



A Bridge of LOVE & HOPE

The Chimbote Foundation

Amazing, but NOT Surprising...

Our Chimbote **Mission Milestone Investment** is closing in on its goal!

By Dr. Patrick Joyce, Director of Stewardship



Just 21 months ago Bishop Zubik announced the Chimbote Foundation’s plans to completely demolish, rebuild, expand and modernize the medical mission clinic in Chimbote. Along with Chimbote’s Bishop Francisco Simon Piorno and Attorney Gretchen Roos – representing her uncle, the late Monsignor Jules Roos who founded the Mission and who along with his brother, Ken, built the original clinic – the bishop unveiled the dream to invest an additional \$1 million in this “bridge of love and hope” serving the poor of Peru. Built to handle 25 patients a day, the clinic now serves more than 1,000. In addition, the plans call for expanding the home visit program deep into the surrounding barrios where the poorest of the poor struggle to live and

die with dignity; and for improving services for the “Padre Julio” children’s shelter where abused, abandoned or orphaned children receive love and care.

Results to date? Oh so close . . . ! As of June 30, the people of Pittsburgh – including our Catholic school and religious education children – have generously poured out their prayers and an additional \$821,000 of that extra \$1 million investment. Praise God! That leaves us short just \$179,000! If you can help a little more, or would like more information, see our website, www.ChimboteFoundation.org; Email: Chimbote@diopitt.org; or call 412-456-3085. Dios te Bendiga! God bless you!

“By taking the walk together, you ensure that the people of Chimbote will not walk their streets alone.”

– Bishop David A. Zubik



Visit Our New Website:
www.chimbotefoundation.org

Summer 2017



www.chimbotefoundation.org
chimbote@diopitt.org
412.456.3085

On The Road to Chimbote, Peru

Group of 20 Parishioners Prepares for Mission Trip This Summer

Bishop David Zubik celebrated the Vigil Mass of Ascension on May 24 at St. Paul Seminary by Commissioning 20 volunteer Chimbote mission team members who will travel this summer to our mission in Peru. Father Ronald Lengwin, Executive Director of The Chimbote Foundation and Director of the Diocesan Mission Office, con-celebrated.

The newly commissioned mission team members, on behalf of the Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese, will give of their time, talents and treasure to witness the work of Jesus at the Maternidad de Maria maternity hospital and Center for Social Works (COS). The Center includes an outpatient clinic, clinical laboratory, center for orphaned or abandoned children plus a home visiting program which the Bishop, the Pittsburgh Diocese, the people of Pittsburgh and local companies have supported for more than 50 years.

Six deacons who had served or are about to serve as spiritual directors on mission trips assisted with the Vigil Mass: Richard Caruso, Joseph Dougherty, Thomas Lopus, Timothy Noca, Richard Tucek, and Frank Szemanski.



Puppets, Pizza, and Peru

Sisters and students together created nearly 150 puppets for the children in the Pittsburgh Diocesan mission in Chimbote, Peru.



National Catholic Sisters Week, which is held annually from March 8 to March 13, was celebrated in a special way in Pittsburgh. Sister Gerri Wodarczyk, CSFN, from the Department for Consecrated Life, worked with the Pittsburgh Religious Vocation Council and Gary Slifkey, Campus Minister at Robert Morris University, to bring sisters and students together to create nearly 150 puppets for the children in the Pittsburgh Diocesan mission in Chimbote, Peru. The creative artist who designed the puppets and did all the background preparation for the project was Sister Antonina Gadacz, CSFN. The National

Catholic Sisters Week provided a small grant which covered the cost of the event.

Over 90 students on campus participated in the 4-hour casual event, engaged in puppet making, shared informal conversations with the sisters, and enjoyed some pizza, a beloved food staple of college life. Sr. Gerri summarized the event as a bridging party with multiple purposes. It provided an opportunity for evangelization, an opportunity for vocational outreach in an informal setting with women religious in the diocese, and it served to raise awareness with the students of the needs of others, especially the children living in poverty in Peru who are served by our Diocesan mission.

This summer, two Pittsburgh mission teams will be traveling separately to Chimbote, and hand-delivering the puppets, pun intended! Among them are two RMU students, Joseph Auth and Roman Iannone, who also participated in making the puppets. Given the recent torrential rains and flooding caused by the El Nino in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Peru, these toys will be welcome gifts for so many of the children, bringing rays of sunshine through the clean-up.

Special Thanks...Five Generous-Hearted Priests!

Twenty-four years ago, five priests of the diocese joined together and purchased a mobile home in a gated community in Florida. They vacationed there and called it "Padre Place." They promised each other that, when they could no longer use it, they would sell it and give whatever proceeds remain to a charity.

Today, two have gone home to God – Fathers James Susany and Al Berk who died in 1999 – and the remaining three – Fathers Al Semler, Gerry Mikonis and Bill Terza – decided to gift the proceeds of Padre Place to Chimbote to help build the modern and greatly expanded clinic! Father Al was once mission director for the Diocese and has been to Chimbote.



Father Al Berk



Father James Susany

All are mission partners. These three buddies have attended the annual Peru Mission Dinner. This year, they decided their gift would have a greater impact providing vital healthcare to the poorest of the poor. Bless their loving hearts!



Father Al Semler



Father Gerry Mikonis



Father Bill Terza

Mission Prayer Reflection

Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. . . . Then YOU shall call, and the Lord will answer . . . and He will say: Here I am! -Isaiah 58: 7-9

We traveled up into the mountains surrounding Chimbote. There we met a courageous grandmother with a dangerous leg wound. Yet, while standing with the aid of a crutch, she hand washed laundry to support her family.

Our Center's nurse/social worker treated her wound; provided clothes for her grandchild; and bus money to travel to see the doctor at the Clinic.

Today we pray for selfless mission partners whose prayers and financial support bring the face of Jesus to families in great need.

Check our website for more mission reflections:
www.chimbotefoundation.org



The Chimbote Foundation

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Bishop David A. Zubik
and the Chimbote Foundation
request that you please

**Save
the Date**

**52nd Annual
Peru Mission
Dinner**

October 12, 2017

Sheraton Station Square Hotel
Reception 6:00 pm | Dinner 7:00 pm