

URI CATHOLIC CENTER MISSION PROGRAM 2017

"Let the whole of the Church's activity be in a missionary key!" -Pope Francis



As I promised last week, I wanted to outline our plan for the Mission Trips that we will help to sponsor this year at the URI Catholic Center. Yes, that is plural! We will help to sponsor **FIVE** mission trips for our students to **FOUR** different locations in 2017:

- Spring Break: Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago, and the Dominican Republic
- Summer: Haiti and the Philippines

How will our expanded mission program differ from past years?

- Rather than organize the trips on our own, we will partner with **FOCUS Missions**, an organization that will arrange all of the practicalities of the trips for us.
- In the past, we partnered with one organization and served one population. Now, through FOCUS Missions, we will partner with multiple organizations (like Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, the Missionaries of the Poor and the Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation) and engage in **many different forms of service and ministry** (from manual labor to leading bible studies) to **many different populations** (from infants to the elderly).
- Each of the trips we sponsor will have as director or co-director one of the **FOCUS missionaries** who already serve at the Catholic Center on our staff.
- The trips will be offered during **Spring Break** and **Summer Vacation**, rather than during Winter Break. This affords greater flexibility for those unable to travel in January. It will also provide the opportunity for more students to participate in a national conference for college students in January, an event which used to conflict with the mission trip.



- Students will still be responsible for raising their own funds to help finance their participation in the mission trip, but through the resources of FOCUS Missions, each will be assigned a **fundraising coach** to help them meet their goals.

- All of the money raised by the Catholic Center to help finance our mission program will contribute to our **Mission Trip Support Fund**. Those

monies will then be made available to students who apply for assistance. In the past, any money collectively raised for the mission trip was shared by all of the missionaries

and any remaining funds were donated directly to the organization.

- The costs will be fairly comparable. In the past, our partner mission organization required all missionaries to raise **\$950** per participant excluding airfare (which averages around **\$800** round trip) and other travel costs. The costs to participate in this year's mission trips include airfare: Trinidad & Tobago—**\$1,650**; Haiti—**\$1,700**; Dominican Republic—**\$2,000** (the prices for the summer trips have not yet been finalized).



How can you help?

Last year, our missionaries raised **\$57,364** to fund their mission trip to Nicaragua. Nearly twenty-five percent of that amount was raised right here at Christ the King through the amazing generosity of our parish family! Almost **\$10,000** was raised during the weekend of our Pancake Breakfast alone!

Our goal for the Mission Trip Support Fund this year is **\$10,000**. Our primary fundraiser will again be a Pancake Breakfast, which will be held on Sunday, November 13, after all the Masses. We hope that you will be able to join us for a home-cooked breakfast at the Catholic Center and help us reach our goal. As in the past, we will hear a brief presentation at all the Masses that weekend outlining the significance of the mission experience.

How will that money be spent?

The money raised toward that goal will be made available to any URI student participating in any of the trips that we are helping to sponsor. **The more we raise, the more we will be able to help.** We are working on developing an application for grants from our Mission Trip Support Fund, so that monies can be distributed fairly. Rather than donating that money directly to any mission partner organization, any leftover funds will rollover to the following year, so that as many students as possible will be able to participate in future trips.



Thank you!

I cannot thank you enough for your help in providing the opportunity for our students to serve Christ in the poorest of the poor. Even though all of us are not able to go on mission, we are all able to support the missionary efforts of our students. Thank you for all of your help in the past, and thank you in advance for the generosity we will count on in the coming weeks and months. **-Fr. Joe**