



“Mission is key to ministry. A church that does not go out of itself, sooner or later, sickens from the stale air of closed rooms.” Pope Francis

Oasis
July 9-15, 2017

Philosophy of “Oasis”:

Jesus Christ is our true Oasis. No matter in what desert we find ourselves, in Saltillo or Norman, when the living water wells up within us, we know the Lord is present. In a world dying of thirst, the Lord invites each of us to become a walking Oasis of Mercy.

“Oasis” is relational and not a “fix it” mission. Its participants visit Saltillo hoping to be changed by seeing Jesus in the faces of the people. The success of “Oasis” is not determined by the number of work sites visited, or the number of people served, but cultivating a missionary spirit. Oasis does not go to Saltillo to rescue people, but there is fruit from our being there and walking beside the people. God will teach us through experience.

“Each of them will be a shelter from the wind, a retreat from the rain. They will be like streams of water in a dry country, like the shade of a great rock in a parched land. The eyes of those who see will not be closed, the ears of those who hear will be attentive.” Isaiah 32:2-3

Why Saltillo:

The bonds of friendship between Saint Joseph Parish and Saltillo began to be forged more than twenty years ago. It was then that one of our parishioners began her novitiate with the Hermanas Catequistas Guadalupanas, a religious order from Mexico with a presence in Oklahoma, that was founded by Servant of God Jesus Maria Echevarria, third Bishop of the Dioceses of Saltillo. Those bonds were solidified when Sister Merys Jimenez made her vows to the religious life in August of 2002. Several parishioners supported her and her congregation during her formation years and they have in turn supported our parish by organizing and conducting retreats for our Spanish speaking youth and adults. This relationship grew even more last year when Sister Merys helped organize a novena in preparation for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Father Eduardo Rodriguez and Father Fernando Liñan, priests from the Dioceses of Saltillo, visited Oklahoma to facilitate retreats and lead the novenas at Saint Joseph Parish and Saint Charles Borromeo in Oklahoma City. It was during that time that we learned about the missionary character of the Dioceses of Saltillo and their willingness to work on the development of a parish to parish relationship that fosters an encounter with Christ through mutual support and service.

The large number of Saint Joseph parishioners that are originally from Mexico, the history of support and the long time relationship with the Hermanas Catequistas Guadalupanas, and the desire from the two priests who visited Oklahoma last year to establish a sister-parish relationship with Saint Joseph, make Saltillo the perfect choice for this important missionary outreach.

Who can volunteer for this mission trip?

If you are at least 18 years old, have a willingness to help, are flexible and open to working hard, and able to talk about Jesus.....you are already a part of "Oasis". If you speak Spanish, that's a bonus. If you don't, there are interpreters. If you have any special gifts, please let the team know. Be ready for your heart to change and get outside of your comfort zone.

It is best for each attendee to do their own fund raising as needed. Ask people if you can volunteer your time for a donation, ask our parish family to pray for all of us to do God's will.

What I should know as a missionary?

As Americans in a foreign land, we need to be aware that many attitudes, customs, and beliefs are vastly different. Embrace change and be ready to adapt. Our pace, work perspective, and physical resources may require us to be patient and work differently than we ever expected. WE do mission work to contribute in a special way and we are called to learn from those whom we will be working around and with.

Be aware of your surroundings and travel out in pairs. There is real exposure to social injustice and we will be among the poor. Be respectful and see the good where you can and pray for the poor as we encounter Christ.

Lodging, airfare, food: per person

We will be fly into Monterrey, Coahuila, Mexico. Our hotel is in Arteaga. There is a central meeting area with a kitchen.

Hotel \$225.00

Airfare will be approximately \$875.00/person

Bus fees/transportation/gas \$125.00

Food/water \$125.00. Let us know if their are special dietary requirements.

Approximate total:\$1350.00

There are no washing machines. Bed linens will be changed when we depart. One set of towels will be furnished. Bring your own toiletries.

Weather and attire:

In July, it is roughly 80-90 degrees, warm, dry climate in the mountainous desert area of Saltillo. Shorts(not too short), lightweight pants, t-shirts,(no sleeveless tanks) comfy shoes, tennis shoes are required. We will not be in air conditioned spaces.

Mass:

We will have Mass at each day at St. Isidro. Dress can be casual.

5.

Commonly asked questions:

1. Is it safe in Coahuila, Mexico? We felt safe when we were with our mission scouting team. The US government website warns of certain areas, which we will check that website before returning to Mexico for any warnings. Stay with the group. Our hotel is gated.
2. Do I need any special shots? The CDC recommends(not mandatory) an updated tetanus shot, MMR booster, Hepatitis A&B.
3. Do I need to worry about the water? We will supply all the safe, bottled water for you. Drink plenty. Canned sodas are safe, don't trust ice unless we are at the hotel. Pack your own chewable Pepto-Bismol tablets just in case.
4. Can I eat food from vendors off the street? No. We strongly recommend only eating the food which will be provided for you by Oasis, the restaurants, or the Parish.
5. Luggage? Pack as much as you can into a carry on so we don't have to check bags. We run the risk of lost /delayed luggage. Enter Mexico with the heart, and a suitcase of a missionary.
6. Local currency? Pesos, please exchange prior to traveling.
7. Will I have free time? Yes, we will have open time to relax, slow down, and reflect upon our experience.

6.

8. Will I need to buy food? No, we will have wonderful meals pre-arranged provided by our cook, Mayra.

9. Can I donate anything to the needy? We will make any donations to the local church, not directly to any individual. Do not give the children gifts or money.

10. Phone use? If you ever have wi-fi while in Mexico, you can use an app such as Viber to send a message home without a charge. Leave your phone on airplane mode. Try to remove yourself from daily life as much as possible and get immersed in the experience. We will be sending updates to the St. Josephs office.

11. Can I take photos? We will have some specific point people to take photos at work sites, while we are among the people. Try to just observe and be there without feeling the need to be as a tourist and needing a photo of all surroundings.

12. What if encounter a problem? Please let a team member know. Refrain from complaining if you are uncomfortable or our mission is not going as planned. We will make adjustments as needed. Any unexpected return back to the states will need to be at your own expense but we will try to be accommodating.

7.

Packing list:

After entering Mexico, we will secure ALL passports in the parish safe. We will need a photocopy of it, your medical card, and your shot record.

Please make sure to pack any medications in the original containers and keep with you in your carry on bag. We will supply bug spray, sun block, hand sanitizer, and a general medicine box. Mark your suitcase with a unique ribbon/tag for easy identity.

- _____ **Passport**
- _____ **Toiletries**
- _____ **Backpack**
- _____ **Hat**
- _____ **Sunscreen**
- _____ **Journal**
- _____ **Walking shoes**
- _____ **Rosary, bring extras to leave behind**
- _____ **Oasis booklet**
- _____ **Spanish dictionary**
- _____ **Ear plugs(optional)**
- _____ **Refillable water bottle**
- _____ **Chewable Immodium(suggested)**

Leave at home anything valuable.

Advanced Leadership Team: Leave 3 days prior

Angelo Lombardo

Annie Lombardo

Lisa Todd

Discernment:

- 1.What is your faith journey testimony?
- 2.How have you been growing in your relationship with God recently?
- 3.What are your activities at church such as volunteering, small groups, serving, etc?
- 4.Why do you want to go on this mission trip?
- 5.What are your expectations of this trip?
- 6.What type of mission trip experience do you have?
- 7.What type of gifts and talents do you have? Organizing, team leader, medical knowledge, music ministry, video/photography, social media expert, server for Mass, food prep, etc. Let Lisa know.
- 8.Are you physically healthy enough for this trip? (Able to endure long flights, car rides, lots of walking, no AC, variety of foods, etc.)

9.

Important dates:

Thursday, January 26th, 6:30, Room 201 meeting

Deposit for airfare, consent and waiver forms are due \$125.00

Thursday, March 2,2017 balance due for food and lodging, transportation to/from airport, airfare

Watch for dates for volunteer times, Oasis leading stations of the cross, additional meetings for information, preparation

Proposed Agenda:

Sunday July 2nd, Blessing and group photo after 10:30 Mass

Friday July 7th-advance team leaves

Sunday July 9th-travel day for missionaries, get settled.

Team building exercise. Mass, meeting in the common area in the evening.

Monday 10th-Thursday 13th, mission work

Friday 14th-tour day

Saturday July 15th-prayer time, LV for airport

10.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned.

P.I.E.S

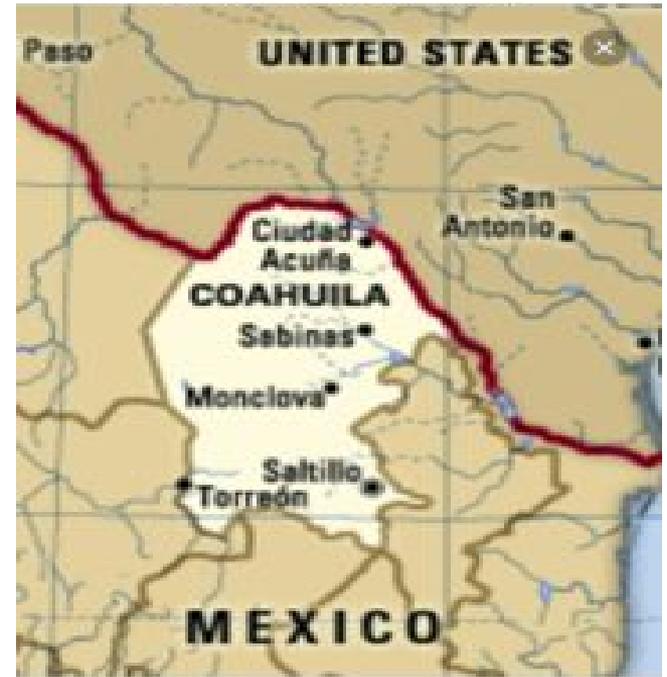
Physical-take initiative to see what needs to be done, be a good example and represent St. Joseph's well

Intellectual-know that this is not just about you, but it's about the people and they will change you.

Emotional-prepare to be in a good emotional state prior to the trip

Spiritual-be ready to share your spiritual experiences, have an open heart to receive Jesus. We will have spiritual quiet time.

"Wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident," he writes. "Wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy." Pope Francis



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