SINCE 2003, Renewal Ministries has been ministering to the impoverished in Mexico City. This time, we were blessed to have Fr. Gabriel Richard High School students and chaperones on the team. Here are some of the highlights.

Relationships are growing. The relationship between the mission teams and the dump residents grows stronger with each visit. Often, we are invited into their sheds…if they have one. In addition, some of the rivalry among dump leaders is diminishing.

Evangelization efforts increased. The people living in the dump have begun to take responsibility for some of the prayer and the practice of praying spontaneously with people is growing.

Medical clinic improvements. Thanks to the work of so many, we continue to streamline our medical services and increase our ability to see patients more efficiently. Special thanks go to the following:

- Dr. Sue Burkhart for longtime service and the identification of an efficient pharmaceutical inventory.
- Dr. Dave Macari who has revamped medical testing equipment, and fine tuned our clinic meds and supplies.
- Dr. Kristen Krieger who has improved our labeling system to speed up the distribution of meds.

Upper Room expansion. Mother Inez continues to open her heart to us as she shares the joys and struggles of running a home for handicapped children. The Upper Room, where the severely disabled children live has been expanded through the generosity of Renewal Ministries’ donors.

Moments of grace. The food we distribute at the dump is multiplying at the time of distribution. This has been going on for the past two years!

One day, a terrible rain and wind storm blew up. The wind was tearing the medical tent apart. When I asked my co-worker Rodrigo to get extra people to hold the tent down, he laughed and said, “Why don’t you pray?” We knelt down in a puddle that was forming in the ooze. We prayed for God to calm the storm and within five minutes the storm was gone.

The next day was clear; not a single cloud in the sky. The sun was scorching the people who were standing in a long food line. I asked Roy if he could find a way to provide some shade. He proposed several options, but concluded that we simply couldn’t engineer what we needed. Suddenly, I remembered the previous day and asked Roy to pray with me. We asked God to send a cloud to shade the people. Within 20 minutes three clouds had moved exactly over the food line…and then stopped!

**Conclusion** The mission to Mexico is a significant work of God. It is changing the lives of the people in Mexico and transforming the lives of the people who serve.
POPE FRANCIS challenges youth to go out on mission, to embrace the universal call to holiness and to allow the Spirit to work through us. I had the privilege of taking part in the mission to Mexico in April. God was present and He worked through us and those we served. I can say with confidence that Jesus Himself taught us how to love in Mexico City.

On the first day, we visited an orphanage run by Mother Inez, known as the Mother Teresa of Mexico City. In the midst of the bustling city rests a colorful, peaceful home to 230 handicapped children. It is complete with a beautiful flowered courtyard and birds, as Mother says, singing to God. We had the opportunity to visit the Upper Room, home to the severely handicapped children. Though most could not talk and were confined to bed, many embraced us and reached out to us when we came to them. They soaked in our smiles and our care but surely loved us back with the most genuine love of Christ.

Our next three days were spent in the Neza garbage dump, where several hundred families live amidst the rubble. Through medical care, soccer games, coloring books, a picnic lunch, and Mass, Christ united us with our Mexican brothers and sisters.

On our final day, Butch asked me to translate when he addressed the people. I agreed but was not confident my Spanish could keep up. This experience showed us all that when we go out on mission, when we accept the call to proclaim the Gospel to our brothers and sisters in both word and deed, the Spirit rests upon us. As Butch began preaching about the love, power, and unity of Christ and His Church present there, God spoke through me, giving me the Spanish words and the joy, life, and conviction of His Word. I know that I did not speak in perfect Spanish and there were a few words that just would not come to mind.

God provided by breaking down the language barrier and the anxiety of being called to serve. He provided by multiplying loaves of bread in Walmart and multiplying the tons of packaged food that we brought for distribution. When we prayed for relief from the hot sun we were given clouds. When we asked for grace to be able to fully engage and love all those we encountered; we were given peace and met people with incredibly open hearts at the orphanage, the dump, and the senior men’s home.

Through our encounters with the people in Mexico, Jesus taught a group of high school students on spring break that we were made to love and to serve in His name. It is in accepting His grace wherever we are in our lives, and in trusting that He is more powerful than any earthly obstacles that we are able to continue our walk of discipleship, the incredible daily mission of proclaiming His Kingdom and witnessing to His love and mercy.