

Monday, August 29, 2011

Dear Students and Parents,

This past summer I had the opportunity to take my second trip to El Salvador to visit our sister parish, Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, in Ciudad Delgado. It was an awesome trip.

In December of 2010, the church in El Salvador received a donation of band instruments. While there, I was blessed with the opportunity of working with the band students. I was amazed at how well these students could play after only 7 months. However, it was brought to my attention that the students have no method books and they have difficulty in acquiring reeds and other necessities required for properly playing a band instrument. This is not only due to the expense but also because these items are not easily accessed in El Salvador. The Lord placed on my heart that there must be something that we can do to help as their sister parish from the states.

I thought about the fact that there are many students who have come through our band program here at St. Dominic. As a former band and piano student myself, I know that often when method books are completed, they are simply placed on a bookshelf to collect dust and also that some students do not continue with the band program.

I would like to ask you to consider donating any method books that you might have that are not being used. It doesn't matter what condition they are in. As I said, the students in El Salvador have no method books at all. Also, if you have any supplies such as reeds (new ones only please!), valve oil, cork grease, etc... that are not being used, you may donate those items as well. If you do not have any of these supplies but would like to make a financial donation, I would be glad to purchase the necessary items.

I have experienced that music is a vital part of the lives and church of the people of El Salvador. I pray that you will consider supporting this ministry of St. Dominic Church in some way. Please keep our sister parish in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Lee Benbow

Music and Spanish Teacher