

ST. JOHN VIANNEY NICARAGUA HOUSING PROGRAM

Initially through an ecumenical church program in Baltimore, in 2006 we began assisting the people of San Juan de Limay, Nicaragua to build basic houses for people living in unbelievable conditions. During the first few years, we provided funds to build 12 houses. In 2008, we decided to work directly with our sister parish, San Juan de Bautiste, and its pastor in San Juan de Limay, Nicaragua. Father Daly and several interested parishioners visited Limay, Nicaragua in July of 2008 and established the current Nicaragua housing program.

Our initial goal was to fund the building of 100 houses. We have long since surpassed that goal. As of January, 2015, we have built over 200 houses and our new goal is 500 houses which will impact approximately 10 percent of the families in this desperately poor region of Nicaragua. Weather permitting, approximately 20 houses are built each year. A committee of dedicated volunteers from our sister parish interviews and determines the “poorest of the poor” families that will receive each new house free of cost. Each eligible family must have title to their land and have volunteer help in building their house. The houses themselves are approximately 20 X 20 feet in size. They are made of locally produced clay bricks and floor tiles with a metal roof. The cost of a house is \$2,600. We provide the funds for the houses, not the labor to build them. All funds donated for a house go toward building a house and they are tax deductible.

Every six months, a delegation of missionaries from St. John Vianney visits Limay to review progress and, most importantly, maintain a close bond with members of our sister parish and the families who receive houses. All administrative and travel costs are paid for by the missionaries or by generous parishioners.

In addition to the 200 and counting houses for the poorest of the poor, we are funding the building of a modest subdivision for salaried professionals in the Limay area such as nurses, teachers, police officers and municipal workers whose salaries of \$150 - \$200 a month keep them from building their own homes and remaining in the area. These families pay \$30 a month into a revolving fund, controlled by the archdiocese in Esteli, Nicaragua, for a period of 12 years after which they receive title to their homes. There are now almost 20 houses in this 50 lot subdivision.

In 2014, we dedicated an 8 bedroom, 3 bathroom home for the elderly in Limay that was funded by generous parishioners of St. John Vianney. This year, the Limay parish began using this home as an adult day care center as well as its original intent as a home for the elderly who had no where else to live out their lives.

Please visit our website: www.providinghomes.org for more information.