

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Mission Trip 2012

Esperanza, International - Tijuana, Mexico

July 13 – July 22, 2012

Information Packet

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Mission Trip Overview and Expectations

Mission Trip 2012 will be an exciting and life changing experience for all who attend. It is our first international experience and is different than anything we have done before. As members of Holy Cross Catholic Church, we are reminded of God's miracle of caring and support of the needy throughout the world.

- The Mission Trip will be another opportunity for you and the larger community to continue our faith journey and to strengthen our relationship with each other and with God.
- We will be representing Holy Cross Catholic Church, our entire community and Catholics around the world.

Participating in the Mission Trip brings certain responsibilities and expectations for everyone involved:

- You will be representing the youth of Holy Cross Catholic Church, Catholic people around the world.
- All of the activities leading up to the trip help us build and strengthen our community and bonds with each other, as well as help achieve our financial goals for the trip
- Youth and parents are expected to actively participate in the key activities including the annual Dinner Auction on Mother's day weekend
- Participation is expected at scheduled food drives in the local Lake Stevens/Granite Falls area to support Holy Cross Outreach
- Weekend Mission Trip(s) to Seattle and other local areas to support programs that aid the poor and disadvantaged
- Youth and adult leaders will be expected to attend the High School Spring retreat in March
- Youth are encouraged to attend the High School Convention in November.

Esperanza International

Mission

Esperanza International is a non-profit, non-sectarian charitable corporation dedicated to empowering the poor to help themselves by bridging existing needs with available resources.

Vision

Esperanza invests in people. Esperanza International works in partnership with communities in the Tijuana region seeking long-term solutions to their problems. Together they have established an organizational structure and implemented projects using available resources to meet the basic needs of people. All projects are based on self-help principles. Esperanza assists communities that have potential for becoming self-sustaining. The goal is the plant the seeds, provide assistance as requested then step back and let the community take its own course. As projects are proven to work, these new solutions are made available to other communities.

Website: <http://www.esperanzainternational.org/getinvolved.html>

Our work at Esperanza

We will be helping to build block homes for families! We will work side by side with a family that have saved for years to get here and will live in the dwelling we help construct. Evenings activities will consist of preparing meals, and prayer or group and individual reflection time that will be led by the adult leaders.

We will have opportunities for evening events such as attending a local baseball or soccer game, visit the local health clinic or orphanage or visit coastal towns such as Ensenada. All event alternatives have been carefully selected by Esperanza staff to experiences that are though provoking or fun and are very safe. Each outing is escorted by Esperanza staff.

Safety

Much press has been devoted to the violence in Mexico in recent years. While drug gangs are fighting between themselves in the inner cities, Esperanza is far removed from these areas and has been safely operating for over 20 years without any incidents. Key elements of the environment include:

- Gated compound (Posada) where we will be staying
- Staff on site 7/24
- Escorted transportation to and from the work sites
- Evening excursions are escorted by local translators and guides

Tentative Activity Schedule

Tue, Oct 25	Parent/Youth Informational meeting
Nov 12-13	Food Drive
Sun, Nov 20	Promise date (date to guarantee spot)
Sun, Jan 15	Commitment Sunday – Registration fees due
Jan tbd	Adult Leader meeting
Jan (date tbd)	Quilt construction
Feb (date tbd)	T-Shirt design Session
Feb 10	Confirm flights
	HS Spring Retreat
March (date tba)	Local Mission Trip 1
April (date tba)	Local Mission Trip 2
Sat, May 12	Dinner Auction
Week of July 7	Final youth/adult meeting
Thur, July 12	BBQ
Friday July 13	Friday Mass
Friday July 13	Depart
Sunday July 22	Return

Additional parent and youth meetings will be scheduled periodically as needed.

Key Dates and Commitments

Date	Event
Tuesday, Oct 25	Information Meeting Registration forms available
Sunday, Nov 20	Registration forms due First Payment Due (\$50.00)
Sunday Jan 15	Commitment Sunday Registration fees due Second Payment Due (\$50.00)
Sunday Feb 12	Final Payment due (\$25.00)
Friday July 13	Friday am Mass Departure
Sunday July 22	Sunday July 22

International Travel

MT2011 is the first international trip and adds a few new requirements on all participants:

Border Crossing Requirements

New border security rules will require each adult and youth participant to have one of the following:

1. US Passport: The passport book is valid for all international travel. Costs \$135 for adults (over 16) or \$105 for youth.
2. US Passport card: The passport card, similar to a driver's license, is valid for all land and sea border crossings. Costs are \$55 for adults or \$35 for youth.

Please note that it can take more than 2 months to receive your passport. Applications can be completed at the Lake Stevens, Granite Falls or Marysville police departments. More information on passports is available at:

<http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/>

3. Washington State Enhanced Drivers License/ID Card. The Washington EDL/EID card is valid for all land and sea crossings. Costs are \$60 for the driver's license or \$20 for the ID card.

More information is available at: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/edl.html>

Medical Insurance

As with all other trips, each participant must have valid medical insurance. However not all health plans cover international travel or travel to Mexico. For those needing medical insurance, several commercial companies offer short term medical insurance for \$3 - \$5 per day.

Preliminary Budget

The preliminary budget is based on flying to San Diego and driving to the Esperanza site and is shown per-person.

Item	Per Person
Airfare	\$ 370
Ground Transportation (van rental, gas, car insurance)	\$ 175
Program Fee	\$ 200
Lodging while at Esperanza	\$ 90
Food	\$ 175
Total	<u>\$ 1,010</u>

Budget subject to change as final costs are verified.