



March 25, 2024

Dear Friends,

*"As long as God provides us with the strength, let us offer ourselves for the real welfare of God's work."*  
-St. Gaspar del Bufalo.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood believe that the Precious Blood of Jesus can heal a wounded world. In Guatemala, that need for healing is one of the primary reasons that we are helping to serve the people there. Predominantly Christian, Guatemala is a place of strong faith that faces many obstacles.

Birth, death, infant mortality, and fertility rates in Guatemala are among the highest in Central America. In addition, life expectancy is low.

A string of 27 volcanoes, including three that are active, stretches for 180 miles in southern Guatemala, along with frequent hurricanes and flash flooding.

The average salary in the Guatemalan regions served by Missionaries of the Precious Blood is approximately \$350 per month.

It is a challenging environment, with staggering poverty and heartbreaking sacrifice. There is no shortage of need.

Your generosity has allowed the Missionaries of the Precious Blood to construct chapels in the La Labor region of Central Guatemala, including El Chan II, San Martin, Cumbre Del Guayabo, and Los Vados. A fifth chapel, in Canaán, is next on the agenda.

**Canaán**

With the four chapel projects nearing completion, we have turned our attention to our next project.



**Mass is celebrated in the completed Lord of Divine Mercy Chapel in Canaán.**

Canaán is a small and remote community that received donated land to build a chapel. Because the site is at the bottom of a steep ravine, it is susceptible to landslides in the event of earthquakes or hurricanes, like most of Guatemala. The solution? A retaining wall to protect their chapel.

(Please detach from letter and return with your gift in the envelope provided.)

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“They raised most of the money themselves,” says Mark Giesige, director of mission advancement. “We are coming in to help because the residents of Canaán have shown that they are committed to the project. The retaining wall will be expensive to construct, because the site is so steep.”

Once the retaining wall is built, plans call for a main chapel with a community room and catechesis room below. The project is not yet funded, but the Office of Mission Advancement hopes supporters are called to help the people of Canaán in reaching their goals.

“I think most of us could not live with what the people of Guatemala have to live with, but they accept it with grace,” Mark says. Long before the building projects began, a well was dug for use in the La Labor region. A reliable source of water is the starting point for a community to take root. This vital project was sponsored by Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Montezuma, Ohio, who established the Missionaries first twinning relationship in Guatemala.



**Roof being placed over the new rooms at Los Vados.**

Since then, initiatives to improve quality of life have continued. A past project sponsored by Calumet College of St. Joseph taught women to sew. Current health care projects include clinics, a hospital, and a nutrition project. The twinning relationship with the youth at Immaculate Conception of Celina, Ohio, has further created an environment for learning, as well as one for play for the children of the area.

The faithful people of these communities are committed to walking with Christ, and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood are honored to be part of their journey. You can walk with them and help them on their way with your individual donation and through parish twinning relationships. If you or your parish are interested in learning more about the program, please contact our Office of Mission Advancement at [mission@preciousbloodus.org](mailto:mission@preciousbloodus.org) or 937-228-9263 x1002.

Around the globe, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood carry the Gospel message of Good News, of the healing offered through the Precious Blood, to all people. We're honored to serve those who dwell in the margins, for that is where we do His work. There is still much to be done.

*“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.”*  
Proverbs 19:17

Will you assist us in continuing to help these people of faith? The Missionaries of the Precious Blood thank you for your support and generosity—we cannot do this work without your financial assistance. We hope that you will consider a donation to help us to carry on His mission in both Latin America and Vietnam, where needs are especially urgent. All contributions, regardless of the amount, are gratefully and humbly appreciated.

Sincerely in the Blood of Christ,

*V. Rev. Jeffrey S. Kirch, C.P.P.S.*

V. Rev. Jeffrey S. Kirch, C.P.P.S.  
Provincial Director

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**Missionaries of the  
Precious Blood**  
United States Province

All gifts count toward the Missionary Hearts Mission and Ministry Society membership levels.

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