



Guatemala

Mission 2023

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. John 4:14

Two thousand miles south in a small mountain top community in Guatemala sits the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is made up of four concrete walls, a metal roof, and a dirt floor. On what happened to be Most Holy Trinity Sunday, God called our parish, Holy Spirit, to continue building a relationship with Our Lady of Guadalupe and its surrounding community.

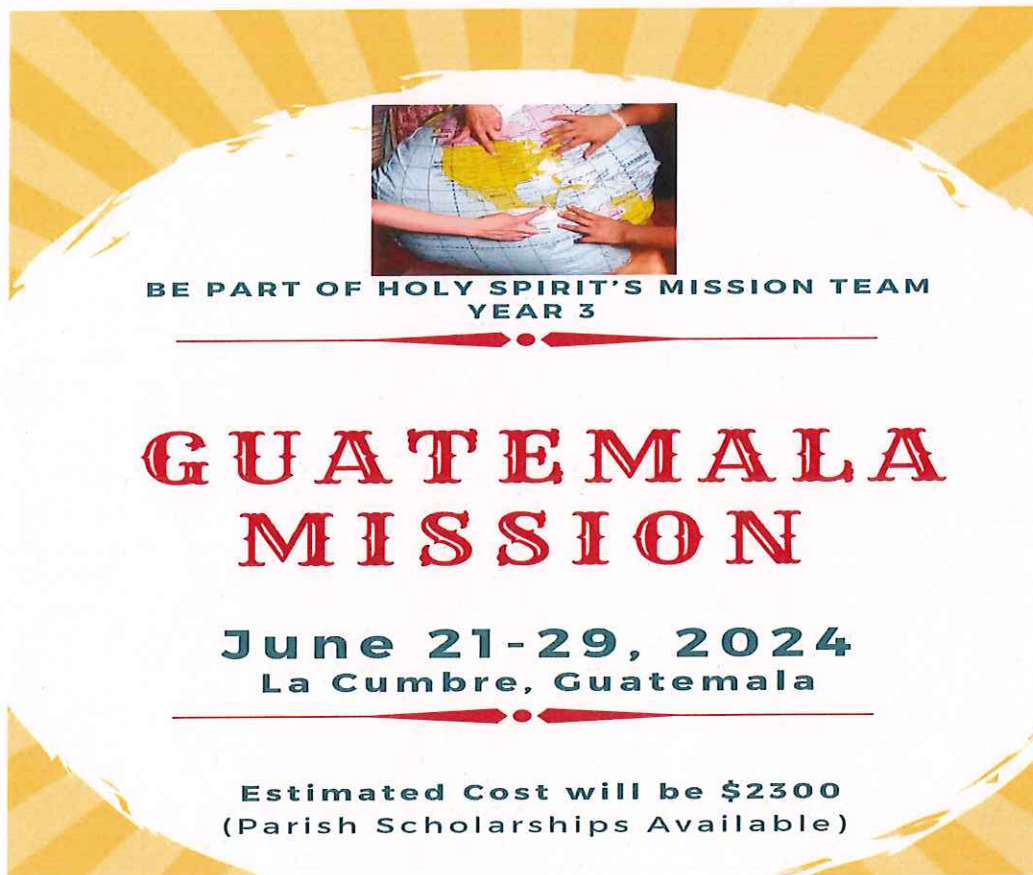
The village of La Cumbre, Guatemala consists of forty properties with three families living on each one. This totals to one hundred and twenty households, one third of which belong to the parish. The only way to access the village is a tight one-way road up the mountain, greatly restricting the opportunity and ease of mobility for the villages. Fr. Rudy celebrates Mass once a month at the parish and, if he has a parochial vicar, every other Sunday. Fr. Rudy is the pastor of 18 parishes. The nearest school is also named after Our Lady of Guadalupe. The 2 room school has one teacher, Miss Lopez, who teaches all six grades. School is year round. Villagers must walk 15 minutes on steep and often slippery terrain to reach the current water source. The source they used last year was completely dry.

Our service in this community can be divided into different categories : manual work in the school, food ministry, kid's ministry and getting the well up and working. During the week we painted the inside and outside of the school and the wooden desks. We took school supplies and Spanish books to start a library, the first in the community. We were able to purchase kitchen supplies and dishes, so that when they have water, they would be able to start a lunch program. We also help them start a small garden at the school. We have built a beautiful relationship with the school teacher, Miss. Lopez and have been able to help her with her transportation to the school. We also had Glenda, a dentist, travel with us this year and she was able to teach the students about mouth health and was able to distribute toothbrushes. Next, we provided \$25 worth of groceries for each of the twenty-five most needy families in the parish community. The food ministry opened the community to our presence and gave us the opportunity to visit homes, get to know families, and catch a glimpse of what life is like on the mountain top. We were also able to present them with a small crucifix for their homes. Upon receiving the gifts, each family was overwhelmingly grateful to God. It was not uncommon to have village kids by our sides assisting! Kid's ministry included Vacation Bible School (the same one we offer to HS kids) prayer, scripture, and community as well as fun activities like crafts, games, soccer, treats, and the occasional piñata. Mothers and grandmothers would join Kid's ministry to watch their kids and to get to know us. We were able to leave gifts of baby blankets, handmade dresses for the girls, soccer socks and other soccer supplies for the other youth of the village. All forms of service gave us the opportunity to really get to know this community and for them to get to know us. Lastly the water source that we had seen in 2022 was dry, so they were able to walk us to where they were currently getting water, much further and steeper than then last location. A 60 meter well has been hand dug, cement piping needed to keep it from collapsing and other materials to secure it, and a well pump was installed. They were able to clean the well and get water access to the village! Thanks to Pat and Danny for all the extra help with this.

Our next goal is to help the parish. The parish currently has 4 walls (that we plastered in 2022) and a dirt floor. We would like to help them get a floor, windows, door, gate for the church, an Altar and Crucifix. Right now they are using a small wooden table. We need to make sure that well is maintained, and we would like to get some kind of containers to transport clean drinking water to their homes. Other long term goals; ongoing healthy food source, provide health & dental screenings, provide shoes for the kids, landscaping outside the church, more books for the school library, and Spanish Bibles along with other Catholic Spanish Faith materials. We would also love to find an income source for the families, by teaching them a trade. Additionally, the community has other great needs. We hope to continue building upon the relationship with Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Fr. Rudy.

Please take time to pray and discern if God is calling you to serve on a future mission or if He is calling **you** to support the efforts with donations or prayers. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us with questions about the mission or about how to get involved and help. **Amy & Holy Spirit's Mission Team**

*Thank you, Holy Spirit Parish... Because of your generosity,
we have been able to get water to this village!*



BE PART OF HOLY SPIRIT'S MISSION TEAM
YEAR 3

**GUATEMALA
MISSION**

June 21-29, 2024
La Cumbre, Guatemala

Estimated Cost will be \$2300
(Parish Scholarships Available)

For more pictures and videos visit:

HolySpiritYouth.com or Praying Pelican Mission (www.ppm.org)