

Global Solidarity Ministry

Our Global Solidarity Ministry has partnered with Food for the Poor for over 11 years, helping communities in Central America with various economic development projects. We have supported projects in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, moving between the countries and projects as the political environment allows. This strong tradition of helping the least of our sisters and brothers beyond our borders is rooted in Catholic social teachings. (Matthew 25). We are determined to commit our work to the common good. It is our goal to visit the communities we serve through annual mission trips generally held in February. For more information about this ministry and to discover how your time, talent and/or treasure can reach the families we serve, please contact Lauren Burruto at lburruto@gmail.com

Currently, we are raising funds for a housing initiative for the community of AMATITAN ARRIBA, El Salvador. Our goal is to raise \$294,000 for 30 homes (\$9,800 each). As of June 2021, we are one third of the way there! We know through the years of working with the poor in Central America, providing a sturdy, dry home free of mold and intrusion from the harsh rains is the first step for restoring dignity and security. Each home is equipped with a living/dining room, two bedrooms, an eco-kitchen with a wood-saving stove under an open but covered patio, electrical installations, water component including a sink, laundry room and shower area, sanitation, including a flushable toilet, three doors and four windows, beds and dining table/chairs. Your donation will transform lives allowing families to be safe and sound in their community.

If you would like to donate to our current project in Amatitan Arriba, El Salvador, you can write a check directly to Food for the Poor and write Transfiguration SC147734 in the memo line. Place that donation check in an envelope and mail it to:

Food for the Poor
Church Alliances
ATTN: Kitty Soriano
6401 Lyons Road
Coconut Creek, FL 33073

You may use a credit card by going to the Church of the Transfiguration's Champion Page on the Food for the Poor website. The link is: <https://www.championsforthe poor.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=1064>

From 2011-2016, we raised funds for the community of **Valle Verde, El Salvador** providing housing, a K-12 school, job training, academic scholarships, small business development, food, animal husbandry, and literacy advancement. In

2017, we provided housing and potable water to a remote area of northern **Nicaragua** helping over 1,100 families in the villages of La Manzana and El Mogote. Eight people from Transfiguration traveled to these villages from February 20-24, 2017 and experienced firsthand the love, joy and gratitude these families have for our faith community. Our travelers were blessed with the experience of being in community with our brothers and sisters. Please view this video, produced by Food for the Poor, of our trip. https://youtu.be/uJl4i3_saDk

In 2018, we due to the political climate in Nicaragua, we moved to help a village in **Macuelizo and Choloma, Honduras**. We funded safe, structurally-sound housing for the families of their community. The next year we raised funds for a Bakery run by a strong group of 12 women. They were able to build a brand-new structure, buy baking equipment, refrigeration and a stove for their new facility. This bakery provided jobs and wholesome food for the community. We also provided funds for a much-needed water pump.

A group of parishioners and teens was able to visit Nicaragua in February 2019. Below is the reflection of one of the teens who participated in that missionary visit.

Good afternoon, my name is Nico Valentine, and I recently went on a mission trip to Honduras with Food for the poor and transfiguration. Today I would like to share some of my key takeaways from this experience. Prior to this trip, I was an average parishioner. I simply attended mass and never really went out of my way to help others. My connection with god was strong, but certainly nothing extraordinary at this point in time. Going on a trip to a third world country hadn't even crossed my mind. When my dad asked me if I was interested, I realized that I can do more, and be more, to be a part of this transfiguration community. I decided to go. And around a month ago, my faith journey completely changed. This was actually my first time going on a mission trip, and I was unsure what to expect. But as soon as our bus stopped in the small village of Choloma, it dawned on me that this is really quite simple. These people are just like us. These mothers care for their children as we care for ours. These children smile as our children do, and these families love each other as we love one another. The simplest things, like a smile, or a hug, or the passing of a soccer ball makes these kids happier than you could believe. No language barrier, difference in socioeconomic status, or difference in education can stop the spread of love. These people are hungry, thirsty, and poor, but most importantly, they remain hopeful. Hopeful that they will do what they can to create a better life for their children. Hopeful that God will be there for them when they need him. And hopeful that they will experience a change in their communities someday. Spending time with these people makes you realize that we are all God's children, just, living in different circumstances. This is something that

I will never forget, and I hope to see these children and families again in the coming years. It is our mission as parishioners to do what we can to help others, and in the process, you will be fulfilled and feel god's true love. I would like to thank our Global Solidarity Ministry for putting this experience together and allowing me to feel god's love through loving the children and families in Honduras. I would also like to thank you all for your contribution to the communities we visited, whether it be in the form of financial aid, donations, or your time spent physically with the people of Choloma and Macuelizo. I hope that we continue to help others in God's name in doing what we can. Helping one community won't change the world, but for one community, the world will change. Thank you.



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