

Appendix A: Sirvientes de Cristo

Sirvientes de Cristo (Spanish for “Servants of Christ”) is a Lay Apostolate of the Diocese of Marquette, based in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Its mission is to “build a spiritual bridge to the poorest of the poor in Latin America. Through prayer, we seek to glorify God - who is Love - and to make manifest that love by application of the Works of Mercy, especially through feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, sheltering the homeless and educating those in need of instruction (Mt 25:31-46), for the love of Christ urges us on (2 Cor 5:14)”.

The goals of Sirvientes de Cristo are:

- Promotion of the Christian faith as taught by the Catholic Church
- Assistance in the spiritual growth and physical well-being of the residents in the areas served
- Support of organizations and individuals who assist the poor in the areas served
- Support of priests, religious and missionaries in their work of evangelization, catechesis, education and welfare provision
- The fostering of Christ-based, mutually helpful, mutually supportive relationships with the residents of the areas it serves
- Promotion and encouragement of participation in missionary work among the youth of the Diocese of Marquette
- Assistance to volunteers in the development of their Catholic faith.

The main activity of the group in pursuit of these goals is a two-week mission trip to the town of La Paz in southern Honduras. Among the events the group conducts during this trip are a three day Bible Fiesta for the children of the impoverished barrio where the group stays. This event includes religious instruction, skits, games, music, and arts and crafts, all centered to the extent possible on a particular biblical theme. Approximately 300 children attend this event every year. The group conducts a similar, one day faith-formation event for approximately fifty teens from the barrio.

The other main activity of the group is a three day medical brigade. The group partners with local doctors, dentists and ophthalmologists to offer free medical care to all of the barrio, serving roughly 500 individuals with medical check-ups, vitamins, prescription drugs, dental work, vision care, and personal hygiene instruction.

The group also assists the barrio residents in the development of practical skills aimed at improving their material well-being, through classes in such topics as sewing, knitting, cooking, and English.

In addition to these efforts, Sirvientes de Cristo supports a number of partners in Honduras by assisting them with some of their day-to-day responsibilities as well as through direct financial contributions. These in-country partners include:

- A facility run by the Missionaries of Charity for impoverished elderly and HIV-positive children
- A local orphanage
- A Catholic primary school in the barrio
- A Catholic middle school in the town of La Paz

More information on Sirvientes de Cristo can be found at <http://sirvientesdecristo.com/>.