

Join Our Dream — You Can Make It Come True

By Ann Marie Zon

We say it is a dream.

But dreams do come true. Proof is that our plans for building an educational complex to be known as Christ the King are already taking shape. The complex will be located on the outer fringes of Managua on the Northern Highway.

Although it may sound like a dream, the reality is that it has already turned into a plan.

We have purchased 14 acres and are presently negotiating for another 13 which will give us 27 acres to build four distinct sectors: elementary, middle school, high school and a trade school.

Plans also include a sports field, an office area, a chapel, and a covered open section for group gatherings.

Some of the land will be set aside for planting fruit and shade trees while other tracts will be used for planting crops.

Both these projects will be done with the older students, teaching them the proper ways to use the soil for their own advantage in areas where they live. In addition, this work will hopefully awaken in them the dire need for reforestation and their part in it.

Plans are already being drawn up for the placements of the four levels of learning. The plan leaves enough acres to add classroom buildings in each sector as enrollment increases, necessitating more space.

Of course, the plans are now initial renderings which will no doubt be studied, debated and re-designed before actual construction begins — **but begin it will!**

The first item on the list for such an exciting and needed project was to be sure of having the personnel to staff a school.

Fr. Alfonso went first to Sister Marta, director of the Sisters of Cristo Rey. When she learned of the projected complex, saw the land where it will be built and, realizing the need for schooling in that area of the country, she readily committed her Order to help.

To say it is a HUGE undertaking is an understatement. However, it is dream we truly and thoroughly believe in.

It is another project we are asking YOU to be a part of, to see it through and to again make a difference in the lives of many others.

This project will insure an education needed by every child, an opportunity that, unfortunately not every child is able to have.

Nicaragua Mission Project Continues to Battle Through Bans

Even though there continues to be a ban on any humanitarian groups sending supplies to those in need in Nicaragua, help from the our Nicaragua Mission Project continues to do its part.

The government's continued attempt to stop help from many sources, does not mean that we have put a halt on the projects that people not only need but look to us for what we can do for them.

And as best as we are able, we are meeting these needs.

- * Children still need to be in school in every level.
- * Milk that a healthy young milk cow provides is crucial as well as that cow's birthing her calves that will continue to supply milk for years.
- * Pigs that are a means of income are being bred and needed (and, besides that they are really cute to watch !)



Others needing a helping hand, advice or some resolution to a problem feel comfortable coming to Fr. Alfonso.

Presently, he is doing what he can to help Fr. Gabriel who is now in the area of Salinas where he has 22 mission settlements to care for.

The primary problem is that the vehicle that was left for his use is in such poor condition that it is not worth putting money into for repairs leaving Fr. Gabriel without a vehicle to attend those who are in his charge.

Plans are under way to get Fr. Gabriel, not necessarily a new vehicle as they are scarce, but at least one that will get him safely to his people who live in regions that are difficult to reach.

Fr. Marcial, who is now Bishop of Juigalpa, and a very dear, close friend of ours, has recently received an offer to the Diocese of a Home for the Elderly. It is owned by a private group that can no longer maintain it.

Battle - Continued on Page 2

- Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Send to Nicaragua Mission Project, 10100 Transit Road, East Amherst, NY 14051.
- If you know someone who would like to receive a copy of "LA VIA," email info@projectnica.com and a copy of "LA VIA" will be sent or e-mailed to them.

More of the Same:

Ortega wins again in Nicaraguan elections, OAS members condemn elections

November 7 was Election Day in Nicaragua — elections clouded in oppression, repression, and fraud.

Throughout the months leading up to the November date, as many as 38 political leaders - voices of the people - were jailed along with eight others who wanted to be considered candidates.

Others were put under house arrest, accused of money laundering and treason among other baseless crimes.

When members of the Organization of American States (OAS) and other foreign agencies made plans to come and monitor the elections, they were “advised” not to even try and would not be allowed into the country.

With no viable opposition, the unopposed dictator and his vice president wife were



easily “elected”. The results were said to be a landslide vote when not even a large majority of the citizens even thought, nor attempted to vote.

Following the blatant fraudulent “victory” many European countries, the United States,

Canada, the core of the members of the United Nations, all rejected the election results and have decided not to recognize the ruling dictator’s dynasty.

Also, economic sanctions have been set against the Ortegas, members of their family, as well as inside supporters and leading heads of state behind the regime.

Although demands have been made to free the political prisoners, until now, they have gone unheeded.

However, that is not to say that the ruling family is not without supporters: people in Nicaragua itself and countries including Cuba, Venezuela, and Russia are among those supporting the regime.

In the meantime, the country continues to buckle under oppressive rules, suppressed freedoms, and lack of basic rights.

BATTLE - From Page 1

The Home has 55 residents and quite a bit of acreage that should be and needs to be cultivated.

Fr. Alfonso and Don Enoc, our trusted ranch manager and go-to person, have many combined years of experience in planting crops and raising animals. They will work with the personnel at the Home to plant crops that will be used not only to feed the residents but also to sell to provide funds for maintenance.

It is really due to the generosity of the people at home that allows us to reach out, to say “yes” and to be able to meet the needs of those who come to us.

We truly cannot say Thank You often enough, loudly enough, nor sincerely enough to those who continue to trust in our work and are faithful in their donations. You have absolutely no idea of how much good you allow to happen in the lives of

Blockade Forces Newspapers to End Publication

In mid October, the newspapers of Nuevo Diario and La Prensa had to print their last editions. They both have served the country for 35 to 90 years respectively bringing readers the news of the country and the news of happenings worldwide as well. They were each all encompassing, presenting sports reports, comics, business news, even want ads. Each was a well rounded media source for the many, Nicaraguans who relied on them to keep them aware of the news of the day.

The newspaper offices were closed because the imported containers of their supplies, paper, ink and machine parts were not allowed to be released let alone received.

It is a sad time in the history of Nicaragua to see such institutions of service being cut down for no viable reason Just the reason of those in control.

China gains a foothold in Nicaragua

Besides making its presence a major factor in Panama, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic, with Honduras not far behind, China has now set up an embassy in Nicaragua after that government broke years-long alliance with Taiwan. China now has a strong foothold in areas anxious to receive their investments, products and assistance.

Before leaving the country, Taiwan intended to make a donation of its land, buildings and holdings to the Catholic Church in Managua. The Nicaraguan government decided not to make that possible and gave all of Taiwan’s goods to China. The Chinese agents in Nicaragua gladly received the gifts and quickly set up operations as a leading influence in yet another Central American country.

Your Email Address Will Cut Costs, Add to Project Funds

Every newsletter sent by email saves more than a dollar in printing and mailing costs, particularly valuable when it comes to “La Via.”

We thank the many readers who answered our invitation to send us their email addresses.

We invite you to join them in doing so.

Email addresses are kept confidential for the exclusive use for the newsletter.

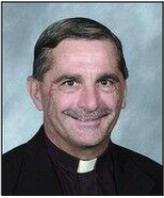
Please help by sending your email address to info@projectnica.com

In the subject line, mention “Nicaragua email.”

The savings translate into more funds for the poor in Nicaragua and an opportunity for you to forward the newsletter to others.

Our Hearts Ache As We Pray for Our Deceased Friends

In the past months Our Lord has called four of our wonderful supporters and faithful workers to the reward they so rightly deserve.



Father Michael Uebler, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Tonawanda succumbed to the cancer he suffered through with patience and a trusting acceptance. In his life, Fr. Mike encouraged his “flock” to not only share for the sake of Nicaragua’s poor but he was with them as they loaded their offerings into the trucks. He was always there – hands on – even to the transfer of used school and office furnishings.

Fr. Mike loved his parishioners: his school children, the young teens, and showed them special attention and concern as he did to those he came to know so personally. God’s nature was a gift to him - the earth: expressed in his yearly summer backyard extensive garden from which he garnered vegetables which he shared in his home cooked meals. His golfing and boating expeditions truly expressed his appreciation of the open air, the vast sea. He was a man for all who enjoyed His God given life, thanking Him for it in his quiet, humble service. We were blessed to have had him with us.



Father Walter Matuszak passed away in his retirement from his years of priestly care. While pastor of Resurrection parish he not only welcomed the projects of Nicaragua but was one of the first pastors to invite his charges to share their goods and their funds for the sake of the missions. For years he opened the Church doors to us and was more than sincere in his support.

Father Walter was a soft-spoken man with a sense of humor that delighted many. His unassuming way opened others to trust in his advice and direction while his attention to others endeared him. He shared the joy of being with others as he played his accordion at gatherings, celebrations, and parties. He was unselfish in giving himself to serve, his talents to delight, his treasures to share. Another blessing in our lives.



John Gatti – fondly called the Coach – was part of our packing crew, working with us as long as he was physically capable. He too had a subtle sense of humor and shared that along with his practical, down to earth look at life.

“The Coach” was an inspiration to hundreds of young boys under his direction as members of his football teams in the various area high schools. On hearing of his passing, countless remembrances were sent of his positive influence, his fatherly manner, his wise advice, and his personal interest in each individual in his care. Mr. Gatti and his wife Ann have been far more than generous in their faithful financial support for a cause they so believed in.



Mrs. Carole Saturnino joined the Lord she so truly honored through her life of serving others in a most unselfish way. Carole was a part of our “kitchen crew” for more years than we can count. She began helping to prepare meals and stayed on to become someone we could depend on to see that the meals, were served to our workers who were packing boxes and loading the containers.

Every Tuesday she was there to see that the food was ready, hot, and laid out in a way that invited everyone to dig in. Carole was sure to see that any leftovers were packed up and shared with anyone who wanted a “doggie bag” to take home for another meal.

Carole was not only a helper - she was a real friend. Her visit to Nicaragua was a highlight for her and for us – we had a fun-filled, wonderful time and she was deeply moved by all she saw and with whomever she met. On returning, she quickly shared her experience with her family who generously got on her band wagon to do what they could for milk cows and any ongoing project.

These special persons in our lives we will truly miss but we know each of them enjoy the glorious life they’ve earned. We will kindly remember those of us still doing a work that they were so much a part of. May God’s eternal joy be theirs.

Journey of Hope Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation enacted under the Section 402 of the not-for-profit corporation law.

Its mission is to solicit and procure funding through donations, loans and grants for the promotion and support of indigent people, especially in Central America.

The Foundation at this time is looking toward helping the needy of **Nicaragua**. With the recent completion of the buildings at the Sinai Center, funding has returned to helping fund the 42 18-wheel containers that Ann Marie Zon sends each year. The more people learn of the hopes for the future of Nicaraguan poor, the more that future can be made brighter.

If you would like to help support the Foundation and its mission, go online to www.journeyofhopefoundation.org or send your donation with the form to the right, to: Journey of Hope Foundation, 200 River Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 or call 716-874-4074.



YES! I want to do my part to continue the work of the Nicaragua Mission Project.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift. Make checks payable to: **Journey of Hope Foun-**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Amount enclosed _____

Your 'Gift Candle' Lights Lives

Have you even noticed when watching a television drama, especially an English show or a TV show with a Catholic church, that no matter what time of day it is, all the candles on the main altar or Marian shrines or whatever — **all** the candles in the places of worship are lit.

I suppose it's for dramatic affect but hardly realistic. Any parish priest knows that candles, like everything else in today's world, are expensive.

Prices for candles have risen like everything else. Not only that, they can be a fire hazard. An empty church during the day always presents an enticement for a fire for a child or adult. A lit candle in an empty church is always a temptation for a child or some mentally deranged adult looking for a thrill.

For this reason, many ministers and priests are forced to lock all or most of the church doors after services are over.

For the same reason we also have to be on guard with our giving. We can't just answer every plea for help and let our giving be based on trust. We need solid ground for our donations.

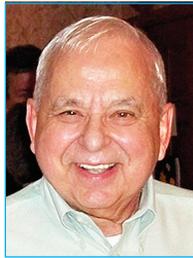
That is why we can trust our Nicaragua Mission appeals. We know that they are genuine and a reality.

We have students who have graduated from high school or college because our giving has helped them on the way.

We have churches repaired, a retreat center built, hundreds of people who can eat their next meal with the funds your donations have provided and so many other good works your gift has sustained.

Every dollar you provide is not wasted. Don't let your candle — your gift — be wasted. Every dollar you give is for God's glory: for the needy, the hungry, the student, the elderly.

May your gift be a candle, giving light for God's glory in Nicaragua.



Msgr. Richard Wetter

Msgr. Richard L. Wetter

And They Continue

The parish of St. Francis and St. Clare in Seneca Falls/Waterloo, New York has been a part of Nicaragua for more years than we can count. And despite the present barriers for sending containers to Nicaragua, the people, with the help of their priests, Fr. Jim and Fr. Roy, found a way continue to reach out.

Because shipping out from the Finger Lakes area was out of the question, the members of the "packing committee" decided to have a giant garage sale, putting out collected items for others to buy. It was a very ambitious, clever way of moving the items that they could not store and at the same time earn funds for the missions. And what a success it was! More than \$8,000 was raised! What a marvelous way to continue their generous attachment to Nicaragua.

And it didn't stop there. Christmas donations from the parishioners came in droves. People made an offering to honor loved ones at a time when gift giving often is a problem, a sometimes difficult thing to come up with. A wonderful solution for which we are grateful.

This brings us to Mr. Joe Testa, our Christmas angel — not at the top of our tree, but at the top of our admired people list. For years now, Joe has gone to various parishes to find pastors receptive and eager to help. They allowed him to encourage others to make a gift of schooling, a cow, a pig or whatever they chose, for Nicaragua's poor in the name of someone they wanted to reach out to at the holiday.

Mr. Testa not only touches hundreds of people in the area here, but allows them to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of people who are in so much need — people who appreciate knowing that others care about them.

These are the ways, people at home allow us to continue to do the work with and for those Our Lord has called us to serve. Without such souls, hands and hearts behind and beside us, the good that happens in the lives of others would probably never be. We are grateful to so very many and sincerely ask our Good Lord to bestow on each one of them blessings beyond their imagining.



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www.journeyofhopefoundation.org

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