

El Salvador mission one of love and need



Sr. Clarita Trujillo (above, left) assists a patient at the Eye Care Mission in Perquin, El Salvador. Below, Sr. Clarita helps with translation between patients and volunteers.



By Sr. Clarita Trujillo, OLVM

Last February, I worked at the Eye Care Mission in Perquin, El Salvador, serving as a translator with the surgical team.

We used three rooms in a local clinic. One was used for the operating room where two surgeons, a translator and two nurses worked endless hours. The other two rooms were used by me and the managing nurse. We prepared the patients for surgery and assisted in the after care procedures.

One family member stayed overnight with each patient. They were given dinner and breakfast. The surgeons examined them the day after surgery and we gave them the medication and instructions for care after surgery.

The patients always had interesting personal stories. Many were survivors of the civil war in El Salvador. All of them also share their strong faith which sustains them.

This year, the clinic served 5,549 people, which included 1,039 who received prescription glasses. A total of 3,417 received reading glasses and 28 were fitted with glass eyes. There were 32 major surgeries and 16 minor surgeries.

Of interest to me, there was a plastic surgeon who performed reconstructive surgeries. One particular surgery on a 14-year-old girl took six hours, but will be life-enhancing for her.

All four surgeons who worked at the clinic this year were women, including one who worked for a full week.

All the service performed at the Eye Care Mission is volunteer, and is also performed with much love.

EN ESPAÑOL

Misión a El Salvador clínica de amor y necesidad

La Clínica sirvió en Perquin en Febrero 2009. Fue un gran éxito, La gente es amable pero son pobres. El servicio que se da por los voluntarios es grates y recibida con gran amor por gente. Los que son operados se les presta alojamiento y se da la sena y el almorzó El día siguiente son examinados por los cirujanos y se las da la medicación que deben usar.

Personal stories highlight Center's work

By Sr. Jeanette Halbach, OLVM

Julia Center, a welcoming place for immigrant families, was founded in 1990 by Victory Noll Sisters in the West Town area of Chicago.

The Center offers education and enrichment classes that enable recent new-comers to become productive members of society. Immigrants have endured many hardships and separation from loved ones in order to achieve freedom from oppression and poverty and work for a better life for their families.

Their values, struggles and accomplishments are an inspiration to those who have come to know them.



Las historias comunican el trabajo del centro

El Centro Julia, un lugar que da la bienvenida a familias de inmigrantes, fue fundado en 1990 por las Hermanas de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria en el área West Town de Chicago.

El Centro ofrece clases en educación y enriquecimiento para capacitar a los recién venidos a ser miembros beneficiosos de la sociedad. Los inmigrantes han sobrellevado privaciones y separación de sus seres queridos con el motivo de lograr libertad de opresión y pobreza y para poder trabajar por una vida mejor para sus familias.

Los valores, luchas y logros son una inspiración para los que llegan a conocerlos.

EN ESPAÑOL



Laura (second from left) has been active at Julia Center for the past seven years.

Laura's story

"I was young and very lonely, frightened and homesick. I had no friends and no family except my husband, and baby. I knew that this was a good country where my husband could work and give our children an education and a promising future, but it was very hard for me. Then one day a woman I met said, "Come with me to Julia Center." I was afraid, but I went with her. Now my life has changed. I have friends who have had the same experience that I have had. We support each other. We cry together and laugh together. I am happy."

These are the words of Laura, who, after seven years, is an active participant at Julia Center. She has learned English and is a member of Liderazgo, the Leadership group who plan, implement and evaluate the classes and programs at Julia Center.

Guadalupe's story

Guadalupe, an immigrant from Mexico, is an accomplished seamstress. She has now found a productive avenue for her skills at Julia Center, where she teaches the sewing classes. Under her direction the women learn to make their own patterns and sew clothes for themselves and their families. They model their creations at an annual style show.

Guadalupe is much loved and appreciated by her many students and she, herself, has grown in self-confidence and takes joy in sharing her talents.

Guadalupe (left) gives some sewing instruction during a class at Julia Center.





Lolita (front, center) teaches a class in Mexican folk dancing at Julia Center.

Lolita's story

Preserving the beautiful culture of other countries is one of the goals at Julia Center.

Lolita, an immigrant and accomplished dancer, has found an outlet for her talents as teacher of Mexican folkdance at the Center and is helping us accomplish this goal. She has the ability to inspire her students as they learn the intricate steps and rhythms of the various folkdances.

Lolita is grateful for the opportunity to share her gifts and the artistry of her native country.

Beatriz's story

After 20 long years of waiting to enter the United States, Beatriz has joined her husband here and has become a productive member of the Chicago West Town community.

She is active in the local school system and an enthusiastic participant at Julia Center where she will receive the 2009 Women's Achievement Award for her involvement and accomplishments in the life of her new country.

Beatriz (center), joins with two of her friends at an event at Julia Center. She is an active member of the community in the West Town area of Chicago, and will receive the 2009 Women's Achievement Award from Julia Center.



Center continues to respond to community

By Sr. Maria Luisa Valdez, OLVM

Our vision at the Sister Evelyn Mourey Center is to serve the community, especially the poor; to enhance respect and dignity for all; and to promote excellence in service.

Our Mission Statement calls us to stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed and to respond to their needs. It also commits us to foster justice and take a prophetic stance in church and society. These values are embodied in the Mission Statement of the Sister Evelyn Mourey Center.



Above, volunteers help put together food packages to be delivered to families in need.



Left, two young brothers enjoy the Christmas presents they received from the Volunteers of America.



Left, Sister Evelyn Mourey Center offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, along with classes on citizenship and computer education. These classes provide men and women an opportunity for preparation to obtain better jobs.

El centro continúa responder a la comunidad

Nuestra visión del Centro Sister Evelyn Mourey es servir a la comunidad, especialmente a los pobres; aumentar respeto y dignidad para todos; y promover excelencia en servir.

Nuestra Declaración Misional nos llama a tomar la postura de solidaridad con los pobres y oprimidos y a responder a sus necesidades. También nos dedicamos a promover la justicia y asumir la postura profética y no-institucional en la Iglesia y la sociedad. Estos están encarnadas en la Declaración Misional del Centro Sister Evelyn Mourey.

EN ESPAÑOL

Stimulus funds help provide new programs

The Leadership Team utilized the Economic Stimulus Rebate to provide stimulus for programs developed and or directed by our Sisters in the missions.

One successful program is that of St. Sylvester Religious Education Program in Chicago. Sister Mary Lou Rowney, OLVM, used the money to provide Workshops, Catechist Formation Course, to buy resource books for catechists and to supplement retreat fees.



EN ESPAÑOL

Los fondos federales ayudan proporcionar programas nuevos

El programa del desarrollo educativo religioso de la parroquia de San Silvestre fue promovido por las Hermanas de Victory Noll. Ellas compartieron el rebaja federal con la Hermana Mary Lou, quien lo ha utilizado para el entrenamiento de catequistas.

Above, these catechists, plus several others, have been attending a 48-hour catechist formation certification course at St. Sylvester Religious Education Program in Chicago. It is sponsored by the Office of Catechesis and Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago. They will complete the course in June.



Right, catechists work with a group of confirmation students at the annual Spirit Day Retreat at St. Sylvester in Chicago.

Diverse neighborhoods united by open hearts

By Sr. Teresa Aparicio, OLVM and Alan Bronder, Victory Noll Associate

Casa de las Comunidades, Catholic Worker is a Christian-Based Community where the members are the immigrant families who gather with individual women and men who are bound together in solidarity and committed to be of service to one another and to contribute to the benefit of the communities in which



Sr. Teresa Aparicio translates an Easter homily for the Spanish-speaking families.

we live. With the grace of God, we advance forward with the virtue of hope that energizes us to be agents of transformation who witness the victory of Christ upon the cross.

Casa is located in the neighborhoods of the southeast quadrant of the city of Albuquerque. Collectively, the neighborhoods surrounding Casa are known as “the war zone,” because of the excessive percentage of



Donated appliances are delivered that will be distributed to families in need in the Casa de las Comunidades area.

violent crime.

An organic tension exists because there are a variety of ethnicities that are entwined in this part of the city. Within the neighborhoods live Native Americans, New Mexican Hispanics, Black Americans, Mexicans, Asians, Vietnamese, and Caucasians. The families and individuals of each group focus upon the promotion of their own well being while maintaining their cultural identity.

Casa was established to present a unifying influence among all peoples. All who participate with Casa mature with the belief that God calls us to a mission of service by accompanying one another along the paths of our lives.

Sister Teresa Aparicio, OLVM, Victory Noll Associate

EN ESPAÑOL

Vecindarios diversos unidos por corazones abiertos

Casa es una Comunidad Eclesial de Base. Situada en el Sureste de Albuquerque, NM. Conocida como zona de Guerra por el alto nivel de violencia y pandillas y el bajo nivel económico y educativo. Este es un lugar ideal para vivir la Fe, trabajando con la

firme Esperanza de ser AGENTES TRANSFORMADORES y hacer más visible El Reino de Dios.

Convivimos diferentes culturas: Nuevo Mexicanos, Mexicanos Indios Nativos, Afro-Americanos, Chinos Americanos Etc. pero todos tenemos en común:

pobreza, tragedia y sufrimiento. Vivimos en la inseguridad e inestabilidad; pero también compartimos los regalos de Dios: Amor mutuo, espíritu de compasión, solidaridad en el dolor y el deseo de superación educativo y económico.



Sr. Teresa Aparicio (left) and Alan Bronder bless a house in Albuquerque, N.M.



Bible study is conducted by Sr. Teresa Aparicio in a local park as part of the Casa de las Comunidades ministry.

Federal tax rebate goes to assist Casa's efforts

Casa de las Comunidades is another center that received the Sister's Federal Tax Rebate to further their work. Casa is a sponsored ministry of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.

Alan Bronder, and a dedicated group of immigrant women plan and coordinate the daily activities of the center.

We often gather for community prayer, and at least twice a week we have classes of Bible reflection.

There are opportunities for Adult Faith Formation and in collaboration with the parishes St. Charles Borromeo and Holy Ghost we catechize and prepare the children for their first Sacraments. Celebration of holidays is enhanced by the culture and customs of the people.

We distribute food three times a week with 60 to 75 families served. We are also often able to provide clothing, furniture, books, toys. Periodically, Casa has apartments available for the families for rent.

When people come to share sorrows or joys we open our hearts

and listen. When there is injustice and prejudice we advocate for the rights of families and the rights of the individual.

Workshops are periodically facilitated on personal growth, leadership and nutrition for families.

We assist families with referrals and finding work and we make home visits among the families in the neighborhoods. Classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) are conducted three nights a week.

Children and youth periodically gather for projects including painting murals, planning and developing a garden of flowers and vegetables, hand crafts, and how to care for bees and to properly harvest honey.

These services are possible because of the generous and personal support from many friends.

Thanks to our benefactors who

share with us spiritual and material goods, to our teachers who encourage us to learn English, the men who bring us surplus food available from the supermarkets, and the women and men at Trinity House, the students of the University of New Mexico who come and are role models for the children and youth. We are grateful to various organizations that share their resources with us — the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, our friend of St. Paul Lutheran Church, the attorneys at Y-Law, Enlace Educativo, Somos un Pueblo Unido, No More Deaths.

We are especially indebted to the congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters whose vision and dedication challenges us to respond to the needs of the Church of the new Millennium.



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Diverse neighborhoods united in Albuquerque

Visit our Web site at:
www.olvm.org

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sister Elaine Sullivan turned 100 years old on April 15, 2009. She was born in Lawrence, Kansas, and entered OLVM in 1931.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sister Martin Ksycki's book "The Journey of a Missionary" was completed in April, 2009.

"This book is the story of my life and my response to the call of Jesus, 'Come, Follow Me.' There were many wonderful things that happened in my 60 years of life as a Missionary Sister."

THE JOURNEY OF A MISSIONARY



BY
SISTER MARTIN KSYCKI,
O.L.V.M.