

*Solidarity Bridge*  
*The Chicago Catholic Medical Mission*  
*The Catholic Enterprise Mission*  
Ministries of the Laity of the Archdiocese of Chicago

**Report**

Mission to the Archdiocese of Cochabamba

November 1-15, 2001

The mission teams were made up of the following:

Medical: a plastic surgeon, a general surgeon, a gynecologist, two anesthesiologists, two internists, a cardiologist, three surgical nurses, one surgical tech and two translators.

Enterprise: six businessmen and a translator.

Pastoral: a priest and a lay chaplain.

Leadership: Dr. Juan L. Hinojosa – Mission director; Dr. Enrique Via-Reque - Medical coordinator; Dr. Al Dietz – Clinical coordinator; Nurse Kate Scott – Nursing coordinator; Ms. Christina Via-Reque – Surgical supply coordinator; Mr. Vince Keefe – Enterprise coordinator.

Our counterparts in Bolivia for the Medical Mission included:

- The coordinating local team: the medical and the administrative staff of the Hospital Cuschieri, a church hospital.
- The doctors and nurses at the hospital where operations occurred and the doctors and nurses from the clinics where we provided medical care.
- Sr. Fulvia who coordinated with the outlying clinics.
- Sr. Edith who coordinated the trips to the jails.

The persons we connected with for the Enterprise Mission included:

- A group of lay Catholic business leaders, led by Mr. Felipe Guzman.
- Fr. Eugenio, the head of Pastoral Social and Caritas of the Archdiocese of Cochabamba.
- The leaders of the microenterprise groups with which we will partner.
- Rotary club of Cochabamba.

Concrete Achievements:

Medical Mission:

- Surgical: (total of 72 surgeries)
  - 32 general surgeries performed
  - 31 plastic surgeries performed
  - 9 gynecological surgeries performed

- Medical Care: A total of at least 796 patients were seen.
- Over \$160,000 in medical supplies, equipment and medicines were donated. Among the equipment were two electro/cauterizing scalpels and a defibrillator. This included \$2,320 in medicines for two kidney transplant patients and \$2,000 in cash for a final treatment on a leukemia patient. We delivered 50 pacemakers for those suffering with Chagas, a parasitic disease that affects the heart. Each pacemaker, if the patient had been able to buy it, would cost over \$2,000. Other valuable cardiological supplies and medicines were donated.

#### Enterprise Mission:

The Enterprise Mission has begun to take shape through entering into partnership with three enterprises made up of the poor. There are over 400 women in one, 86 in another and over 100 men and women in the last. We were a resource to the Archdiocese of Cochabamba in a difficult administrative problem and helped the board of an important major Church social service agency. Mr. Bruce Leech, one of the missionaries and the Chairman of the Board and founder of Crosscom National, Inc gave an address to business leaders. The enterprise mission has entered into relationship with Rotary in a microlending project that will provide \$20,000 for loans.

#### Future efforts:

Dr. Juan L. Hinojosa had a preliminary meeting with a very large educational organization serving the poor started and run by the Jesuits. It is called Fe y Alegria (Faith and Joy). Another mission effort might involve Catholic schoolteachers in the Archdiocese connecting with Catholic teachers serving the poor in Bolivia. Those from Chicago would learn Spanish and culture and the Bolivians would be those wanting to learn more English and connection with counterparts from the U.S. Our teachers might also resource Fe y Alegria (they have over 150 schools in the Cochabamba area) in some of their needs, depending on the expertise of the missionaries. There could be a sharing of a pedagogical and curricular nature.

Our offer to partner with the Archdiocese of Cochabamba in developing an evangelistic outreach when we return next year with the help of Fr. Bruce Neili has been accepted.

#### Spiritual:

- Fr. Gary Graf presided at numerous Eucharists, for the teams, the local indigenous populations and a local parish.
- The team experienced daily Eucharist or a prayer service to begin the day.
- Patient pastoral care and spiritual guidance.
- Many of our members of the mission teams gave testimony to the powerful impact, both humanly and spiritually, the trip had on them.
- There is a tremendous impact, both humanly and spiritually, on our counterparts in Bolivia.
- More intangible, but just as important, is the witness of the individuals and of the entire mission to the care and gospel commitment of the U.S. Church for the Bolivian Church.
- In our Archdiocese, a number of parishes were involved by either supporting the short-term missionary or through a local commissioning. Four parishes provided funding for the infrastructure needs. A number of parish individuals provided funds for the needs in Bolivia. The Archdiocesan Commissioning at Holy Family in Waukegan was a significant event in that parish.