

Guatemala Mission Newsletter

Father James Hazelton Celebrating 47 Years of Service to Mission Welcome to Father Kevin Christofferson

In 1964, Father James Hazelton set out for Guatemala from the Diocese of Helena, and for 47 years he has brought the Gospel to the people of Guatemala. Along with many baptisms and the celebration of the other sacraments, Father Hazelton has focused on bringing education to the children and young adults in the Boca Costa region. In 1996, La Asunción school opened and now educates 500 junior and senior high school students per year! On May 27, 2011, Father Hazelton celebrated 50 years of priesthood! Congratulations to Father Hazelton and a big thank you!

This fall a new chapter is beginning for the Diocese of Helena's Guate-

mala Mission, Father Hazelton is retiring from his service at the Mission and returning to Montana. Father Kevin Christofferson, formerly the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Frenchtown, will be the new Pastor of the Mission. He is currently studying Spanish in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, in preparation for his new assignment.

Thank you, Father Hazelton, for so many years of faithful service to the Mission and for leaving such a well-built legacy for the people of Guatemala and for the Diocese. Your great work will be continued and carried forward now through the able and willing

hands of Father Kevin.

Thank you also to all of you generous benefactors who have made this work in Guatemala possible. We deeply appreciate your personal sacrifice and generosity which has brought the sacraments, education, medicine and other material aids to the people of Guatemala. As the Mission moves forward into a new chapter under Father Kevin's leadership, we hope that we can count on your continued support of the Guatemala Mission.



47 Years of Service to the Guatemala Mission



Welcome Father Kevin!

Up Coming Events:

- **Widow Weavings sold at the An Ri Ra in Butte, Aug 12-13**
- **Hazy Day at the Cathedral, Sept 11**
- **Mission Day at Our Lady of the Valley, Sept 11**



Clinica Maxeña



Clinica Maxeña, founded in 1966, continues to give medical aid to numerous poor who cannot afford care. The clinic treats approximately 15,000 cases per year. Diabetes is on the rise, to go along with the typical eye and lung ailments and cancer. Thanks to the Foundation for the Dio-

cese of Helena, which recently granted the Clinic \$5,000, its nutrition program for the malnourished can make a significant step forward!

The needs at the Clinic continue to be incredibly grave with so many needs patients

and structural challenges—the roof of the clinic requires repair because of termite infestation and deterioration. Sheila McShane, the Clinic Director, daily juggles the challenges, bolstered by her faith in Jesus.

Thank you, Sheila!



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Thank you for being a donor and supporter of the Diocese's Guatemala Mission!!

Please Consider an Additional Donation:

Make a secure gift online at

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Or Mail to:

*Diocese of Helena
Guatemala Mission
P.O. Box 1729
Helena, MT 59624*

Checks payable to: Diocese of Helena



Our Mission staff, left to right: Jake Nistler, Sheila McShane, Sister Ana Priester, Father James Hazelton, Father Kevin Christofferson, Sister Mary Waddell.

Bishop George Leo Thomas with the parish youth group.

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The Mission staff prays daily for our benefactors!



Sister Ana Priester and Sister Mary Waddell continue their great work at the parish of Santo Tomás la Unión.

Years ago Sister Ana started the Widows' Weaving Project, which still continues today. Many Maya-Quiché widows and their children are quite vulnerable in the Mission region. The widows' most marketable skill is the ability to weave, which has been passed down for generations. The mission purchases the weavings at Guatemala prices and then the mission office here in Montana works to sell the goods in the Diocese. The money goes to help these widows to support the education of their children or other self-help projects such as home repairs, building projects and potable water projects.

Sister Ana's Pastoral Projects: Widows' Weaving Project; Angel Fund; Microfinance Program

Sister Ana also started the Microfinance Program in 1988. This ongoing small loan program helps people help themselves. Money is either given as a startup fund or loaned for improvements or small businesses. Low-income persons who are recommended by their communities are prime candidates for a microfinance loan. After five years, borrowers who are unable to repay the loan are exonerated of it, but cannot request a loan again. If they need help, the request is for charity, rather than a loan. Many individuals now have successful enterprises through these small loans.

The Angel Fund was begun to help

those patients at Clinica Maxeña who require follow-up care, sometimes at other medical facilities. The Mission aids those with conditions like cancer to get the services they need when the Clinic is unable to treat the case.

Sister Mary, who retired as clinic director in 2006, remains very active in parish ministry. She serves on the Santo Tomas pastoral council, liturgy and finance committees!

Thank you Sister Ana and Mary!



Website:

www.diocesehelena.org