



Noticias from Santa María

A Newsletter from the Santa María Foundation

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Meet the Missionaries



Colleen Conway (pictured left)

Colleen is from Madison, Wisconsin and is the eldest of two daughters. She has volunteered with several charities, including: the St. Vincent de Paul Society on the leadership team; the St. Paul's Catholic Student Union as a leader on their Alternative Spring Break trips and as a Bible Study leader; the Seton House Women's Shelter in respite child care; and the South Madison Coalition for Elderly in home visits. She loves working with children, running and Science. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Pre-Med Psychology.

Colleen felt called to work with Spanish-speaking people and decided that Mexico was the place to go. She arrived at Santa Maria at the beginning of August and is working as a House Parent at the Casa de Niñas, the home for the primary school-age girls. She is also teaching computers at the Primary School. She is enjoying the opportunity to work with the children and meeting the people of Mexico. The nuns that she works with are very appreciative for her help in caring for the children.

Thomas Clouqueur

Thomas (pronounced Tomás) was born in the suburbs of Paris, France, the middle of three children. He plays the guitar and enjoys singing. In his third year in college, he decided to attend school abroad and came to the University of Wisconsin in Madison. While at the University, he was able to nourish his faith through the college student fellowship gatherings. He received his Master's in Electrical & Computer Engineering in December 1999. He returned to France to work for a short while. He was offered work on a special project and an opportunity to work on his PhD at the University of Wisconsin. He completed his PhD in August 2003.

Thomas decided that he wanted to serve abroad. He chose to serve at the Santa Maria

Mission and arrived at Santa Maria at the beginning of September. Thomas is serving as a Dorm Parent in the middle school boys' dorm and teaching English in the Secondary School. He is enjoying the opportunity to work with the boys and learn the Mexican music and culture. The adults that he works with are very appreciative for his help and his ideas to make the home more efficient.

Sarah Kolacz (pictured right)

Sarah was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the eldest of two children. She loves dance and soccer and maintained a 4.0 GPA in high school. Shortly after high school, she attended a Christian camp that changed her outlook on life and her relationship with God. She loves to experience new cultures and has visited several countries, including: Austria, Bosnia, Croatia, India, Luxemburg, Monaco, Kosovo, Slovenia, and Switzerland. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a double-major in Kinesiology and Spanish. This included studying the Spanish language, literature, and culture in Madrid, Spain for a year.

Sarah felt called to give back to underserved populations and to learn more from their less-materialistic lifestyle. Her hope is to finish a degree as a Physician Assistant, and continue working abroad. Sarah arrived at Santa Maria at the beginning of August and is working as a House Parent at the Casa de Jóvenes, the home for the Secondary School girls. She is teaching computers at the Primary School and is enjoying being able to use her Spanish to work with the needy children of Santa Maria. Her co-workers are very appreciative for her help and the guidance that she is giving the adolescent girls.



Volunteers tour the remodeling of the Secondary School. Through your generosity, the Foundation donated \$10,000 to replace crumbling walls and the leaking roof. Work was completed in time for the start of the school year.

New Toll-Free Phone Number

We have a new toll-free phone number for the Foundation for our out-of-town friends and volunteers. The new number is

(866)545-4083.

Give us a call and we can visit.

A Message from Fr. Cliff Director of the Mission

I would like to share with you the best definition of faith that I am aware of: "Faith means that you want God and want to want nothing else." Think about it for a while and look into your heart and examine your lifestyle. If you are serious about your relationship with God, you should immediately shout out: "Lord, increase my faith for I am only living a superficial life of self-deception." Somewhat God-fearing, I would say! Yet we have the tendency to ignore HE who created me, sustains me, gives me the capacity to love and serve. We are so important to Him and His love is without conditions. Faith is life, energy, motivation, desire, love, joy, and everything else that God is, and one day, we will be!

We need your help. Please help us to pay our electricity bill, buy beans for the daily diet, and keep the 65 teachers, cooks, and workers who care for our children and elderly. May the good Lord enlighten you (and me).

A Message from Rick Jones Director of the Foundation

God continues to bless us. Out of seven applicants, we have three new missionaries serving at the mission. I spent two weeks with them in orientation here in San Antonio and at Santa Maria. They have truly been an inspiration to me. Colleen, Sarah, and Thomas are all gifted, loving, and spiritual volunteers who are bringing God's love to our broken children at the mission. Our next newsletter will feature them sharing their experiences with us.

There are many needs at the mission. We are trying to obtain a water heating system for the girls at Casa de Jóvenes (mentioned in this newsletter), as well as increase our funding to the mission so that we can accept more children. Due to lower income, we were only able to accept 220 children this year. Please continue to pray for the mission and the caregivers who serve our needy children and elderly.

Water Heating System Needed

The girls at the Casa de Jóvenes do not have hot water in their home. The water heaters have broken down and cannot be repaired. The girls are having to shower without hot water! We are in the process of investigating a replacement water heating system that can heat water for the whole home, which houses about 40 children and their house parents. We are asking for donations to help us purchase the system. If you would like to help, please send your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed envelope.



New Board Members

We would like to welcome four new members to our Board of Directors. Javier Smith and Ezequiel Quiroz are both Mexican businessmen who each have businesses in San Antonio. Mark Runge attended our last mission trip. Henry Cisneros, past mayor of San Antonio, has agreed to serve as a member in an advisory capacity. Many thanks to these generous people who have agreed to serve to help the needy children and elderly at Santa Maria.

Stories from Santa María

Luís

"I am 7-years-old and I live at Santa María with my younger brother, Adrian. My other brother died a long time ago. My mother always beat me and told me that it was my fault that my brother died. I don't think that our mother loves us because she left us here and does not come to visit us. When I grow up, I want to be a fireman and take care of my younger brother so that my mother will not beat him. I thank God for Santa María, and all the people who help us."

Inés

Inés is an 85-year-old lady who married and has one daughter. Her husband was unable to care for her so she went to live with her daughter. After a disagreement between the two of them, her daughter brought her to Santa María. Neither her husband nor her daughter come to visit or help to support her. She is glad to live at a home in a spiritual environment and make new friends.

- Planned Giving - IRAs & Retirement Plans

IRAs and retirement plans are a great way to donate to a charity. By making the charity the beneficiary of your IRA or retirement plan, the money passes to the charity without income taxation as would be the case with an individual as the named beneficiary. Beneficiaries can be named as a percentage of the total amount of the IRA or retirement plan.

The Santa Maria Foundation can serve as the beneficiary for the Santa Maria Mission in Mexico. If you have questions or would like to name the Foundation as a beneficiary, please contact us.

The Santa Maria Foundation is not engaged in giving legal/tax advice. Advice from legal/tax counsel should be sought when considering gifts.



The elderly at Santa Maria enjoy nutritious meals prepared by their affectionate caregivers.