

Daily Journal

Jim O'Neill

Parish delegates traveled to San Wenceslaus, our sister parish in Bogota, Colombia. Each delegate kept a daily journal about their experiences, their ideas and thoughts about future trips.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA/SAINT WENCESLAUS PARISH/CASFA (SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISSI ANNEX SCHOOL)

On Tuesday, January 27th a delegation from Saint Patrick's Parish consisting of Deacon Bill Eckert, Doctor Jim Rooks, Enrique Llanas and Jim O'Neill visited our sister parish, Saint Wenceslaus, and CASFA, a private school for students of limited means. Our hosts were Fr. Libardo, Patricia and Stella from the parish and Sister Valerie who is in charge of CASFA. Our parish and Saint Wenceslaus are sister parishes and we share information and support for our mutual ministries and spiritual activities. We also pay for some of the tuition for poor students.

We met with all of the ministry groups and one member of each group explained their purpose and activities. We were shown the improvements made at the rectory and the church and the addition of a new chapel, which is open daily for adoration of the Holy Eucharist. We participated in all five of the Masses on the weekend. Deacon Bill assisted Fr. Libardo, delivered the homily, distributed communion and participated in the Baptisms at the end of Mass. We all participated in the sign of peace, sang "Digo Si, Senor" after communion and presented a painting of the Good Shepherd, the Prodigal Son and the Sower as a gift to the parish. We gave every member a card with a picture of St. Patrick Church on one side and the Irish prayer on the other.

We were introduced to four new prospective members of their sister parish committee, each representing one of their ministries who hope to visit our parish along with Fr. Libardo during the coming month of October. We visited the Vicar of that part of the

Diocese of Bogota. He was very pleased with our sister parish program and was most appreciative of our visit to Saint Wenceslaus and Bogota.

The delegation returned home on February 3rd with great hope and expectations of strengthening our relationship. We have set four goals for the future:

1. Recruit more members to our sister parish committee, especially individuals who are involved in one or more of our church ministries and would be willing to share them with Saint Wenceslaus Parish.
2. Organize a fall trip and program for Fr. Libardo and the new members of their sister parish committee.
3. Encourage our new parish priest to accompany another delegation of new members to visit Saints Wenceslaus and CASFA.
4. Recruit more parishioners to sponsor poor students at CASFA (\$25 to \$50 per month).