

MERCY NEWS



Guitar Legend
Phil Keaggy
and Band

brought to you by
Kingdom Bound Ministries
Proceeds to benefit
St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

This versatile musician has been an inspiration to so many since his start in 1970. A master guitarist and inspirational songwriter, Phil Keaggy is loved by Christian music fans for decades.

**Saturday, October 29th
7PM**

Riviera Theater
67 Webster Street
N.Tonawanda, N.Y.

Tickets:

\$15 General Admission
\$20 Artist's Circle

available at
Kingdom Bound: 633-1117
Life Resources
Fruit of the Spirit, W. Seneca
Bender's Christian Supplies
St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
www.itickets.com

**Check out
St. Luke's new Website:
www.stlukesmissionofmercy.org**

Meet St. Luke's Night!

So you think you know all about St. Luke's? Think again! The Mission is always changing, always growing... Join us for an evening of fun, conversation, and information about the various ministries, projects and people that make St. Luke's what it is. Missionaries and volunteers will introduce our guests to the ministries and projects they are responsible for throughout the evening, and future projects will be on display.

Sat. Nov. 12th / 7PM

**St. Andrew's Church
Bishop McNulty Hall
Sheridan at Elmwood, Kenmore
\$10 per person**

**Your \$10 includes beverages
and finger foods throughout
the evening**

Bring a Friend!

We have all been asked, "Just what goes on over there?" by friends and family as we related experiences about the Mission. This is the perfect opportunity to answer that question! Let your friends and family know about "Meet St. Luke's Night, and, who knows...maybe something wonderful could happen!

Word from Amy and Norman...

Dear Friends,

We can't believe that summer is long gone, fall has arrived and soon will come winter. Our summer was a busy one! Kid's of the Kingdom served many children and was a success due to our wonderful volunteers. During that time some of the men who live at the mission built a mini playground for the children. What a blessing it is to see children playing in a clean, safe environment. Houses were spruced up thanks to the Day of Caring and our annual Corn Roast at Rosie Spoth's farm was attended by a record number of people.

On the more serious side, we went from feeding two hundred people a day to anywhere from *three to five hundred per day*. We are serving more and more unemployed and under-employed people. People who used to help us are now seeking help from us. We only have to open a newspaper or listen to local radio to see how Buffalo is struggling right now. Then there were the natural disasters that have hit our country. Hurricane Katrina relief efforts have taken many donations which means that local charities are suffering right now. Add that to the natural gas price hike and it is going to be a long, cold, expensive winter.

We don't panic at St. Luke's because we know the Lord will provide for us always. But we are asking you to please help us as much as you possibly can this winter. It has always been very expensive to heat our buildings but this year our bills will be double. We have a fleet of cars that provide rides to young mothers who need to get to the doctor, men to their rehab programs, people to their appointments downtown, and so much more. Add to that the cost of food. It costs literally thousands of dollars to do this each month. We are being good stewards and have trimmed things up a bit. We are trying a shuttle system so that we take a carload to various places and not just one person from place to place. We can assure you that any money you send will be used wisely.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming up as well. So many of you have been so generous for so long! If you can throw in an extra five or ten dollars in we would be so grateful! We are expecting many more people needing a Thanksgiving basket this year. We also know that Christmas toys and

goodies will be much more in need as well. Again, we have some benefactors who were so very generous in the past who have now had to back away because they have fallen on rough times themselves and can no longer help us. Can you take their place?

So what are we asking of you? First of all, as always, prayer!! Especially during the three o'clock hour of Mercy. Please feel free to join us in the church at that time as the mission closes down and the missionaries join together in prayer. Second, any extra money that you could possibly spare, even five dollars can help us to take care of the poor this winter. Third, donate items. Food for the food pantry, toys for our Christmas giveaway, especially gifts for teens. Teens are often overlooked and we always run short on gifts for them. Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Target, Fashion Bug, Old Navy make great gifts for them. Hand held games, portable CD players, and gift cards to Media Play or Borders are good too. Or walk into Old Navy and grab a teen size sweater or sweat shirt. You would make a teenager so happy with your generosity and at the same time help them to realize how much God loves them as they live in a world where they feel everyone, including God has abandoned them.

Lastly, we could use your time. We always need volunteers in the kitchen and check out our calendar for our giveaway days. We could use your hands and your hearts at those times. Come on down and we will put you to work.

Thank you for all that you already do for the mission. We are humbled by your regular generosity and are so grateful to God for all of you. May God pour out His blessings upon all of you and your families, especially during this upcoming holiday season.

In His Mercy,
Amy and Norman

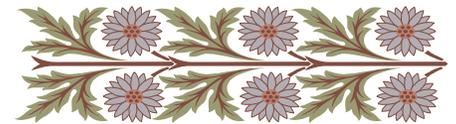


Project Idea

For Your School, Church or Business

St. Luke's provides food, clothing, shelter, and so much more to the needy of our community throughout the year. During the holiday season many people give generously, and we are truly grateful! Our ability to give is directly dependent on the donations of goods and funds we receive. There are times during the year when donations slow and our ability to provide changes dramatically.

Here is an idea for your school, church or business that can help us in our ministry every month of the year: organize a periodic St. Luke's Drive! Pick a month or series of months throughout the year, pay attention to special needs outlined in the newsletter, and ask your students, congregants, or employees to bring in a specified item for donation during that month. Whether it's toothpaste, toilet paper, shampoo, or diapers, we can put your donations to good use all year long!



Phone Directory

St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

Office: Sue Gilhooley, Barb Carpenter 894-4476

FOSL's (Friends of St. Luke's)

Barb Kenny 625-8290
Pat Titus 825-4147

FOSL's Niagara

Sandy Gawryls 772-2720

Associates

Barb Carpenter 894-4476

Jr. Associates / Religious Ed.

Dave Topor 893-9080

Priest Associates

Fr. Bill Quinlivan 688-5678

Craft Show Info.

Rosie Spoth 688-1395

On the Road with the Voices Of Mercy

By Dennis Gilhooley

The Voices of Mercy recently completed a Ministry Trip with Fr. Dennis Mancuso to Canton, Ohio. The Voices and Fr. Dennis were in Canton from Wednesday, August 17 – Saturday, August 20. Fr. Dennis presided at three healing Masses and the Voices Of Mercy provided the music. We all stayed together at the home of Jack Dempsey, a friend of Fr. Dennis'. He, and a group of his friends took great care of us, providing us shelter, wonderful and delicious meals and drink – the corporal works of Mercy! They were all so welcoming and loving and we are truly indebted to them for all that they did for us.

Although the trip was of a short duration, it was full of the power, the love and the mercy of God! The first healing Mass was Wednesday night at St. Michael's church in Canton where almost 1,500 people came to worship and be touched by God.

The second Mass was at the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration Monastery. Several hundred people came this night as well, with many having to sit outside the church and listen to the Mass over loud speakers since there was no more room inside. It was awesome to see the entire congregation of sisters come up to be prayed over. All of the sisters then went into Adoration and prayed the entire evening in front of the Blessed Sacrament for all of us gathered there. It was an incredible evening, and one that saw many non-Catholics come and experience Eucharistic Adoration, some for the first time. We all truly believe that God planted the seed of conversion into many hearts that night. Talk about the power of the Eucharist and prayer!

The final Mass was at St. Anthony's in Canton. It was a smaller church, but people still crowded in to worship and praise our God! On all three evenings, the Mass and prayers for healing went almost 4 – 5 full hours.

Each day, God allowed us to run into and meet many people who were at one service or another and were all touched in profound ways. The faith of the people who attended these Masses was inspiring! There was the young boy Dominic with a very rare

disease that we ran into at St. Anthony's, and his single mother and his grandmother. There was the man who came in that same evening, standing next to Amy and Sue who were in the hall selling religious articles and Voices of Mercy cassettes and CDs. The young boy, his mother and grandmother were there too, talking to Amy and Sue. When Amy told the man the name of the boy and about his illness, the man burst into tears and cried for several minutes. It turns out that he had gone to confession and was told by the priest, for his penance, to pray for a young boy named Dominic who was very sick. It was that same young boy currently sitting not 10 feet from him. He was completely overwhelmed and kept promising to pray for the young boy.

There was the woman, a non-Catholic, who had never experienced Eucharistic Adoration before. She came to the Poor Clares Monastery and walked in before mass, while there was Adoration and confessions going on, and wondered what the "white disc" was that was up on the altar. She had been suffering with a back problem and went up to see what the object was. While she was standing there by herself, in front of the Eucharist, she began to tremble and experienced a warm sensation all throughout her back. When the warmth left her, she had no more back pain. While we were in a Catholic Book Store in Canton, the manager told our host, Jack Dempsey of this miracle as told to her by the women that experienced it. She had come in to the store shopping for books on Catholicism and how to become Catholic. Praise God!

And there was the woman on the first night, who went up to be prayed over carrying a picture of her husband. As Fr. Dennis took her hand to pray over her, he experienced great pain and asked the woman what she had in her hand. She told him "a picture of my husband". Fr. Dennis said "he is in great pain" and proceeded to pray for him. Unknown to Fr. Dennis and the woman, at that very moment, her husband was trapped in a pond at their home underneath a commercial grade mower. Their son, who very seldom just stops over, decided, at that moment, to go see how his dad was doing. When he didn't find him in the house, he went looking for him out in the back. He spotted his dad pinned underneath the mower and was able to stop the mower and free him. So moved by this miracle, the husband and wife sought Fr. Dennis out to let him know what God had done for them. They presented Fr. Dennis with a letter detailing exactly what happened, and they have given us permission to print their testimony, so we

will include it here:

8 – 18 – 05

Dear Fr. D. Mancuso,

Thank you – and God – for the miracle of the Healing Mass and Service at St. Michael's on August 17, '05. I was holding a picture of my husband and you prayed for him – telling me he was in a great deal of pain. I thought yes – he was (in) major pain and a heart condition. But – at the time you and I were praying for him – at about 9:00 PM, he was pinned down under a commercial size mower – in our pond, with the mower blades running – being covered in gas. He was unable to call for help as his arm was pinned and the phone covered in mud would not work.

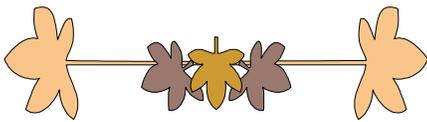
Needless to say, the intervention of God, through your prayers – saved his life – he and I believe this with all our hearts. Although he is pretty bruised and shaken – he is still with us.

*Praise be to God.
Cheryl & Augie Rodgers
Massillon, Ohio*

What an incredible experience it was to be a witness to this tremendous outpouring of the awesome healing power of God and especially, the outpouring of his incredible love and mercy. May His name be praised and blessed forever!

"...through the unanimous agreements of commitment of pastors of souls, musicians and faithful, it will be possible to achieve what the Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy) describes as the true 'purpose of sacred music', that is, 'the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful'." John Paul II – given on November 22, 2003 on the feast of St. Cecilia

Mission Calendar!



Keep up-to-date by referring to this calendar often!

October

- Tues. Oct. 18th* Feast of St. Luke
- Fri. Oct. 21st* Healing Mass, 7PM
Belmont, NY
- Sat. Oct. 22nd* Craft Show, Spoth Farm
9AM - 3PM
VOM Mass and Concert
4:30PM O.L. of Peace
- Sun. Oct. 23rd* Mass, 1PM St. Luke's
- Tues. Oct. 25th* Healing Mass, 7PM
St. Luke's
- Sat. Oct. 29th* Phil Keaggy Concert
7PM Riviera Theater
- Sun. Oct. 30th* Generations of Faith
1PM St. Luke's

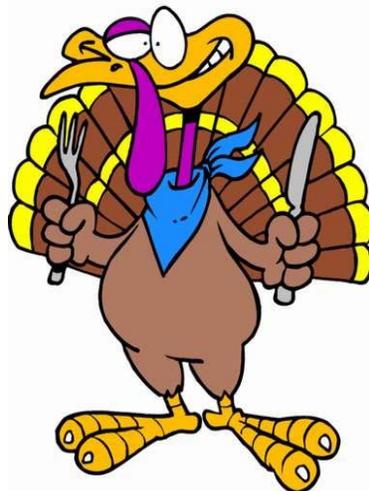
November

- Wed. Nov. 2nd* Healing Mass, 7PM
Blessed Sacrament
- Thurs. Nov. 3rd* FOSL Meeting 7PM
Infant of Prague
- Sat. Nov. 5th* Mercy and the Eucharist
Conference
- Sun. Nov. 6th* Mass, 1PM St. Luke's
- Sat. Nov. 12th* Meet St. Luke's Night
St. Andrew's, Kenmore
7PM
- Sun. Nov. 13th* Generations of Faith
1PM St. Luke's
- Nov. 19th - 21st* Thanksgiving Food
Packing
- Sun. Nov. 20th* Mass, 1PM St. Luke's
- Tues. Nov. 22nd* Mission Food Giveaway
- Thurs. Nov. 24th* Happy Thanksgiving!
1PM Mass, Dinner after
- Sun. Nov. 27th* Mass, 1PM St. Luke's
- Tues. Nov. 29th* Healing Mass, 7PM
St. Luke's

December

- Thurs. Dec. 1st* FOSL Meeting
- Sun. Dec. 4th* Mass, 7PM St. Luke's

- Wed. Dec. 7th* Healing Mass, 7PM
Blessed Sacrament
- Sat. Dec. 10th* Marriage Encounter
Mass 7PM St. Luke's
- Sun. Dec. 11th* Generations of Faith
1PM, St. Luke's
- Mon. Dec. 12th* Fr. McAlear, 7PM
Holy Angels Church
- Dec. 14th-19th* Toy Packing
- Thurs. Dec. 15th* Healing Mass, 7PM
St. Christopher's
- Dec. 17th-19th* Food Packing
- Sat. Dec. 17th* Associates / FOSL Party
6:30PM Mass, Party to
follow
- Sun. Dec. 18th* Mass, 1PM St. Luke's
- Tues. Dec. 20th* Food Giveaway
- Dec. 21st-23rd* Toy Giveaway and
Pick-up
- Sat. Dec. 24th* Mission closes at Noon
Dinner for Neighborhood
5PM
Lessons and Carols
11:30PM
Mass at Midnight
- Sun. Dec. 25th* Merry Christmas!
Mission Closed
- Tues. Dec. 27th* Healing Mass 7PM
St. Luke's
- Sat. Dec. 31st* New Year's Eve Party
8PM, St. Luke's
Mass 11:30PM
- Sun. Jan. 1st* Happy New Year!



Help Keep St. Luke's

Rolling!

With the rising cost of gasoline, transportation becomes a costly issue for all of us, and especially for the rides team headed up by Elaine Schmitt, our newest missionary at St. Luke's. More and more of the Mission's finances are set aside for gasoline. To save money, bus tokens are being given at a record rate: three rolls a week (\$67.50 a roll).

We need your help! Please consider a donation of tokens or money for transportation. Much of our ministry is transportation, and the need continues to grow as gasoline prices go up. Your donation will help get children and adults to school, doctor's appointments, counseling, work, and a myriad of other worthwhile places. For more information please call the office. Thank you for your help!



IT'S THE SNEEZIN'
SEASON!

In the words of Adelaide from "Guys and Dolls": "It's the wheezin' and the sneezin' and the sinus that's really a pip". Please consider donating over-the-counter cold, flu, and sinus medication this fall and winter. Our noses and sore throats thank you!

Associates on the move!

Our nine-day St. Faustina Novena ended with a beautiful liturgy on Wednesday, October 5th. This was a very powerful novena. Many petitions were granted and we are thankful for all.

Our annual pilgrimage took place over the Columbus day weekend. This year we visited the Blessed Marianne Cope Shrine at St. Anthony's Motherhouse in Syracuse, then traveled to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. On our return home we stopped in Auriesville, NY and visited the Jesuit Martyrs Shrine. We were blessed to have Fr. Dennis Franckowiak, Fr. Dennis Mancuso, and Fr. Dan Young with us for the pilgrimage.

Our small groups have started meeting to study the Gospel of Matthew. Rick Paolini and Dave Topor met with their groups in September. Fr. Dan Young and Fr. Joseph Bertha will meet with their groups in October. If you are interested in joining one of the groups please call the Mission at 894-4476 for more information.

We are coming into our very busy time of the year. God is doing many wonderful things for the Mission. Please keep all Associates, FOSL's, volunteers, and everyone who comes to the Mission in your prayers.



Future "Don't Miss" Events:

October 29th:

Phil Keaggy Concert

November 5th:

**"Mercy and the Eucharist
Conference" with Fr.
Benedict Groeschel**

November 12th:

"Meet St. Luke's Night"



Wish List...

The Mission is always in need! Many people ask, "How can I help?" Here is a very important way you can make a difference in our ministry and in the lives of real people with real needs. The following list of items are needed to help us in the day-to-day activities, programs and ministries of the Mission. Some items are small and inexpensive, and others are, well...hey, it's a wish list! Check it out, and if you would like to help please call the Mission at 894-4476.

- Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
- Bar soap, shampoo
- Women's sanitary products
- Ladies perfumes
- Diapers, especially size 4 and 5
- Baby wipes
- Baby formula, esp. Enfamil with iron
- Toilet Paper
- Bus Tokens
- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Batteries
- Laundry Detergent
- Cleaning supplies: detergents, spray cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, etc.
- Stamps
- Over-the-Counter Medications:
 - Cough Medicine
 - Tylenol / Motrin
 - Benadryl
 - Sinus Medication
 - Imodium
 - Children's medicines
- Microsoft Word
- Lexmark printer ink, #32 and #33
- Inkjet printer paper and copy paper
- baskets for Chinese Auction items
- Drivers for Saturday Religious ed. and Sunday Mass
- Double-decker gas convection oven, commercial grade (we can't use 3-face power)
- Snow blower, preferably 7-9 horsepower



"THE CONVENT"

The former convent of St. Luke's parish, once housing Felician Sisters, now serves a different purpose at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. Years ago the nuns would give to the needy who knocked on the convent door, unbeknownst of the purpose their home would someday have.

The first floor is home to the ladies. A few of our lady missionaries live side-by-side with women and children who have come to the Mission in need of shelter and guidance. With a full kitchen, the ladies live, eat, and recreate with one another each day.

The second floor is the domain of "Uncle Eddie", a men's shelter for those most in need. Keeping a merciful eye on all comings and goings, Eddie Simon supervises a group of men with many needs. St. Luke's, known for accepting men who have been sent away from other shelters, provides warmth, food, and guidance.

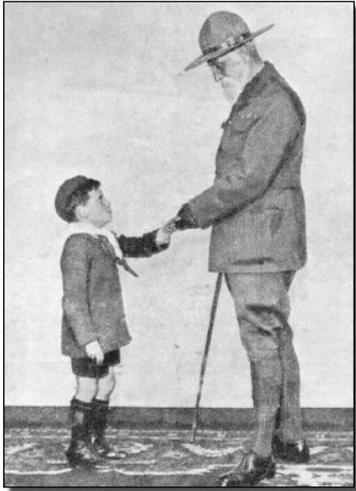
Every space being precious, even the basement is used for the benefit of the Mission. A salon, staffed by Jeannie Marinaro, provides haircuts and styling for missionaries and residents of our homes. A work-out room has been created to help our ladies stay in shape and practice good health-habits, again led by Jeannie. Washers and driers are available to everyone in the basement.

The men of the second floor receive a snack each night, provided by the kitchen and served by the men of the Good Shepherd residence or by Penny Matches and her helpers from the convent. Men who work are also given their lunch for the day at that time.

Finally, our beloved chapel is located in the convent, on the first floor. Recently updated with a beautiful slate floor, the chapel is home to daily 4:30PM mass and offers spiritual sanctuary to missionaries, residents, and volunteers.

A busy place, often misunderstood, but always engaged in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, the "Convent" is a vital part of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH: A 5 YEAR PLAN OF STUDY



Addressing the catechetical needs of all ages, Generations of Faith began the first of a five-year plan based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in October at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. The format, already in play in many parishes throughout the diocese, is a great fit for St. Luke's. Ongoing religious education is a necessity for all of us, and this program does just that.

Spearheaded and planned by Dave Topor, director of Religious Education at St. Luke's, Generations of Faith brings families and individuals together as one big family, seeking better understanding of our faith. The family meal is the focus of the day, with a delicious dinner prepared immediately after mass. Power-point images reflecting the theme of the day help to focus everyone on the lesson at hand while they enjoy their meal. The group is then divided into age-groups, with a great set of teachers giving their time and talent to pass on the truths of the faith. Gathering once more after classes, the participants are given a packet of "homework", including activities, materials, and a CD with prayer, instruction and songs by the Voices of Mercy.

St. Luke's Mission of Mercy's largest religious education project to date, Generations of Faith was warmly received by all. Through the efforts of many under the direction of Dave Topor, the program is off to a great start! Look for more updates on the program in future issues of the newsletter.



PRAISE THE LORD!

BY EDDIE SIMON

Praise the Lord! "A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! I, the Lord, am it's keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone harm it, I guard it night and day." (Isaiah 27:2-3)

As I read these verses I couldn't help but think of St. Luke's Mission. It is truly one of the Lord's vineyards, a pleasant vineyard worth singing about. I think of how graciously He shows us that He waters and protects it. There are three ways that He has revealed His blessings recently through His "Secretary of Mercy", St. Faustina.

Many of you know that we prayed a Novena for the intercession of St. Faustina and then celebrated her feast day on October 5th. What I would like to share with you and "Praise the Lord" for are three of the answered prayers. We have been struggling with the water bill for several years now. Amy has negotiated with them many times but the problems just seem to come back like a bad penny. Every time we get things settled something changes. The city privatized the water department...we negotiate terms with a department head, then he left the department...paperwork is lost...no one can remember terms of the agreement...and so on. In the mean time, penalty and interest fees compound exponentially until we end up in a situation that is impossible to get out of. Well, Amy announced on the Feast day of St. Faustina that her prayers had been answered. Someone from the Water authority informed her that the water bill would be "taken care of" anonymously! Praise the Lord!

It is no secret that there are concerns about health care in this as well as any economically depressed area. As a health care professional, one of our missionaries, Dave Marciniak, is more acutely aware of this than most. He developed a proposal and submitted an application for a grant offered by Fidelis Healthcare, to be chosen and awarded by Bishop Kmiec. He targeted five concerns that need attention in the St. Luke's area. The five priorities are: high blood pressure, diabetes, pregnancy, mental health, and asthma. At the end of our Novena Amy had the pleasure of announcing that Fidelis had awarded us with a \$10,000.00 grant! Praise the Lord!

Last but not least, what would a pleasant vineyard be without a fruitful vine? When Amy was announcing some of the answered prayers at the end of the Novena I heard someone speaking to her from one of the pews. I couldn't hear what she said, but once Amy got it she shared the good news. Brad and Mary Erckert had made their novena intention to be blessed with another child. Well, their prayers were answered! God is so good to us in so many ways; let us sing of his pleasant vineyard, for He is the keeper who waters and guards it night and day! Praise the Lord!

over the next few months. If you are a healthcare professional with background in hypertension, diabetes, pregnancy, asthma / COPD, or mental health and would like to participate in informational presentations call Dave Marciniak at 444-4404. If you are not a healthcare professional and just want to help, we need you, too! There is much to do, and many hands make light work. More information to come!

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS!

As we prepare to implement the health initiative made possible by a generous grant awarded by Bishop Kmiec through Fidelis Healthcare, we need volunteers to help on all levels. We will be having a health fair, information nights, and many other events

Don't forget to check out our new website: www.stlukesmissionofmercy.org

From Ireland with Love!

St. Luke's Mission is becoming a pilgrimage site for travelers from all over the world! This summer the Mission welcomed two gentlemen from Ireland for a week of prayer and work. Peter McKavanagh and Brian Fitzpatrick experienced St. Luke's on a grand scale, working, playing and praying! From the Marciniak's back-yard bar-b-que, to the tours of Western New York, to the Bison's game, Peter and Brian got a taste of life in Buffalo. Most of all, they got a taste of life at St. Luke's, working and praying side-by-side with missionaries and volunteers. *We recently received a letter from Peter and Brian, who shared their experience with us. They wrote:*

"Initial impressions of St. Luke's and its missionaries were good, simply because they had taken the trouble to meet us at the airport, a welcoming act which had already surpassed some of our previous

and, more importantly, shining examples of how to live out a Catholic life. From our point of view this was precisely the experience we were looking for. Seeing the word of God lived out to the best of their abilities was a great example and teaching experience for the two of us.

The morning rosary procession was both a beautiful and moving experience during which one of the most powerful prayers of all was said in a place that has very little importance in the secular world. In some ways saying it in such a place had more meaning than doing so in Rome, Lourdes, Knock or any of the major American shrines. Not only was it a gathering together in prayer, but also an outward teaching on the Catholic way to the local community, a microcosm of the overall Christian ethos of St. Luke's. This, prior to mass and morning prayer, was just beautiful.

The work done within the kitchen was something that we really enjoyed. We felt truly a part of the work done by the

But our time at St. Luke's was not just one of prayer and hard work. Indeed, far from it. We were very touched by the willingness of people to make us feel at home and to go out of their way to introduce us to their own families and show us the local hotspots! All in all many great friends have been made by our trip.

In conclusion, we would like to thank St. Luke's and all its neighbors, friends, associates and missionaries for welcoming us so open-heartedly and for being such a great yardstick for Catholic living in the face of adversity.

Thank you and God Bless,
Peter McKavanagh &
Brian Fitzpatrick



trips! The people that we met both initially and throughout our stay were friendly, helpful,

mission and experienced the charity of workers and the hardships of the homeless people first-hand.