

Participate in the 2009 El Salvador Prayer and Action Delegation!

Presented by the El Salvador Ministry at the Aquinas Newman Center

Where did the Prayer and Action Delegation Originate?

On March 24, 1980, Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero was assassinated while giving Mass in the small chapel of La Divina Providencia. Shortly before his death, he openly spoke out against the military and the increasing violence, which would eventually become a twelve-year civil war in the country of El Salvador. His courage to advocate for peace, knowing that it would endanger his life, was only part of a religious shift in the Latin American Catholic Church now known as "Liberation Theology". Liberation Theology began as a process of returning to the scriptures and interpreting Jesus' messages in a more radical sense, and applying it to the economic injustices that exist in today's world. The belief is that the poor should not be left to suffer until they reach a paradise in heaven after death, not if their suffering is a result of unfair socio-political and economic systems created by humans. We should all work together as people of faith, to create heaven on earth among each other and to not stay silent in the face of injustice.

Who is APRODEHNI?

For many years now, the El Salvador Ministry of the Aquinas Newman Center has sent down several small Prayer & Action Delegations to this tiny Central American country to work hand in hand with a Salvadoran non-profit called APRODEHNI (The Association for the Promotion of the Human Rights of the Children of El Salvador), our in-country host. APRODEHNI was formed after the civil war as a continued effort to provide some of the necessary social work that is still desperately needed in many small communities. Their work focuses on building strong communities through the: furthering the education of children, providing necessities such as latrines, community centers/school buildings, farming projects, and much more.

What is a Prayer and Action Delegation (P&A)?

A P&A is a group of chosen applicants that meet and prepare through the second half of the year to travel down to El Salvador in January. This preparation takes shape in three main ways. 1) First, each P&A meets at least once a month to form a close bond with fellow applicants and to become educated in Salvadoran history, economics, culture, and most importantly, in the principles of Liberation Theology. We hope that the group, of no more than 10 individuals, will form a supportive community in which we will all grow in our faith and calling to social justice. 2) Each P&A is responsible for fundraising for a particular project presented by APRODEHNI. In the past, projects have included: raising money for the building of a school, organic gardens in a community, providing latrines in a community, and many more. 3) And finally, each P&A travels down to El Salvador for a little more than a week in early January. During the trip, the delegation stays in a hotel in the capital of San Salvador and meets with APRODEHNI. We travel to different communities, and visit several sites that have been crucial to the Catholic Church's participation in recent Salvadoran History. At the end of process, we hope that delegates have been inspired spiritually by the meeting of Salvadorans and by learning their history and the importance of pursuing a life in solidarity with the poor—a lesson that they will hopefully carry with them all of their lives.

Details

- The trip will take place January 6-14, 2009.
- Applicants will be expected to participate in multiple community-building meetings and fundraising events **each month** (primarily in October and November).
- Applicants are responsible for paying at the most \$1,500 (all-inclusive). We encourage people to send out letters to family and friends asking for donations. **One fundraiser will be dedicated to offset costs for primarily students.**
- Applications are due to main office on or by September 28, 2009.

If you have any further questions, please contact any one of the three leaders: Michelle Trujillo (mish@unm.edu), Sarah Peceny (speceny@unm.edu) or Donna Bruzzese (donnabruzz@msn.com).

2009 El Salvador Prayer & Action Delegation Application

Travel Dates: January 6-14, 2009

Supported by the Aquinas Newman Center

Personal Information:

Today's Date: _____

Name: _____ Gender: Male Female

Do you have a Passport? Yes No If yes, Passport No. _____

Occupation: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Country of Origin: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Best way to contact you & preferred times: _____

Do you speak Spanish? Yes No Fluency Level: High Medium Low None

Emergency contact person: _____ Phone #: _____

The following inquiries are important in the selection process. We ask for your honest and thoughtful response to these points. Use the backside of the page or insert additional line spacing on your computer if necessary:

1. What do you hope to gain from this experience and how might your involvement benefit the Newman community?

2. Give five words that best describe you:

3. Circle one word from each of the following sections that better describes you:

a. Introvert or Extrovert

b. Analytical or Feeler

c. Planner or Flexible/Spontaneous

4. One weakness that you find in yourself is:

5. List the top three priorities in your life at this time:

6. Have you had any experience in a developing country? If yes, briefly describe.

7. Have you had experience with a small group for an extended time period? If yes, briefly describe.

8. Are you prepared to make a non-refundable deposit for this trip as well as support for your total expenses estimated at approximately \$1,500 per person all inclusive (depending on airfare estimates)? Yes No

9. Please share any final comments you would like for this selection committee to consider (Add no more than a couple of paragraphs please).

Please return application to the front office of the Newman Center **on or before September 28, 2008.**