the mission, and in particular, to accompany the nurses on home visits.

Sisters Lillian and Margaret Mary, and Father Jules Roos thought it was important for me to go on daily home visits, so my mornings consisted of these and I would return to the parish after lunch.

I would catch a car in front of the parish and head down to the mission around 8:00 a.m. There I would meet the nurse with whom I would go that day. There are three nurses who make home visits; one covers malnutrition, another tuberculosis and the third, I believe, does basic check-ups, although I went with her only one time. I was so impressed with the nurses at the Maternidad de Maria; they were completely selfless in their jobs. They had a sincere interest in every person we visited and went over and above what they needed to do to fulfill their duties. They did it with gentleness and patience, and when needed, with firmness. We would head off to a part of the city of Chimbote and visit the patients of the clinic. The poverty I saw was overwhelming, both in its magnitude – it spanned nearly every part of the city – and in its intensity. What I did during the home visits varied; often I would simply sit there and listen, other times I would pray with the patients and hold them. We visited people with cancer,



tuberculosis, people who have not been out of bed for fifteen years. We visited people in terrible pain, old men who shivered because they had no blankets to keep them warm.

One morning I was with Elizabeth and we went to see a man who had cancer. Suffering from cancer is horrible enough, but to have to suffer in the conditions in which these people live seems unbearable. We knocked on the door of the house, which was a tin piece of siding with walls made of straw. A smiling woman came to the door and invited us in. We stepped over a stick in the doorway and into the mud-floor house. It was dark and damp. She led us to the bed in which the man with cancer was laying. It was a filthy mat and there were spider webs everywhere. He rolled over to greet us; groaning in terrible pain. As he had not left the bed for several days, Elizabeth thought it would be good for him to get up, so they helped him into a wheelchair and rolled him out towards the front door. He could hardly lift his head. He was not able to speak but Elizabeth could not figure out why, so she attempted to get him to communicate. She asked him to repeat “mama” and other short words, but as soon as he opened his mouth to try he would drool all of his saliva onto himself. His eyes welled up in tears as he sat there in terrible pain and frustration. It was not difficult to see the suffering Christ in this man. Elizabeth began talking with his wife, which left me to be with him. I knelt down and wrapped my left arm around him and clutched his hand in mine. He leaned his head forward against mine and we wept together. It did not matter that I did not know Spanish and he did not know English. It did not matter that I was American and he Peruvian. What mattered was that Christ was embraced and Christ was embracing.

Every home visit was not this dramatic, but I wanted to share this because it has had such an impact on my life. There were many other visits as well with powerful moments of prayer, and others with a quick smile and goodbye. What struck me most about these home visits was the care the nurses took in looking after the people, and the joy and faith of the people despite their condition. It only helped to prove to me that true peace and joy reside in the depths of the heart.

After returning to the mission and having lunch with Sister Lillian, I would head back to the parish. Our afternoons varied; sometimes we would have a wedding or funeral; sometimes we would do Communion calls or visit parishioners. There was daily Mass at 7:30 p.m. so I would set up and serve if the altar servers did not come. A few of the nights after Mass I would accompany Father Joe Hayden, the priest I lived with at the parish, who would celebrate the sacrament of anointing for those who were at home dying. The weekends were busy, with morning Masses and huge catechesis sessions after the last Sunday Mass.

My time in Chimbote was incredibly powerful. We are so blessed to have a diocesan mission and I believe it would be tremendously beneficial for our Pittsburgh seminarians who are being formed to serve the people of God as priests to go to Chimbote, experience the mission and let God form their hearts.

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“A Wonderful Example of Solidarity”: Peruvian Diplomat Praises Chimbote Mission

The remarks of Minister Jorge-Félix Rubio, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Peru in the United States at the 40th Annual Peru Mission Dinner

Dear Friends of Chimbote and Peru,

As a Peruvian, I would like to tell you that I am absolutely impressed to see all of you, the heart and soul of Pittsburgh, the heart and soul of our faith, supporting my country.

We, the Peruvians, are very grateful. Thank you very much.

On behalf of the Ambassador of Peru in the United States, Eduardo Ferrero, I would like to thank you for attending this wonderful gala.

I truly consider that one the characteristics of the American people is its solidarity with the less fortunate. We have seen examples of this solidarity around the world and also in the United States where the participation of the people after the effects of Hurricane Katrina was so important, as well as in other natural disasters.



FROM LEFT: Monsignor John E. Kozar, National Director of The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, and Most Reverend Angel Francisco Simón Piorno, Bishop of Chimbote.

A wonderful example of solidarity is the work started more than forty years ago by the Diocese of Pittsburgh and their support of several projects, what I dare to call “solidarity projects” in the city of Chimbote, in the Northern coast of Peru.

Usually when one talks about Peru, tourist sites like Machu Picchu, Cuzco or even its capital, Lima come to mind. Chimbote, on the other hand, might not be one of the most beautiful cities of Peru, which makes the effort by the Diocese of Pittsburgh even more valuable. Providing this city with the *Centro de Obras Sociales* (Social Works Center) is definitely a way to alleviate many of the situations of the less fortunate. We also have the support provided to the Maternity Hospital, where life first begins for many of the citizens of Chimbote and as many as 300 babies are delivered each month.

It is clear that health and education are the basis for development in any country. The Diocese of Pittsburgh has understood this well.

We may actually see how these efforts have had positive results in the population of Chimbote, particularly among the less fortunate.

This important effort, done for so many decades, by the Diocese of Pittsburgh needs the continuing support of the people of Pittsburgh, a great city of tradition and understanding.

Knowing the results of the actions of the Chimbote



A WORD OF THANKS: Minister Jorge-Félix Rubio addressing the Chimbote Mission Dinner

Foundation, on behalf of the Embassy of Peru, I would like to express our commitment and support to this noble cause. Activities as the ones developed by the Diocese of Pittsburgh not only should be congratulated for providing assistance to those who require help, but also have the support of this Embassy based on the cooperation strategies that the Peruvian Government implements in regard to one of its main objectives: the fight against poverty.

You can consider us, the members of the Peruvian Embassy, as volunteers of the Chimbote Foundation.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude and profound appreciation to the Diocese of Pittsburgh and to you all, for your current and future support to the Chimbote Foundation, based on solidarity, which is one of the pillars of our Catholic faith.

Thank you very much.