

June 10, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

Guatemala: This past Monday, June 4, (the day that I am writing this article for our weekly bulletin) the National News reported that Volcano Fuego had erupted in Guatemala, 25 miles SW of Guatemala City. The very first report had the death toll at 25 with many injured and missing. More than 3,000 people are displaced from their homes. The airport closed and the country is in a state of emergency. I am not sure if any of our families' families were directly affected by the blast. I do know that many of our families' families live far from the disaster area. It is our pledge to always stand in solidarity with those in need and so I ask all of us to be united in prayer for our dear brothers and sisters in Guatemala. This is a good opportunity to remember all those who have been devastated by natural disasters: forest fires, hurricanes, tornados, floods and volcano eruptions. We cannot forget about Hawaii and anyone still recovering from a past natural disaster. Union in prayer for everyone!



The Trip to Guatemala: At the time that I had to write this article, there was no way to tell if the volcano eruption in Guatemala would change our travel plans. We are scheduled to fly into Guatemala City and then travel by van to our other destinations far from the disaster area. The leaders of our group will be watching closely the proceedings to determine what changes, if any, need to be made.

As of this past Monday, Judy Kuhlman, our Youth Director, Stephanie Sepate, our Business Manager and I are scheduled to leave for Guatemala with a group on Wednesday, June 13 until June 21. We are going to build relations with parishes and schools where families of our families attend. In person, we will give them your greetings, gifts and prayers. We are joined by other travelers from the Archdiocesan School Office, Archdiocesan Mission Office and others from Holy Family, Our Lady of Visitation, and St. Clement parishes.

There will be no Thursday evening, 7pm Mass this week because I will be gone. Fr. Louis Gasperini, The Director of Hispanic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, will have our 6pm, Saturday Mass on June 16. Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, will have our 10:30am Mass on Sunday, June 17. Please give them both a very warm welcome of hospitality. I am very excited that they have accepted the invitation to pray with you and I am most grateful to them. You will be blessed by their presence as I know they will be blessed by your presence. At our Eucharist, in Guatemala, we will be praying with you. Peace and Blessings.