



## Guatemala Mission Trip *Fast Facts*

*Rev. Oct. 2017*

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Two groups of Nativity parishioners will travel to a small village in Guatemala where we will build stoves, plant gardens, construct chicken coops or pig pens, visit and deliver care packages to the sick, work and play at area schools and an orphanage, play soccer with locals, enjoy movie night with the nuns, visit Lake Atitlan or shop in Antigua, and much more. The Nativity Mission trips are being organized in conjunction with St. Thomas More's existing mission program.

### HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST?

Total cost is \$ 1,450.00 per/person (includes \$100 non-refundable deposit, air fare, room and board, all transportation, activities). Most travelers bring an additional \$100.00 for souvenirs, extra food, etc. Some people take more and plan to purchase donations for certain local families.

### WHEN DO WE GO?

- Trip 1: Saturday, June 16th - Friday, June 22, 2018
- Trip 2: Saturday, July 7th - Friday, July 13, 2018

### WHERE ARE WE GOING? (ACCOMMODATIONS)

We're headed to San Andres Itzapa, Guatemala, where we stay at the Carmela de Nazareth Convent (2 – 3 individuals per room.) Each room has a private bathroom (shower, toilet, sink). All meals prepared by the sisters. It's not fancy, but it's clean, safe and comfortable.

### WHO CAN GO ON THIS JOURNEY?

Nativity parishioners have first priority. Each trip has a minimum of 20 and maximum of 30 participants. If the minimum is not met, parishioners from other parishes will be invited.

Participants must be physically capable of walking uphill over long periods of time. There are steep climbs on rough roads in an altitude similar to Denver. If you can hike multiple times each day then you will be capable of doing any of the projects we conduct.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult family member or have an adult sponsor who takes responsibility for the youth while on the trip. A youth under the age of 18 years old needs a form signed and notarized by both parents stating the youth has permission to travel to Guatemala. Children must have completed 8th grade or older. (We will make exceptions for an entire family that wants to travel together.)

## WILL WE BE SAFE?

Safety is a top priority! We never have any activities at night and no one is permitted to leave the convent after dark. The convent gates are locked at dark. We do everything together or in small groups and we are always accompanied by local translators who have been vetted by STM and worked with Kansas City missionaries for years.

## WHEN DO I MAKE MY COMMITMENT?

- Informational meeting in the St. Joseph Room  
October 23, 2017, 6:30 PM
- Sign-Up Night in the Parish Hall  
**Sunday, November 5, 6:00 PM (first come first serve)**  
\$100 Non-Refundable Deposit due (checks made out to Church of the Nativity)
- Final Payments Due (Remaining \$1,350 per/person)  
March 15, 2018
- Your mission trip payment to Church of the Nativity is tax deductible and a receipt will be given for your contribution.

## ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL TRAVEL PREPARATIONS?

- **Passports:** You need a passport which must not expire within 6 months following your travel *leave* date. Apply for your passport several months before your trip.
- **Shots:** There are no vaccination requirements to enter the country. However, we strongly recommend that you make sure your tetanus shots are current. Also, talk to your doctor to determine if you need any additional vaccinations.
- **Insurance:** Travelers must sign a Nativity Release Form which releases the church and the Guatemala Action Group of any responsibility during the mission trip. Insurance coverage for international travel emergencies is the responsibility of individual travelers if they so choose.
- **Health:** See the Trip Check List for packing recommendations for medications, etc. to prevent illness or help you feel better if you happen to pick up a bug.