

**Father Gabriel Richard
High School
& Renewal Ministries
Mission to Mexico
April 9-15, 2012**



We are called to be light for the Kingdom; to be hope for the hopeless!

During their Easter Break this past April, a group of 23 Spanish language students from Fr. Gabriel Richard's Senior Class traveled to Mexico City to serve their poor and marginalized brothers and sisters. This is the sixth time that Gabriel Richard students have traveled to Mexico in partnership with Renewal Ministries, which sponsors numerous mission outreaches throughout the world. For the past six years the FGR school community has been instrumental in raising money through their annual Food Fast to directly provide food, medicine and supplies for the poor of Mexico City. This year FGR had a record number of participants (over 230 students) and raised over \$12,000!



These students not only gave up their traditional Spring Break, but they also raised their own funds to go on the mission and eagerly spent six months meeting together to prepare spiritually, emotionally, culturally and physically for the trip!

The team, consisting of these students, Senora Janey Herrera from FGR, a doctor and six other adult chaperones spent their week ministering to infants, children, teens and adults. One day they worked in an orphanage run by the Sisters of Charity, providing direct physical care to severely handicapped children, teens, and seniors and visiting with the residents. (Afterward, they enjoyed dinner and salsa dancing lessons with a local parish youth group!) Another day was spent ministering to the men, women, and children who work and live in the garbage dump. They assisted at the medical clinic, distributed toiletries, food, clothing and toys, gave haircuts, and played with the kids. The trip also involved a touching visit to a large government-run home for senior men and a truly anointed day spent with Mother Inez, a nun who runs an orphanage for 230 mentally handicapped children. Our students spent their time there with the most severely afflicted residents - - quietly singing, praying with, and loving the children. This was clearly one of the most profound experiences of the trip. Another day the students traveled to a parish Church outside of Mexico City where they served lunch and distributed clothing, toys, bulk food and vitamins to several hundred poor men, women and children. The students also provided haircuts, organized games and activities including a huge piñata!

There was also some time for a little shopping at a mercado publico (public market), a trip to the Pyramids of Teotihuacan and a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine which offered the team some deep moments of prayer and reflection.

It was an amazingly fruitful week of ministry. God opened so many doors for the team on this mission trip and offered Divine assistance at every turn, which no doubt will have a lasting and profound effect on the lives of all the team members.

"We are many parts. We are all on body, and the gifts we have we are given to share."