



W. 505 St. Thomas More Way  
Spokane, WA 99208

# Family to Family

Familia-A-Familia Newsletter

June 2012

## Visitors from Guatemala

Spokane was blessed by the recent visit of Adela Tambriz and Natalia de Leon. Adela, our FTF Operations Manager in the Highlands, and Natalia, FTF program coordinator, brought up-to-date reports on the sponsored families and the many ongoing projects.

Due to a limited time availability, we had to judiciously ration their time, but they did manage to attend several meetings, had parish visits, met with Spokane Diocese Bishop Cupich, saw snow at a ski area in Idaho, and even got in a little shopping. One of the highlights of the trip for them was a mass with the children at St. Thomas More School. After the mass, so many of the children came around and hugged them that it almost brought tears to their eyes.

The potluck at the St. Thomas More Parish Activity Center was a unique opportunity for our FTF sponsors to meet and talk with our front-line managers on a personal basis. Along with many thanks, the visitors each received a Certificate of Recognition for exceptional service signed by Bishop Blase Cupich.

Adela had prepared a power point presentation --- but on a different computer. We had some computer problems, but Natalia stepped right in and delivered a very well-received presentation to the nearly 100 attendees. All went well, thanks in part to all who brought delicious food dishes. Thanks for your support.

## New board members

As FTF continues to reach out to meet the needs of more of the poor in the Highlands, and our programs expand to new areas (e.g. coffee production), our FTF organization is also in need of more administrative, technical, and marketing expertise. The existing board of directors (Irene Anderson, Greg Miller, Jerry & Clara Monks, Arleen Shrader, and Jeanne Sweigert) are extremely fortunate in being able to add two new members (Miriam Devaney and Brenda Lacey-Scholze). Miriam has already teamed up with Greg Miller in furthering the development of the FTF web site, a site that will hopefully be on line later this year.

FTF is one of over 50 ministries of St. Thomas More Parish. The FTF volunteer board, as well as those who contribute through STM envelopes and via mail-in, are very appreciative of the administrative support from STM, the clergy, parish council, and parish in total. It is STM support and encouragement that has enabled the FTF program to flourish over the past 28 years.

## Programs in the Highlands

The three basic FTF programs for the Mayan poor continue to be (1) Family Sponsorship, (2) Family Assistance, and (3) Community/Self-Help. The Year 2011 report on the reverse side provides some data on the current status of these programs.

The never-ending storms of the past two years have destroyed the corn crops (and homes) of many of the families, and have curtailed some of the projects, such as raising trout. Adela is working to bring bring relief to families, and projects back on line, but that will take time.

A new entry in the report this year is coffee production. It has been under development for about three years and this year yielded the first "real coffee." Adela and Natalia brought some samples with them to Spokane, and early reports were that it was "very good." Thanks to help from a member of the Guatemala Commission, we will be following through with more definitive quality testing of the coffee beans and (hopefully) marketing of the coffee.