

Daily Journal

Enrique Llanas

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.

I would say my fondest memory was our encounter with the elderly people from the mountain or 'la loma'. These are the elderly folks who are bussed down to the Santa Pasha school from the barrio at la loma. The idea is to give them some basic medical attention at the clinic at Santa Pasha, or at least to do some 'socializing'. I believe this happens every Wednesday, and they usually gather at the school's gym for some Bingo and refreshments.

Our mission that morning was to hand out to these people the prayer shawls we had brought from St Patrick's. As the four of us (Dr. Rooks, Deacon Bill, Jim O'Neal and myself) are walking across the gym floor and approach these people seated at tables, and as these people's faces come into focus--my first impression is, "what somber, resigned expressions these people are wearing!" Are we intruding and what must they be thinking of us! But then we smile and extend our hand and we tell them we have presents from the people at St Patrick, but there may not be enough to go around. Their faces suddenly light up and they don't want a simple handshake these people want to hug us and give us that kiss on the cheek. I melt, they melt and we all become one. We run out of prayer shawls, but the kissing and hugging doesn't stop. Some of the ladies propose to me. I tell them I'm married. They laugh and they say it doesn't matter. They all surround us and want to have their picture taken with us. We are all having such a great time, and then it dawns on me how God works. He truly loves us through each other.