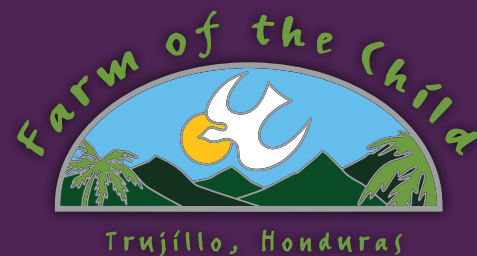


FRIENDS OF THE FARM

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

SUMMER 2011



GOD LOVES EACH ONE OF HIS CHILDREN INTIMATELY

By Francesca Pennino

Every so often there are moments here at the Farm in which our mission and the grace with which God has blessed it are undeniably clear. On a daily basis, one sees this in the little things: a breakthrough in the school, forgiveness amongst community members, the tranquility and impressiveness of the never-ending ocean, a good day for a behaviorally challenged child. I imagine that we as missionaries have all felt the presence of a greater being, of an omnipresent

good that saturates our colorful Caribbean home here in Honduras. As ever-radiant as this Spirit is though, it is easy to overlook it, to place it under the harsh and cruel realities of such an impoverished area of our world. Too often do we see the swollen belly of malnutrition or the bruises and cuts of domestic violence and lose hope, lose sight of the grace God has indeed imbued in us here.

It's appropriate then that our most recent spark of divine intercession came with the Holy Spirit in

June, the eve of Pentecost. Allow us to introduce: Jose Manuel. Arriving unexpectedly in the back of a police pick-up truck, Jose Manuel came to us sick, bruised, and scared. From the little that we learned from him that night, we discovered he was nine-soon-to-be-ten, recently taken from home for reasons of abuse and neglect. He had never been in school yet is brilliant with numbers, learned by selling CDs and vegetables on the streets of Tocoa. What he lacks in academic knowledge though, he puts forth in street smarts and an effervescent personality.

After a few days and nights spent in our clinic and an additional

month in his new home (Our Lady of Guadalupe House), we have started to see the real Jose Manuel bubble forth. He brings with him a strong personality, a desire to play soccer and spend time with all who pass by. He is an active member of our First Grade here at St. Peter's Catholic School and a soon-to-be new member of the Catholic Church. Constantly smiling and, at times, singing, one cannot help but rejoice in the once trapped child that has been set free here at the Farm. From a life of instability, danger, and violence, we see a child reborn into safety, education, play, and above all, limitless love. We are again reminded of this great Spirit that cares for us and His children; that there is hope for the demons we find in our world; and that there is always a chance to reveal the lost child when placed in loving hands and giving hearts.

God is great and loves each one of His children intimately. And that is especially evident here at the Farm of the Child.

\$385,000 must be raised by June 2012 to keep all program services running at current levels

\$385,000



Please help us reach the goal and continue serving the children and families of the Farm of the Child

\$14,000 raised to date

SPIRITUALITY

SERVICE

COMMUNITY

SIMPLICITY

BLESSINGS OF THOSE WHO SERVE

By Cathy Ross



It's hard for me to believe that this was the third mission trip with Espiritu Santo Catholic Church for my family and I to the Farm. Each time is more special than the previous. As my heart grows fonder and my understanding of God's world becomes clearer, I can only pray that we have had some positive impact on God's loving children and missionaries at the Farm.

I have read through the individual thank you cards from the children and Farm missionaries and I can't help but become reflective of our days in Honduras. My favorite memories are those of the one-on-one time with the children. Speaking to them in my not-so-perfect Spanish, seeing their beautiful eyes light up and the wonderful smiles on their faces. It

was a real blessing to become a part of their routine and be introduced to their world through their eyes. They all seem so well adjusted and truly happy with their simple life on the Farm. And I know in my heart that they are growing as little people, and more importantly, through God. When I think of the problems our youth face in the American culture, I can't help but feel the absence of God as a root cause. It strikes me as so ironic that an outsider would suggest that the children at the Farm have so little as I feel the truth is they have their hearts set on God ... they have everything.

Each year I've been blessed with the opportunity to lead the outreach ministry and this is what I look most forward to each year. It is an opportunity to bring music, faith, fellowship (and even Mass with a Priest!) to some of the neighboring communities such as Buena Vista, Corosalta and Santa Fe. I can't tell you how moving it was to see the positive reaction from the locals attending Mass when we sang some of our contemporary Christian LifeTeen music in Spanish. I will always remember watching our youth grow as they gave out rosaries and Bibles that were donated by parishioners back in Florida.

Construction is something that has always amazed me. While I can't fully appreciate all the budgeting, planning and work that goes into a project, I can fully appreciate the end result. I was so proud of the Espiritu Santo missionaries who worked on the electricity and playground this year. The electrical team worked in and around the house mothers and tias while attempting not to disrupt their day. Through many obstacles they were able to make numerous houses safer for the children while providing more dependable electricity. And what the electrical work lacked in excitement, the finished playground delivered! Most of us couldn't even envision the finished product, as it was being constructed, until the final days. The reaction from the children on opening day is something that is engraved in my happy memory bank forever.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Farm missionaries. I can't say enough about what a courageous group of young men and women they are. Their dedication, determination, and resilience is captivating. I only pray that God will continue to guide and protect them as they do His work each day.

PRAYERS & PETITIONS

We pray for all missions, especially the Farm of the Child in the start of its sixteenth year; that the words and actions of all who live lives of service will bear witness to the coming of the Kingdom of God.

We pray for all of the children of the Farm, especially our 7 newest children Jose Manuel, Angel Daniel, Nahomi, Ducan, Hildebrando, Kimberly, and Brittany; that God will bless them abundantly with health, love, and faith in Him.

We ask that God continues to bless the Farm with committed and faith-filled house parents and tias.

We pray for our new missionaries who will arrive on October 1; that God prepares their hearts to serve willingly at the Farm.

We pray for all those who support the Farm; that they will be blessed for their generosity and continue to participate in this mission of love.

Amen.

FAMILY EXPERIENCES THE FRUITS OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

By Rachel Hurst

Our Family is made up of wife and mother Rachel, husband and father Jacob, and sons and brothers Jonah (6 years old), Isaac (4 years old), and Ruben (2 years old). We serve as missionaries at the Farm of the Child outside of Trujillo, Honduras. It has been asked of us more than once how our family was called to serve as missionaries. This is our story:

The decision to be a missionary came through a habit of prayer and discernment that has guided the majority of the decisions in my life. By God's grace, I have been able to seek in faith divine guidance with the major decisions, especially during these last seven years as a wife. The decision to exchange vows and administer the sacrament of marriage with the blessing of the Church was prayed on for many months. Consciously working to remain in as grace-filled a state as possible, Jacob and I could trust our desire to follow God's plan, and we received no sign that we should not enter into a marriage covenant. As husband and wife, we continued to place our trust in God with the small, medium, and large decisions of our life. As our family began to grow, we continued to study and pray about God's plan for marriage and family, in order to dissolve as much as possible any false notions or prideful ambitions about what it meant to be a holy family. God placed on both our hearts the desire to serve and minister to the Catholic Church. I was to serve and better the Church by focusing on meeting the needs of the family and raising the children in a nurturing environment. Jacob, already ministering full-time at a

parish, was by then convicted of the need for professional training, so he applied and was accepted to the Masters of Divinity Program at Notre Dame. As wife and husband, we offered up our growing family and movement across the country to uncharted academia to the Lord. We experienced the fruits of God's providence by a supportive community, rigorous study, and many opportunities for works of mercy. Much was being given to us and much would soon be asked of us.

Jacob and I had both served domestic missionary programs before we met, and had both considered doing missionary work abroad. Our union as wife and husband, and having three children did not change our hearts' desire, but only confirmed and strengthened it. Farm of the Child offers us a place to serve our God and neighbor. The geography has changed, but God's plan for our family remains the same.

The word "missionary" is a word with a long history, one that can conjure up a variety of images and responses: from endearing, romantic, and pietistic on the one end to condescending, intrusive, and



oppressive on the other. But for us, being a missionary lies in neither extreme. We are neither sinners nor saints, but rather a people relying on divine mercy to generate the healing, courage, and desire to be more of the latter. We hope we will always be missionaries, that is, members of the Church who continue the work of Christ, through the Holy Spirit, according to the plan of God. At the conclusion of every Eucharistic Celebration, we are sent in peace to love and serve the Lord. For now, we are being sent primarily to love and serve a small population of people in rural Honduras; but before and after our time here, we will remain missionaries.

In conclusion, I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude for all those who, through prayers, support, and monetary donations, make it possible for us and all missionaries to continue the work of Christ.

Zulena Pescatore Children's Park, where our children can enjoy a healthy outdoor play space, contributing to their physical, social and emotional well-being.



Support the Farm of the Child by donating online at www.FarmoftheChild.org

FIFTEEN YEARS: A GRAND DAY IN THE LIFE OF FARM OF THE CHILD

By Ysmary Trejo

"If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

1 Corinthians 13: 3

The weekend of June 18-19, our community was celebrating— jubilantly celebrating 15 years since the the founding of Farm of the Child-Honduras, the arrival of the first children, 15 years of dedication, sacrifice, love and hope, of being a light and guide for each and every Child that has come to our beloved Farm of the Child.

"Today is a Grand Day," were the words of our dear co-founder Zulena Pescatore. This woman, who fought to build the Kingdom of God, following with conviction the wishes of her late husband, Vincent Pescatore. She dedicated herself entirely in service to that which she herself calls the Farm – a piece of Heaven on Earth. It was a special moment, a moment to honor the memory of three great men who believed deeply in the mission of Farm of the Child and gave their lives in service to our Lord – our founder, Vincent Pescatore, his brother-in-law, Wayne Schultheis, and fellow missionary, Scott Camp. We also honored and remembered Monsignor Virgilio Lopez, the late Bishop of Trujillo, whose tireless commitment and tenacious support and defense made the mission possible in the face of great adversity and trial.

At our celebration, we were blessed by the presence of our missionary friends from Espiritu Santo Catholic Church of Safety Harbor, Florida, who graced us for yet another year with their talent and solidarity, renovating our electrical system, ensuring a safer home environment for our children at Farm of the Child. Additionally, thanks to their commitment, effort and dedication,

we are now enjoying the newly inaugurated Zulena Pescatore Children's Park, where our children can enjoy a healthy outdoor play space, contributing to their physical, social and emotional well-being. An artistic missionary in the group recreated our Stations of the Cross, providing us with a beautiful representation of the Passion of our Lord upon which to meditate as we walk the grounds of the Farm. The Espiritu Santo missionaries graced us with both their spiritual strength as well as their desire to continue working for this noble mission.



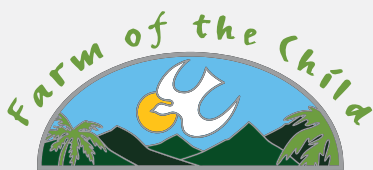
Ysmary Trejo

Without a doubt, God has willed that we continue with this project of faith and love, fighting so that the youth of Honduras can count on a dignified and secure home, rooted in the principles of the Catholic faith, firmly believing that Christ loves us and gives us His gifts, the true gift of friendship, to be shared with His littlest ones.

We are profoundly grateful for all of our friends of the Farm, for your commitment of support and your belief that we will raise our children into moral, ethical, Christian citizens.

Thank you for giving life to the words of Matthew, the Evangelist (10:8): "Freely you have received, freely give." Thank you for sharing your prayers, your time, your talent, and your treasure with our community.

**Thank you Espiritu Santo Catholic Church of Safety Harbor, Florida for the love, commitment, and service you have shown to the Farm over the past five years. We are so grateful that you have been willing to be our partners in this mission. Que Dios les bendiga!
God bless you!**



1616 Nottingham Knoll Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32225

We exist because generous people donate money and time to help fulfill our mission — to provide for orphaned Honduran children.



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