

I'm happy to include the following message from Kate Meyer, a parishioner of the Church of Saint Joseph, a student at Saint John's Prep in Collegeville and daughter of Joe and Susan Meyer. Kate was a delegate on the diocesan mission trip to Venezuela.

—Fr. Joseph Feders, Pastor



Kate Meyer

Mission Trip to Venezuela

Everyone Has Something to Offer

I had no idea what to expect of this trip. To be honest, I was confused as to what we would be doing; if it wasn't a mission trip to build houses and serve food and other ways you define as mission work, what would we be doing? How do you serve people otherwise? But looking on it now I see that the point isn't to indirectly help pull the people out of poverty, to be heroes for the world; it is to connect with the people in a way that would open our eyes to their world and for them to have the opportunity to help us be able to do so.

by Kate Meyer

In this time of broken relationships with Venezuela, many would deem it troubling to want to make a connection with these people. But seeing the beauty reflected in each person I met, I've gotten a deeper understanding of how prejudices – maybe even subconsciously – undermine our views. I have never in my life met more hospitable people and certainly never this consistency of hospitable people. No matter where I was I felt welcomed and cared for. Even though I've been tossed into a strange new corner of the world and an unfamiliar culture, I felt like the people made it more completely comfortable to just leave differences behind.

Even with the language barrier it felt like there wasn't always a need for that kind of communication. The way there was always someone near to offer you whatever you needed and more was overwhelmingly kind. And the way everyone hugged you and smiled and looked you in the eye was great. At some point I realized that you can be at home without being in your physical home. It doesn't matter what people told you this group of people would be like; no matter if they were rich, poor, Chavez-supporters or not, live in the city or the middle of nowhere, the hearts of the people are bigger than I could have ever fathomed, and are not so different from each others, even from the world.

Second only to hospitality was the clarity of how their everyday lives revolved around their faith. It was really beautiful to see how much they confide in God and how everything has faith incorporated into it. From living with the family I saw how faith was first and everything else came second. They would take the time to pray before every meal, before every trip in the car, do their service for the parish and attend Mass and other church happenings. It opened my eyes to how our culture is not at all that conscious about how faith interacts with our lives. We are always "too busy" for it, and put God second in our every day schedules. But the people here really can take the time to slow down and let go for a bit so they can remember the gifts they have and thank God for their lives.

The faith and love everyone has here is something that I am so thankful to have been allowed to share. It was an amazing time to see all that they have to offer the world and to be able to understand how this people can help us in a way I had not realized. It goes to show that everyone has something important to offer, and it doesn't have to be material help that many have always paired with service and mission.

July 3rd Pie/Cake Walk

Chairperson needed!

This person can work with the July 4th Pie/Cake Walk Chairperson to organize the stand and work with scheduled volunteer workers. Also needed is a person to cut pies for the lunch in the school on July 4th. If you are interested in either position, please contact the parish office at 363-7505, ext. 100.

Upcoming Weddings

The following couples are preparing for marriage. Please keep them in your prayers.

Damien Husen & Kristen Klein – June 17 wedding

Scott Kramer & Emma Degeest – June 18 wedding

Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfast

Sunday, June 5

8:30 am-Noon

Saint Joseph Lab School

Menu includes:

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| Pancakes & Waffles | Scrambled Eggs with |
| Fruit Toppings & Whipped Cream | Toppings |
| Smoked & Fresh Sausage | Rolls/Muffins |
| Ham | Fresh Fruit |
| Hash Browns | Juice |
| | Coffee/Milk |

Adults (13 and older)-\$7.00 Ages 6-12-\$3.00
5 and under-free