

## THE HISTORY OF MEXICO MISSION

From 1990-2001, Mrs. Stanley took 50-75 students to Mexico on mission work each spring break in her parish ministry. She formed a relationship with two nuns, Sr. Alicia Rivera and Sr. Sue Dunning; both sisters of Saint Joseph who had experience in mission work all their lives. The initial work and connection happened in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico.

Sr. Sue and Sr. Alicia are now working in Tijuana in another mission helping the poor, providing faith experiences, catechesis, and formation to communities and barrios that would not otherwise have it.

In 2006, the campus minister of NDP, Sr. Yolanda Mendoza, asked if there was a way to offer inexpensive mission trips to students of our community. After Mrs. Stanley contacted the nuns in Tijuana, Sr. Yolanda and Mrs. Stanley made an investigational fact finding trip down over the summer, the connection began again. We went on our first "Hands Across the Border" mission trip sponsored by NDP during spring break 2007.

The Mission de San Jose has a dorm that is two stories high. We are housed in that space, girls in one room, boys in another, and adults in their own quarters. There are 2 showers, 2 toilets, running water, a kitchen, a picnic area for meals, a church, and a convent on the property. It is gated and locked all the time. There is a hall where activities are held and a church on the property as well.

The sisters expressed a need for us to work on the church in our first mission trip. We refinished church pews that were donated to the church. They had need of crafts and games with the local children as part of a retreat day for families preparing for sacraments. We had a volleyball game with the local youth group and a cookout as well. We walked to the local Mercado and shopped some and experienced the culture as well as served in ministry. We made friends. We practiced out Spanish. We got a glimpse of what third world conditions are. This year, we may be painting, cleaning, refinishing, offering after school activities for the children, and for certain, socializing with the church community. We wait to decide on the work we do as to the needs the nuns may have shortly before we go. So I cannot let you know before then. I found out a long time ago that to presume you know the needs of a community is a big mistake. We let the spirit provide the needs and we respond.

Meals are prepared by Mrs. Stanley's husband, Bill, who has done all the cooking each year of her previous missions. He is considerate of special diets, vegetarian needs, and uses purified water to drink, cook with, and clean with. He is seasoned in this ministry. We will have three meals a day and provide for snacks and things as needed. We may eat at a local restaurant (in the barrio) once or twice and the business is well prepared to serve us 'gringos' with what we need in order not to get sick. It was one of the highlights of our trip. We would provide for anyone who may be skeptical of eating there if they really didn't want to.

I hope this answers your questions. Our information night required for all attendees and one parent is January 10 at 7 PM in Mrs. Stanley's room, 706.