



SPRING 2012

Newsletter

Volume I
Issue I



Change Can Be Good!!

By David Hulefeld, dhulefeld@iglou.com

The St. William community has enjoyed a long, spiritually enriching relationship with our sister parish in Nicaragua, Our Lord of Esquipulas. We are excited about a new phase in that relationship! In January, the St. William Esquipulas Committee formed a non-profit corporation, Friends of Esquipulas. This new legal entity enhances our fundraising capabilities. Funding for the various projects in Nicaragua has come from St. William members and their circle of contacts. The wonderful generosity of this group is seen in the amazing growth in financial support for projects in Esquipulas over the last 25 years. However, the committee determined to expand the circle of supporters and to obtain funds from a larger group, both to ensure the sustainability of our outreach efforts and to accommodate future growth. With an official 501(c) (3) designation, we will be able to seek funding from corporate and foundation sources.

Friends of Esquipulas (FE) is governed by a board composed of St. William members who have served on the Esquipulas Committee for many years (see the list of board members). FE board meetings occur in conjunction with the committee meetings and to a casual observer, there is no change in the conduct of business. As funds continue to be available, FE intends to support the ongoing initiatives of the people at our sister parish: Nutrition project, Organic project, San Guillermo health clinic and one staff salary at Casa Materna (detailed project descriptions outlined in next newsletter). Contributions in support of the projects are to be made payable to Friends of Esquipulas (not to St. William). The same dedicated volunteers as in years past will process your gift, and you will receive the documentation necessary for tax purposes.

As Friends of Esquipulas gets rolling, we welcome new participants. There are multiple opportunities to get involved: you can help with translating, fundraising, accounting, newsletter production/distribution; and can participate as a board member, committee member, or one-time volunteer.

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**David Hulefeld,
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Jim Butler, Theresa Butler,

Julie Driscoll, Joan Dubay,

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Ostertag, Jean Porter

Effective March 2012



Thank you for all your support! Please continue to partner with us as we enter this new phase of our work!

\$\$\$ It's NOT just a check \$\$\$

By Don Pitts, dcp3@insightbb.com

My wife Shannon and I were preparing for our first trip to Nicaragua as part of the 2010 delegation. I shared my excitement with my best friend Leroy in Texas. He asked a good question. "Wouldn't the people benefit more from the money that it would cost the four of you to travel there and back?" I didn't have a good answer to that challenge. It's taken me a while to answer his question, but now I know.



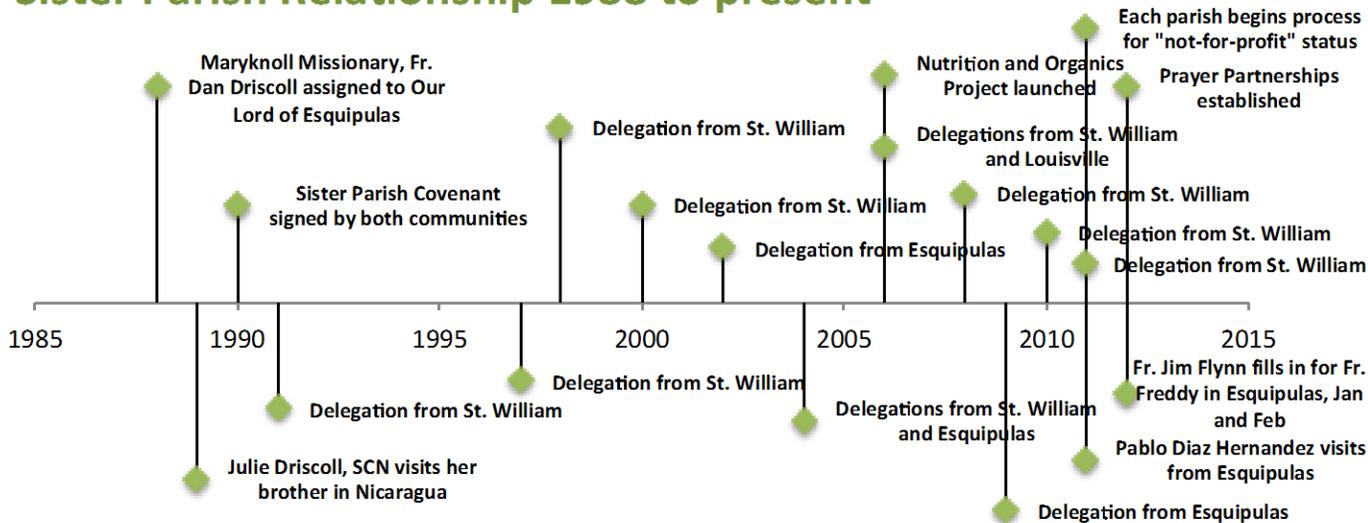
There were so many amazing experiences on our journey; breathtaking views of mountains and lush green valleys, riding a pickup truck up roads that should have been used in a 4-wheel drive ad, the amazing hospitality of our hosts, lots of poverty. But what changed our hearts were the meetings with the project participants. As we met in dirt floored homes, spoke face to face and heard "thank you, thank you and don't forget about us," it became clear to me that we were in a relationship with these farmers that was about more than money.

This message was brought home when after our stay we learned that Pablo's son Elian was quite ill and would require complicated brain surgery. Pablo is the project engineer and one with whom we work closely in Esquipulas. We had been in his home, eaten with him and his wife and two children. He had stayed in our home when travelling to the States on a fund raising trip. So when word came out among our committee that he needed money for the surgery, there was a face and a friendship connected to the need. The needed funds were quickly raised.

Joe Grant, a prophet and friend, always urges us to go to the margins where our hearts can be broken. (This is a good thing). In this long relationship with our friends in Esquipulas we have the chance to have our hearts broken open and made better, more compassionate. We carry our relationships with our brothers and sisters each day, not easily forgotten. Yes, it's a lot more than a check!



Sister Parish Relationship 1988 to present





Padre Jim's Journal-Special Edition

By Fr. Jim Flynn, jflynn502@aol.com, Edited by Brian Cheaney, briancheaney@gmail.com

Thursday Jan. 19, 2012

Yesterday afternoon, last night and again this morning we have no water. So, it's back to the old bucket brigade use for the obvious. Pablo told me yesterday that people here joke about it all: "when we have rain we have no water, and when we have water we have no rain!"

I have the same palatial suite as last summer. Only this time there is a small table by my bed, complete with a lamp, but of course no electrical outlet nearby. I have a very pretty new wardrobe, but I couldn't open it – key was lost till someone found it later. I love it all!!!

Sunday Jan. 22, 2012

Today was the closing of 8 days celebrating the patronal Feast of the Parish: Our Lord of Esquipulas. The church was packed with over 500 people. Outside the church there must have been another 200 or 300. At the end, I processed out the main aisle, shaking hands and arms (Nicaraguan style) and kissing babies –why not!. In all I have to say it was a very beautiful, awe-inspiring, uplifting, but very tiring experience for me. Later, three members of the young peoples' group asked to chat with me. I did so gladly, and spent about 45 enjoyable minutes with them. I mentioned to them how I hoped St. William could learn the song about Our Lord of Esquipulas. One guy promptly went into the radio station, and mentioned this to the announcer. She told me she could get me a copy.

Tuesday Jan. 24, 2012

I really did ride a horse on the way to a Mass in El Jicaro! You may laugh, but the horse and I both knew it was no laughing matter.

Wednesday Jan. 25, 2012

So where does one go to remember the Conversion of St. Paul? Why not to the community of El Castillo, which prides itself to be under its patron St. Paul? We started for El Castillo in a rather nice (as things go) pick up truck. It was up, down, more up, less down, till we were at the height where coffee trees are so abundant. The "road" ended just below the chapel on top of a hill. But what a view it was! I consider myself one lucky and graced guy to be here among such simple, honest and humble people of God.



FE Newsletter will be published twice a year. If you would rather receive it electronically, please email us at: friendsofesquipulas@gmail.com

Inaugural Issue!

How to donate!!

Simply make your check payable to *Friends of Esquipulas* and place it in the collection basket or mail to:

FE c/o St. William, 1226 W. Oak Street,
Louisville, KY, 40210



Thanks for your support!



**Friends of
Esquipulas:**

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Louisville, KY 40210

An Outreach Ministry of St. William Community