

OCIMA

2016 2017 - OCIMA Report from the Sisters in Guatemala

During Easter week 2017, some of our sisters visited three villages to share, celebrate and to support the people and the parish priest. We had beautiful experiences which left an impression on our personal and community lives. We shared our faith with the poor. They evangelized us from their daily reality. We are now back to our daily routines.

During 2016, we had 47 students, seven in “basic” (6th to 8th grades) and 40 in the career track. Fifteen students graduated and left with the hope of going to university. They need to work as well as study. Three of the graduates who trained for teaching have gotten positions with the City. Others got employment in banks and stores. Each of these students now has an opportunity to develop the skills and talents in the area they studied. They hope to make an honest living from this.



Throughout the year, in addition to academic studies, Sister Olga organized “human studies” classes to promote self-esteem, personal integrity, talent development, with special help for girls with families in difficult circumstances. It is very important for these girls to have a partner to work with, someone who has time to listen, advise, accompany and to help find possible solutions to the family problems.

The students had many great moments while living in the boarding school including birthday, Valentine’s Day, the Feast of St . Catherine of Siena celebrations, as well the farewell celebration for the graduates. At graduation, the joy was overflowing from the students and you could see the bonds of friendship, esteem, and respect for one another – the result of living together in the boarding school.



In November 2016, there were some changes within the communities in Honduras and in Guatemala. Sister Adela was assigned to the community of Honduras, Sister Teresa to Santa Rosa and Sister Olga to San Cristobal. In 2017, Sister Marcela will be in charge of the students.

In November 2017, we plan on doing work at the boarding school, including replacing the roof and general cleaning. We also want to return to the original plan of fewer students, and by reducing the numbers we will have more quality time with the girls. This is possible now because transportation has improved locally and there are more opportunities at the public schools. Also, Fr Nick is going to cheer from the skies. We will be able to devote ourselves to those with greater needs.

You have helped us so much in the face of emergencies, may God bless you all. The love you have shown is like a breath of fresh air and consolation in our troubles.

With deep gratitude, I give this report, and through the intercession of Mary our Mother, she who knows our weaknesses will bestow grace and gifts to each of your families



Funding

During 2016, Santa Rosa had a cash inflow of \$55,605.69, of which \$30,000 was donated from the raffle at St Irenaeus Parish. Expenditures were \$31,668.30, which included (1) food; (2) general maintenance, the majority of which went to the septic field; (3) salaries; (4) formative activities with the students; (5) teaching materials; (6) medical treatment and medicines for the students, including special treatment for the mother of one of the students; and (7) water, electric and gas

2017 Plan

Starting in November, when we will no longer have boarders, we plan on replacing the roof of the school, to reinforce the structure, repair the kitchen, dining room and some bathrooms. This work is urgent as water comes through the roof into the quarters during the rainy season. The Construction Foreman calculated that the cost will be \$33,662.78. This work can be completed thanks to St Irenaeus Parish who gave us another contribution this year. We are blessed each day and the good that can be realized is all because of the glory of God, and the care with which you all bestow on us.

