



Ixim

Spirit of Solidarity

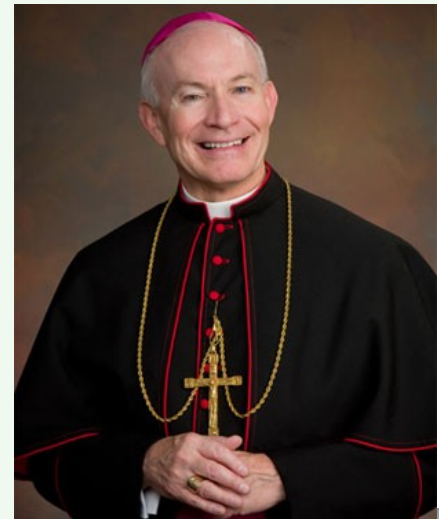
A ministry of solidarity between the Catholic dioceses of Omaha, Nebraska and Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Sharing Ixim Mission with our Archbishop

November 2010 the Omaha Leadership Team met with Archbishop Lucas to present to him our achievements and hopes for the future. We shared that Ixim: Spirit of Solidarity is a transnational ministry that fosters mutually enriching Christian relationships between the people of Nebraska and Guatemala through sharing of our humanity, faith and resources. Ixim Omaha is growing as people participate in mission trips to Guatemala. When they return they want to continue to work with and for their brothers and sisters who currently live in Guatemala and those who currently live in Omaha. Ixim strategic initiatives include:

- Recruitment and Mission Trip Formation**
- Development Projects in Huehuetenango**
- Communication with Huehuetenango**
- Fundraising**
- Social and Cross-Cultural Activities**
- Spirituality**
- Retention of Missionaries**
- Pixan Ixim**
- Alliances**
- Advocacy and Human Rights**

The Archbishop seemed touched by the personal stories and very impressed by what we have achieved in such few years. He pledged to continue the \$5,000 support per year that Archbishop Curtiss had committed to.



2010 Mission Trips

The first trip (Ixim Trip 8) this year went in January to Santa Eulalia. Santa Eulalia is a chilly mountain village that is the home of many Omaha Guatemalans. The group was able to do a medical clinic, school visit and had many cultural sharing experiences. Bill Schumacher was able to do a couple hours of accounting training with the interpreting of Christine Baldwin.

Trip 9 visited the parish of Aguacatan. It is the 1st satellite site for the Disciples of the Good Shepherd. Sister Cristina is the principal of the school and Sr. Alejandra works in social/pastoral ministry with a team of lay leaders. They do retreats, sacramental preparation, home visits and so much more. They call Sr. Alejandra a "spinning top" for all the work she does.



"The Ixim trip opened my eyes to a world I didn't know existed and to a loving people who show great faith as they live their harsh realities. I heard a call to do more and be more as I work for justice. I found a peace of soul that came with meeting Christ in each of the lined and weathered faces. The trip truly was a life-changer."

-Pat Beckmann Trip 9, St. Vincent de Paul Parish



Partnership with Local Guatemalans: Pixan Ixim

The local Guatemalan Mayan organization has had a busy year. Hosting the USCCB Pastoral Maya Conference for the 2nd time, this national ministry to migrant Guatemalans is now housed under the USCCB's office of ministry to Native peoples.

Adult Education continues to have a large presence, with more than 90 students enrolling and coming to classes this fall, it is an important program. We would like to thank Pat Beckmann, Bill Schumacher, Mary Kay Meagher, Maggie Berigan, Mark Zimmer, David Flynn, John Parr, John and Janet Stone, Hector Siordia, Cheryl Swanson, and Creighton Students for their support with teaching and childcare.

Pixan Ixim was blessed by Archbishop Lucas' visit this fall. They will continue to celebrate saint and festival days throughout the year, sharing with Ixim members and local Omahans.

We hope to see you at a Las Posadas night and at our New Year's Day Dance at St. Francis of Assisi Jan 1 at 7 pm. Check out our new website pixanixim.org!



Medical

Development Projects

Each mission trip includes a medical clinic component, a fluoride varnish component for school children and ongoing conversations to strengthen the diocesan infrastructure. Huehuetenango inherited a health promoter system from Maryknoll Missioners, but maintaining training is expensive. The largest diocesan health program is a medicine dispensary. While we wait for a response from Bishop Bobadilla and the Parish Council in Santa Eulalia regarding staffing the clinic, we have found one small yet vital way to move forward. Just this year several women have died in childbirth in Santa Eulalia due to lack of prenatal care and lack of money to travel to a hospital to deliver their babies. Ixim and Pixan Ixim have worked together with an oncology group whose donation of \$7,000 allowed us to raise the remaining amount and send a new ultrasound machine to Santa Eulalia next summer. The ultrasound machine is portable, about the size of a bowling ball bag and about as heavy. It can be delivered to Guatemala as a carry-on suitcase. It has a screen about the size of a small laptop. It is very durable, built for combat duty.



Education Development Projects

Classroom Missionary Program Expands! By Stephanie Spiegel

2010 was a year of expansion for the Classroom Missionaries Program, the major project of the Ixim Education Committee. The Classroom Missionaries Program pairs schools of the Omaha Archdiocese with schools in the Huehuetenango Diocese. Three existing partnerships were joined this fall by three NEW relationships! Existing partnerships who renewed their commitments this fall include St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha and Santa María de la Acunción in Colotenango, St. Columbkille in Papillion and Santa Eulalia School in Santa Eulalia, and St. Vincent de Paul in Omaha and San Ildefonso in Ixtahuacán. For three years thus far, these schools have been sharing correspondence, prayers for one another, and funds (directed to the Guatemala schools). Now joining the line up of linked schools are Skutt Catholic High School and Diana Ortiz of San Miguel Acatán, St. Wenceslaus and Aguacatán School in Aguacatán, and St. Thomas More, joining with St. Vincent de Paul to support one of Huehue's most impoverished schools, San Ildefonso. Throughout the year, the schools pray for one another and for a specific cause each month on the second Monday.

Participating schools also exchange correspondence three times a year, sending their care packages via missionaries or a courier service. (Regular mail service is highly unreliable in Guatemala.) The notes and crafts lovingly created by the children in each school celebrate Children's Day in October (a big Guatemalan festival), St. Valentine's Day in February (an American feast of love), and Easter (religiously important to both cultures) in the Spring. In 2011, please pray for the success of the Classroom Missionaries program, for the schools' petitions, and especially for the newly-formed partnerships between the schools of two nations. Thank you!



Water Development Projects



By: Terry Wood The four Living Waters for the World (LWW) Ixim installed water purification plants in Huehue continue to produce purified water. Three of the plants are producing 50 five-gallon bottles per week which puts them well on their way to being self-sustainable. Production at the plant in San Pedro Necta remains sluggish but the Huehue team has plans for promoting LWW water and we remain optimistic that production will increase. The Guatemalan Health Department is now regularly testing and certifying that all plants are producing purified water fit for human consumption.



During last summer's mission trip Ixim kicked off a new water project. Under the direction of Dr. Gary Michels, Chemistry professor at Creighton University, Ixim has installed 30 household water filters. Dr. Michels has installed thousands of household filters in the Dominican Republic in his work with Creighton's ILAC program. The household filters provide drinking water for those who live in isolated areas. The household water filters are simple, affordable, family-based, gravity purification systems that are constructed from two 5-gallon buckets, a ceramic filter element, and a spigot (see photo). Dr. Michels and Ixim Communication Coordinator Maggie Berigan returned to Huehue in November to evaluate the use and care of the installed filters. The results of the pilot evaluation are favorable and plans are being made to extend the pilot. The Huehue and Omaha leadership teams will discuss the processes and the criteria for installing additional household water filters. Look for more news in 2011.



Promotion of Women: Disciples of the Good Shepherd

The first 3 women, Cristina, Alejandra and Nora loudly said "Here I am Lord Jesus" the 4th Sunday of Easter May 3, 2009. This day was chosen as it is the feast day of the Good Shepherd, the patron of their community. Their lifetime commitment to serve the rural, poor and marginalized will work against current injustices, including structural discrimination against women, especially women from rural and indigenous backgrounds. Their commitment of themselves in this way gives hope to women everywhere and the parishes they



LORI, LUCIA, ANN AND KRIS AT THE DISCIPLES RECEPTION. BELOW, NEW HOME IN CONSTRUCTION



may service in the future in particular. They are choosing to serve in parishes most in need, using their talents of many languages, great education, and community support. There are 17 other women in formation now, each sponsored by the Huehuetenango Diocese and an Ixim "Godparent." Ixim has helped to sponsor them in their education as well as with the cost of constructing a new residence. A young woman interested in becoming a disciple must go to 2 or 3 discernment weekends, talk with Sr Nora and Sr Cristina and be at least 17 years old. Please contact Ann Lavin (ALavin21@aol.com) if you are interested in sponsoring a disciple. Keep the disciples in prayer this advent as they are out in parishes throughout the diocese doing their ministry practicum.

How is your Mayan?

According to Wikipedia, there are over 6 million indigenous Mayan people living in Mexico, Belize and Guatemala. Twenty-one distinct languages are recognized in Guatemala, and Mexico recognizes 8 more. In the diocese of Huehuetenango, there are many Mayan communities, each speaking their own language. All but one of the Disciples are from Mayan communities and speak one of these 21 languages. Spanish is taught in school. During a visit to a parochial school, Ixtahuacan, the progression from bilingual education to Spanish-only education is seen. While Spanish is the language of business and higher education, the Disciples maintain their Mayan culture which includes their language. This knowledge of culture and language will help them be better teachers and pastoral ministers when they graduate and return to their communities. Catarina and Alejandra are 2 Mam speaking Disciples who took the time to write a few quick phrases:

- **Tzán táya** (Cómo estas= How are you?)
- **Qína** (Adios= Goodbye)
- **Ti tbiya** (Cómo te llamas= What is your name?)
- **Len** (Buenos días=Good morning)
- **Ban tul lena** (Bienvenida=Welcome)
- **Tqil qib** (Nos vemos= See you soon)
- **B'ix til tib'a** (Se cuida= Take care)
- **Qman tukila** (Dios con usted= God be with you)



Please contact us!

Maggie Berigan
Is the new Ixim Planning and Communications Coordinator. She went to Huehuetenango this fall for training. We are glad to have Maggie aboard.
402-415-8903
iximero@gmail.com

If you wish to donate:

Please send donations to:
Ixim
c/o St. Columbkille parish
200 East 6th Street
Papillion, Nebraska 68046

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.IXIM.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

Las Posadas: Each night in a different Pixan Ixim or Ixim home, celebrate the search of the holy family for shelter each of the 9 nights before Christmas.

Spirits and Solidarity: Watch for our upcoming date for this opportunity to share with other Iximeros, strategize for the upcoming year and renew your commitment to Ixim.



IXIM: pronounced "ee-sheem" is the Mayan word for corn, a staple of Guatemala and a livelihood of Nebraska. This represents the common goal of forming relationships between the people of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska, and the

Diocese of Huehuetenango, Guatemala.



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