

A summary of the update from Father Libardo, Pastor of Saint Wenceslaus in Bogota, Colombia—Saint Patrick Catholic Church's Sister Parish. Father Libardo shared the update with the Sister Parish Committee in early December 2015.

Father Libardo Valencia Hincapie shared that it is a very special pleasure to count on the love, the appreciation and the mutual sharing of our spiritual parish activities.

Lifting each other up in prayer

He and the parishioners of Saint Wenceslaus always have St. Patrick in their prayers, especially during Holy Mass. They pray for all of the intentions and needs of the families of the Sister Parish committee, for Father Seamus, the three Jesuit priests and for the members of the Sister Parish and the St. Patrick community.

Mission trips are a blessing

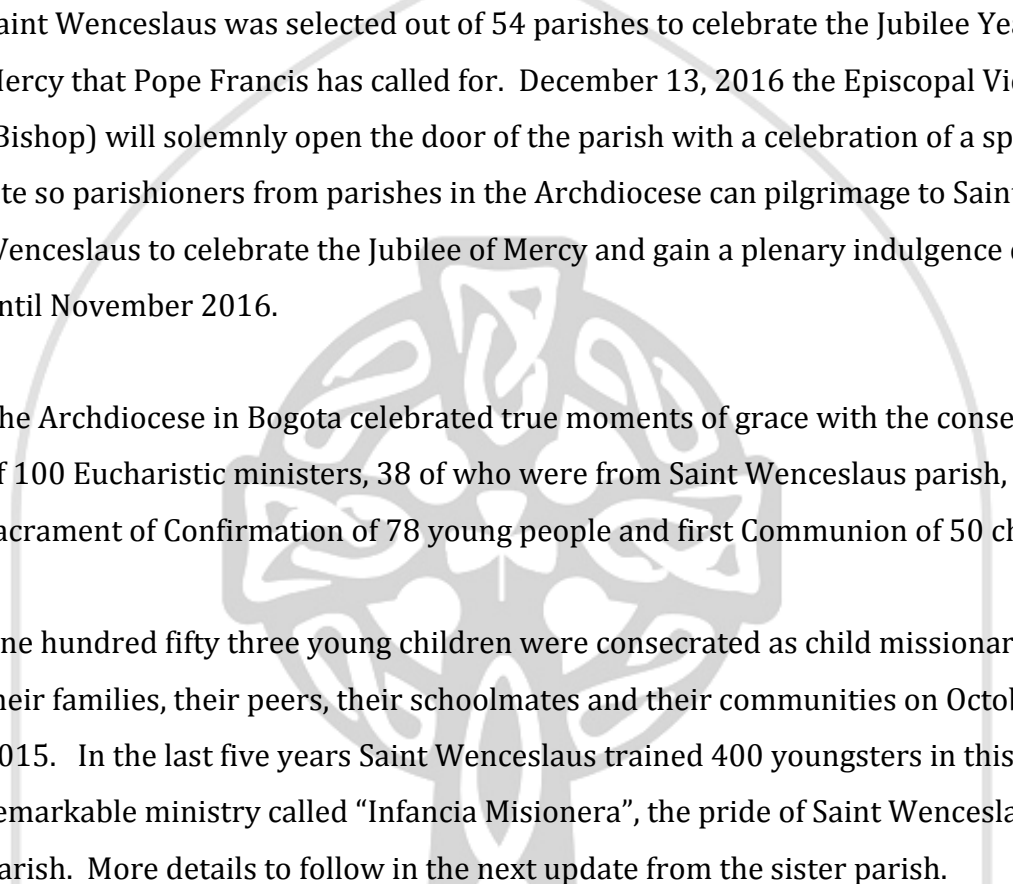
The trip made by four St. Patrick parishioners to Bogota in January 2015 was very emotional and significant for the Saint. Wenceslaus community. Father Libardo sees the visit to Bogota and his trip to Tacoma in previous years as a blessing from God for our sister parishes. They were unforgettable experiences for those intimately involved and for parish communities too.

Welcoming new Sister Parish Committee members

Six new members will join the Saint Wenceslaus Sister Parish Committee in 2016. The two parishioners who accompanied Father Libardo to Tacoma will continue to serve on the committee. Details on the new members will follow in the next update from Father Libardo.

The Holy Spirit at work

Father Libardo noted three significant happenings that occurred in conjunction with the Feast of Saint Wenceslaus, which is celebrated on September 28.

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- Saint Wenceslaus was selected out of 54 parishes to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has called for. December 13, 2016 the Episcopal Vicar (Bishop) will solemnly open the door of the parish with a celebration of a special rite so parishioners from parishes in the Archdiocese can pilgrimage to Saint Wenceslaus to celebrate the Jubilee of Mercy and gain a plenary indulgence during until November 2016.
 - The Archdiocese in Bogota celebrated true moments of grace with the consecration of 100 Eucharistic ministers, 38 of who were from Saint Wenceslaus parish, the sacrament of Confirmation of 78 young people and first Communion of 50 children.
 - One hundred fifty three young children were consecrated as child missionaries to their families, their peers, their schoolmates and their communities on October 18, 2015. In the last five years Saint Wenceslaus trained 400 youngsters in this remarkable ministry called “Infancia Misionera”, the pride of Saint Wenceslaus Parish. More details to follow in the next update from the sister parish.

A prayer community

Father Libardo appreciates the invitation to visit the St. Patrick community again and he is looking into the possibility. Until then the Saint Wenceslaus community celebrated Mass with St. Patrick in spirit during the morning Mass on Thanksgiving and the Sister Parish committees of both parishes will be celebrating a Christmas Novena via Skype on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. at the home of Tacoma committee members Harold and Florence Bucholz.