

## THE ST. JOHN VIANNEY NICARAGUA HOUSING PROGRAM

Eight years ago the parishioners of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Prince Frederick, Maryland began a sister parish relationship with St. John the Baptist Catholic church, in San Juan de Limay, Nicaragua. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and the Limay region of Nicaragua is one of the poorest areas of Nicaragua. There are about 15,000 people living in the Limay area – roughly half of them in the town of San Juan de Limay and the remainder scattered in the surrounding mountains.

Because so many of the people in this area lived in pitiful structures of sticks, and plastic sheets, or mud and stones, after our first visit there we decided that the greatest need for the majority of them was a solid, basic house. The house design we chose was a 20 x 20 foot mud-brick house with a tin roof and a mud-brick/tile floor – all made locally except for the roof. Since most of the poor in the Limay area can barely feed themselves and their families, we decided that these people would get a house at no cost.

Our sister parish in Limay formed a committee of dedicated parishioners from the Limay area who, in conjunction with the pastor, interview and select the recipients of the houses. We agreed on a few ground-rules: the houses go only to the poorest of the poor without regard to religion, political affiliation or family ties. The elderly, sick or handicapped get preference. We originally set a goal of 100 houses. We have long since passed that goal. Currently we have funded the building of over 200 houses. Our new goal is 500 houses – which would put us in the neighborhood of assisting about 10% of the families in the region.

Each house costs \$2,600. Many people donate the full amount for a house as a family to family gift. However, every donation helps. Donate whatever you are comfortable giving. In considering a donation, here is a break-out of the cost of a house:

- o Complete House: \$2,600
- o Brick walls: \$1,400
- o Beams, rafters and a tin roof: \$700
- o Brick floor: \$400
- o Two doors and window shutters: \$100

All the money donated for a house goes toward building that house. All donations are tax deductible. Donations by check should be made out to St. John Vianney Catholic Church with “Nicaragua House” written on the memo line and sent to St. John Vianney Catholic Church; 105 Vianney Lane; Prince Frederick, MD 20687. On-line donations can be made via PayPal through our website: [www.providinghomes.org](http://www.providinghomes.org). Please visit our website or call: Don Mueller (703) 966-9560 if you have any questions.