

Entire Parish Involvement

Our Twinning Parish Relationship with Santiago Apostol of Camotlan continues to flourish. After four years, the indigenous people of the four villages, Camotlan, Yatzona, Yatzalaglag, and Reagui, are beginning to trust us as they come to know more about Holy Redeemer. This relationship is fostered not only by those who visit Camotlan but more importantly by our parishioners who express interest in the results of our visits. Even though many cannot travel to this remote site, they become an integral part of this relationship through their questions, support, and financial aid.



Abra la puerta

*The door to a trusting relationship.....
The door to lasting friendship.....
The door to spiritual growth and understanding.....
The door that God asks each of us to open and foster our Catholic faith.....*

Scheduled trips:

March 19, 2010 through March 30, 2010

June 12, 2010 through June 22, 2010

November 29, 2010 through December 11, 2010

Anyone interested: Contact Deacon Richard

SANTIAGO APOSTOL OF CAMOTLAN OAXACA, MEXICO



The twinning parish relationship of Holy Redeemer Parish, Jenison, Michigan and Santiago Apostol of Camotlan, Mexico was established in the year of 2005, under the guidance and direction of the *Parish Twinning Program of the Americas*, headquartered in Tennessee.

Our twinning parish consists of four villages located in the Sierra Madre Mountains about nine hours northeast from the historical landmark city of Oaxaca. All four villages are in proximity of each other located in the valleys of the mountains or tucked in neatly on the beautiful mountain side. The indigenous people that inhabit these villages are Zapotec Indian, and many speak only their native tongue.



Children receiving school uniforms from Holy Redeemer

Our vision..... that all parishioners come to know that our call to mission..... *to be the hands and feet of Jesus....* extends beyond Holy Redeemer and the boundaries of Jenison. Our call to mission is also one that reaches across international borders to touch the hearts of many families dealing with poverty and injustice. It is a vision that broadens our view and understanding of the global church and its place in the world. It is a call that is very much in line with the 1997 U.S. Bishops' statement, *Called to Global Solidarity International Challenges for U.S. Parishes.*

Objectives:

- Develop and maintain real personal relationships with the people of all four villages of our sister parish.
- Encourage and facilitate visits and continued correspondence with the villages.
- Develop ways that encourage prayerful solidarity.
- Provide resources and support in the areas of religion, education, and community development.
- Provide opportunities to learn about the culture, history, and language of our sister parish.
- Encourage respect for the complexity and beauty of other cultures.
- Create an awareness of the injustices, disparity, and the hardships that exist in the daily struggle to survive in impoverished lands.

Accomplishments:

- Building a relationship of trust among the indigenous people.
- Established a program of regularly scheduled visits to the villages.
- Provided resources to their community projects such as painting their church.
- Built an Educational Center to provide a means to promote and preserve the Catholic Faith.
- Provided resources to obtain religious education materials.
- Working together to develop religious educational programs.
- A Mexican Fiesta hosted annually for the members of Holy Redeemer in honor of our sister parish.



*The Educational Center
"Santo Redentor"*

What does our mission trip entail?

First, we do not go there to build. Our primary goal is to simply live with the people to form a Christian bond of love and support. We play, pray, and share meals with the villagers. The trip gives us an appreciation of the richness of their culture and the simplicity of life. It also draws us into a deeper understanding of their plight to survive in a world of little opportunity.

Sample of a Day's Agenda:

- Morning Prayer
- Breakfast in the Village
- Hike to 1 of 4 Villages
- Pray-Play-Visit in the Village
- Return to Home Base (Camotlan)
- Evening Prayer & Sharing Group
- Free Time

Without a doubt this experience will have a spiritual impact on each participant.... Challenging each to a deeper faith and prayer life. It helps us to evaluate our individual priorities.



A day in the village of Reagui