



Jesus: The One to Follow

Diocese of Orlando Mission Office  Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana

The Mission Office invites everyone to foster a relationship based on love, faith, trust, hope and respect between the Diocese of Orlando and the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic.

The Mission Office strives to empower the people of our sister diocese and improve their lives while encouraging the members of the Diocese of Orlando to use their time, talent, and treasure to offer a hand up in support of our Dominican family.



Sister's Mercy Shines Bright!
Sister Bernie, Director of the Mission Office, was recognized at The Legacy Gala for Bishop Moore Catholic. The Legacy Award is given to individuals who have made a significant impact in Catholic education. President Thomas Doyle personally thanked Sister for the impact she has also had on the lives of many BMC students. We are grateful for our partnership with BMC and look forward to many more opportunities to work together.



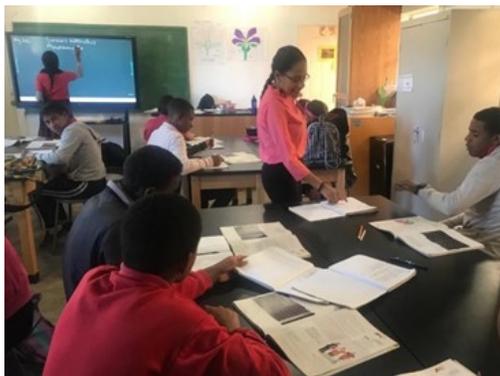
Teens Teach!
Seven seniors from Melbourne Central Catholic and two groups of Bishop Moore Catholic High School students and chaperones spent a week teaching English to Dominican students through outdoor activities, songs, games, art and more.



Graduate Gives Back!
In August 2019, Luis Jose Aybar de los Santos received a Bachelor's Degree from UCF in Civil Engineering. He then returned to his hometown in the Dominican Republic. Under the supervision of Emmett Sapp, he is overseeing two mission projects. The construction of a new aqueduct for the community of Los Montacitos and the long awaited housing project for the community of La Cueva. Finally we have one of our first International Students using their talents to serve the Mission. We are so proud of him and his achievements!



Lucia Delgado and Leilany Pinales are our International graduates this year completing their high school studies at Trinity Catholic in Ocala. They have returned to their homes in the Dominican Republic and at this time taking the university entrance exams there and hoping to qualify for a scholarship.



Thanks to the Ruckstuhl Foundation and the Ursuline Serviam Ministry Fund, the students at our middle school San Maximilian Kolbe can enjoy exciting science learning in their new laboratory.



Yolanda Aybar Delgado received the 2019 NCEA Seton Awards on October 7th. Her parents Bienvenido and Gumercinda, were awarded a US Visa to be present for this great honor. Her US host parents were also there. This award is presented annually to exemplary individuals whose support and service impacts Catholic education and the well-being of our nation's youth. It was truly an unforgettable moment for everyone but especially her parents who for the first time in their lives travelled by air out of their homeland.



Ten teachers from our Diocesan Catholic schools spent a week leading a bilingual workshop for their peers in our Dominican mission schools. The focus for this year is to have bilingual math and science classes.



In September, a group of missionaries spent their days installing a new roof over the hallway at the mission school in Los Frios. When it rained the children would get soaked as this hallway is also their only playground. Now it is really a happy place.



To address educational needs during pandemic related school closures, 3 young mothers in La Cueva, and missionaries from the Orlando Diocese joined together on a new mission: virtual teaching via video chat on WhatsApp for one village's 13 school-age students. Each morning, 4 days a week, the mothers readied the children, and set up chairs in front of a smart phone inside the church. When the "classroom" was ready, they called Orlando kindergarten teacher Gylla Macgregor or Melbourne volunteer Raquel Jimenez to present the lessons to the students. Some mothers learned to construct classroom aids from the village's arts-and-crafts box, thereby developing skills they can use to help their children with homework in the future.



In November 2019, our Surgical Mission once again returned after a 5 year hiatus. The hospital in San Juan de la Maguana was finally transformed into a modern hospital. In those two weeks, previous relationships were rekindled with the hospital staff and the 33 missionaries performed 57 surgeries. It was like returning home after a long sojourn in a foreign land. The welcome back was sincere and heartfelt. It was good to be back. In January, our Medical Mission set off to explore some far away communities close to the Haitian border. All who were in need of medical care showed up as well as those who simply needed assurance that they were healthy. It was a new adventure.

Future Projects for 2020-2021:

- Multi-community water project.
- Multi-purpose court for sports, assemblies, and Recreation thanks to a Japanese grant.
- Houses for the remote community of La Cueva.

In what ways can you live the Gospel message of Jesus in serving the people of God in the Dominican Republic?

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

- Donate online: <https://www.cfocf.org/mission-office/>
- Scan the QR code to donate from your smart phone.
- Send a check to "Diocese of Orlando Mission Office".
PO Box 1800, Orlando, FL 32802
(Or use envelopes provided at your parish)
- Participate in donation drives at your parish and/or school throughout the year.

VOLUNTEER

Join our mission and walk with us as we experience Christ in the communities we serve in our sister diocese or volunteer in our Mission Office in Orlando.

2019 by the numbers: Thanks to you

- 1100 jars of peanut butter were collected.
- 640 tennis shoes were donated.
- 5 Dominican students graduated from U.S. catholic schools and U.S. universities.
- 149 construction, educational, pastoral, medical missionaries and local volunteers gave 9,416 hours of their time.

How your donation helps:

- \$25 a month gives families clean water.
- \$35 a month puts a child in school.
- \$150 a month provides breakfast, lunch and dinner for a growing teenage in our Residence Program.
- \$750 sends a volunteer on an education, construction, or medical mission. This covers lodging, food, insurance, and ground transportation in the DR.



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