

Missionary Mom

by Michelle Marciniak



Happy and Blessed New Year!!! This past September started a brand new phase to this mission mom's life. My husband Dave and I decided to send six of our children to the home school at the mission. This gave me the opportunity to "help" out at the school. I now help teach in the pre-k to 2nd grade classroom. I spend most of my day with three pre-k and two kindergarten children. What a joy! Okay, so two of the five children are my own, but still, it is quite a joy to work in the school.

Let me tell you about the blessings of God in all of this. For years it has been the desire of my heart to help in the day to day running of the Mission, like the other missionaries. But my first vocation is wife and mother, so I was at home with my children. Now, out of God's goodness, He gave me an opportunity to do both! I am with my children and I am at the school everyday from 8 until 2. I can even have an adoration time now!! The teacher that I work with gives me a "time out" after lunch, so I get to spend an hour with the Lord every school day. How good God is!!!!

I never thought this would be what I am doing, though, when it came my time to help out at the mission. I thought maybe I would be a driver or work in the kitchen. But here I am teaching. Mostly, my job is not different from the one I have at home; I am always a mom. I give hugs and kisses. I get to read books with children snuggled up to me. When I had to be out a couple of times because I had sick children to stay home with, my school kids ran up to me and hugged me like I had been gone for weeks. They get used to seeing us everyday and they love the routine, with the security of knowing what is happening next.

I am also blessed to work with wonderful women. The teachers, Pam, Linda and Nancy really love and care for each one of their students, and it shows in all that they do. I am especially blessed to work so closely with Pam. We have a very loving atmosphere for the children to learn and grow in, and I believe it is because of the example she sets.

I also get to see my brother and sister missionaries every day. Dave Topor teaches the older classes Spanish and religion. Debbie Mallory keeps our cafeteria clean and running properly. I feel like a part of things now, a part of this awesome body of Christ. When I am walking through the parking lot for adoration I often see Uncle Eddy or Uncle Norm. Charlene's adoration time is after mine and she often eats lunch with us, so I get to see many of them everyday now. It helps to feel like a part of a community when I can hug them and pray with them.

My lesson in all of this: God will give us the desires of our hearts, sometimes it just takes time. We must always be patient and obedient! If I had tried to do things before God's time, who knows what would have happened. But because I was patient and obedient to what God had already given me, now I have the desire of my heart. God's ways are not our ways. God's time is not like ours. We must always listen more, and talk less. Then and only then, can we hear His voice.

God's many blessings to you and your families in the coming year.

Hunger hurts all year long



As our economy suffers so, too, are the poor. Our dining room, serving brunch and dinner daily, has seen enormous increases in attendance. We recently broke our own record when we served over seven hundred in one day. Those coming to eat are changing, too. Families, those who can't afford rent and food, as well as those who can't pay utilities and put meals on the table are suddenly coming in large numbers. The cost of feeding our community continues to grow; our payments often exceed two thousand dollars weekly.

Once again we are asking those in the community that have the means to sponsor a week of food for our dining room. For two thousand dollars you can feed hundreds of men, women and children for an entire week. Your donation goes directly to the pantry and into the bellies of the needy. No one collects a salary and there are no administrative costs; your donation directly translates into much needed food and nutrition.

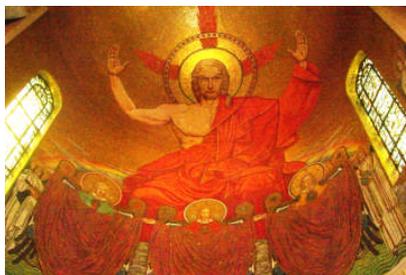
If you, your organization and/or business would like to help us in this important ministry, please call the office today at 894-4476. Let us know that you would like to sponsor a week of nutrition and we can tell you how. God bless you!

Sponsor a week of food for hungry bellies! Call 894-4476

Did you know...

Did you know that the mural of the Risen Christ in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. (right, top), the "Mother Church" of the United States, was created by the same man who painted the image of God the Father in the dome of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy (right, bottom)?

John de Rosen (born 1891, died 1982) was a talented Polish artist who made his mark in many churches throughout the US and Europe. His work at St. Luke's includes the image of God in the dome, the images of Mary and Gabriel in the Annunciation surrounding the arch to the sanctuary, and the images of the angels above the side chapels. His art is admired by men and women throughout the world, and we are blessed to have an abundance of his work!



Sunday Drivers Needed!

We are in great need of volunteers to help drive members of our community to and from Mass on Sunday afternoons. Sharon, one of our regular drivers, is currently recovering from illness and won't be able to help for some time. If you are interested in this important ministry please call the office at 894-4476. Thank you, and happy motoring!