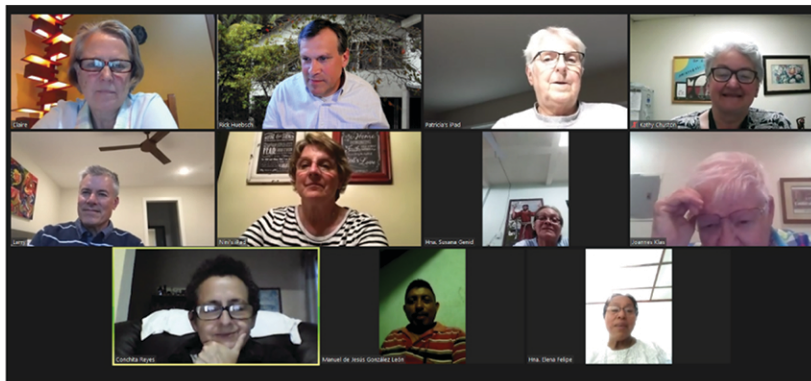


Sister Parish

Growing in Relationships
San Jose el Tesoro, Yalpemech, Guatemala



Sister Parish Zoom Call | 3-15-2022 Top row: Claire Zajac, Rick Huebsch, Patty Jehring, Sister Kathy Chuston – SSSF Milwaukee Middle row: Larry Mitchell, Nini Milbrath, Sister Suzie – Yalpemech, Sister Jo – SSSF El Paso Bottom row: Dr. Conchita, Diocese of Coban, Guatemala, Manuel – Yalpemech, Sister Elena – Yalpemech

Francis (SSSF) in Milwaukee has been strengthened as Sister Kathy Chuston (Office of Mission Advancement) joins us each month as well. On a couple of occasions, we have even included several members of the Guatemalan team on our Zoom calls.

The COVID-19 pandemic has isolated the remote village of Yalpemech over the past couple of years, as travel restrictions have been in place for much of Guatemala. In general, the stage of the pandemic in Guatemala and much of Central America trails the U.S. and Europe, so the return to normalcy is also lagging. The local school and day care center have continued in a much-reduced fashion, while Mass and services at the San Jose Parish were also idled down over much of 2020 and 2021, and have since returned to a close to normal stage in the first half of 2022. The health clinic remains open under the supervision of Sister Suzie, and currently four Saint Patrick parishioners sponsor the clinic director with monthly payments.

One of the key shortcomings of no trips to the Sister Parish in 2021 and now 2022 is the delivery of medicines, vitamins, and medical supplies for the village health clinic. We have recently been able to work through a medical doctor in the Coban diocese (Dr. Conchita) to purchase supplies for Sister Suzie in the village clinic – so far this has been an experiment in terms of getting both the money transferred and the medicines and vitamins purchased in country, but it looks promising. We continue to look for ways to keep projects going when we are not able to bring/purchase supplies for the projects.

One element of our relationship that has not been limited by mission trips is our Student Sponsorship program, which has been going strong for the past decade. Depending on the number of students needing sponsorship, anywhere from 20 to 30 parishioners from Saint Patrick participate in this program by being matched with a student to sponsor. Donors pay approximately \$1/day, which covers half of the tuition for what is equivalent to a secondary education program – the other half is covered by the student and their families. Other Sister Parish scholarships also support the medical clinic director and English teachers.

In closing, we want to express our gratitude for all who financially support our Sister Parish in Guatemala. Through quarterly collections (March/June/September/December), Saint Patrick parishioners help provide over \$10,000 in annual funding for Parish operations, for a church and convent employee, and for operation of a daycare - including nutrition. Thank you to all who have supported our Sister Parish financially and in prayer over the past years; we look forward to your support in 2022.

Like many other activities over the past two-plus years, our connection to our Sister Parish of San Jose el Tesoro in Yalpemech, Guatemala has changed as well! After having two mission trips completed early in February of 2020, our third trip scheduled for March 2020 was halted - literally the night before it was set to depart, and no trips have occurred since.

From a communication standpoint, the pandemic was something of a blessing in disguise, as our monthly Sister Parish Committee meetings have gone virtual via Zoom. Every month, we get a chance to “see” our beloved Sister Jo, live from her computer screen in El Paso, where she serves as part of Casa Alexia. In addition, our connection with the School Sisters of St.



To learn more about our Sister Parish go to: stpatrickofhudson.org/sister-parish