

Across the Bridge

Partners in Benedictine Education - Compañeros en Educación Benedictina

Project Partners

St. Scholastica Monastery; Subiaco Abbey, Academy and Oblates; Sacred Heart Parish, Charleston; Trinity JHS Spanish classes; St. Boniface and Christ the King Catholic Schools



February, 2018



Subiaco
Jazz Band

OPENING DOORS

by Fr. Jerome Kodell



I am excited by the initiative in Guatemala and am glad the Abbey has been able to join the project. I am fortunate to have been able to visit Esquipulas several times over the years, since the monastery there is a member of the same congregation as Subiaco. Padre Hugo is a friend of mine and has shown me his school.

The Sisters of St. Scholastica are doing something very special for the girls in Esquipulas. They are not simply giving them some more options for their lives. Those girls have no options. You saw the statistics on the slides. They are blocked on all sides. What they need is for someone to open a door for them and that is what the Sisters are doing. They have given them the key to open a door so they can walk out to other life possibilities.

The girls are talented and motivated, but they need help. When they get help to open that door, the possibilities are just beginning. You saw that one of them is planning to be an attorney. Think about what a female attorney might do for human rights in Guatemala, especially one who comes from the hopeless situation these girls were born into. Female attorneys are rare in that culture, but female attorneys with the background of these girls are practically non-existent.

The Sisters are doing a wonderful thing. Religious communities in this country have their own problems, and we may too often look to our own needs and not look too far beyond. I am very proud of the Sisters for looking beyond themselves and even to a different country, Guatemala, and to a different culture. They are making a difference. They are opening a door for the young girls of Esquipulas, who otherwise have to stand before a closed door, helpless, with no way to go through into the light. The Sisters are saving lives. They are doing something for us, too. They are offering us a chance to help them open that door for those beautiful young girls.

FIESTA OF SOLIDARITY

by Sister Rosalie Ruesewald



Singing, folkloric dancing, toe-tapping jazz, slideshow, delicious food and great camaraderie made for a delightful fiesta at the Parish Hall of Christ the King, Saturday night, February 3rd. This fundraiser helps sustain our scholarship program for girls in Esquipulas, Guatemala, while also deepening solidarity among communities here. After all, we really are ONE FAMILY IN CHRIST—SOMOS UNA FAMILIA EN CRISTO.

It was a joy to have Fr. Jerome Kodell of Subiaco join us for the fiesta. Please see excerpts of his remarks at left. I read an article in the last issue of Subiaco's ABBEY MESSAGE. It struck me as speaking mightily to our Guatemala scholarship program. Linda Freeman points out how one generation is the LEGEND and the next the LEGACY and how the cycle repeats itself. She's referring to the fathers who attended Subiaco and who now have sons there. I find the parallel with our Guatemala project striking. Might we (Sisters, oblates, former Academy students) be able to see ourselves as the LEGEND and our educated girls in Guatemala as our LEGACY?

Lenten blessings to all! Sister Rosalie



There are strong ties between St. Scholastica Monastery and the Benedictine Abbey in Esquipulas.

A \$40 monthly donation covers a year's tuition at St. Benedict School—and can completely transform one girl's future.

Checks can be written to:

**ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY
1301 S. Albert Pike
Fort Smith, AR 72903**

On memo line, please write:

“Guatemala Scholarships”

Because this program is administered by St. Scholastica Monastery, 100% of your tax-deductible donation goes to scholarships.



Maria Concepción is fourth from left in the first row in this picture of last fall's High School graduation class.



Lorena is proud of her accomplishment.

**EDUCATED GIRLS ARE
THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.
BECOME A PARTNER.**

Fiesta... Oh, What a Night!



SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Christ the King Church
Emcees Bill and Karen
Hollenbeck
La Huerta Restaurant
Las Americas Restaurant
Subiaco Jazz Band
Danza Azteca
Singers from St. Boniface
and Christ the King Schools
And, ALL our
generous donors

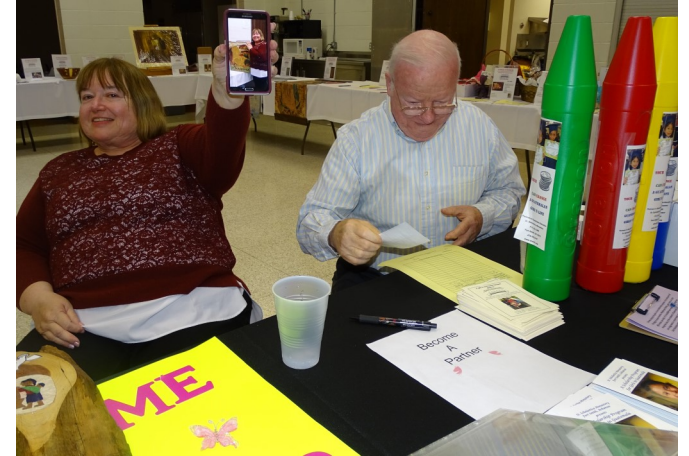




***Somos Una
Familia en
Cristo.***



***“TO EDUCATE IN SOLIDARITY...
MEANS TO EDUCATE OURSELVES IN HUMANITY.” - Pope Francis***



News from our recent graduates:

- Marielos has begun her third year in medical school.
- Maria Concepción and Karla Ileana are working full time and attending the university.
- Kelyn, scholarship winner, has begun her nursing training.



Thank you, friends, for all your support!