

## A TIME FOR MISSION

*"May the whole of ministry be in a missionary key!" –Pope Francis*



Pope Francis' visit to the United States will no doubt be a blessing for Catholics, but also for people of other faiths, for non-believers and seekers, and for our entire nation. If there's anything the Pope has insisted on from the very beginning of his Pontificate it's a recapturing of a sense of the Church's missionary impulse. The Church must always go *"out of herself"* and bring to the world, especially to the suffering, *"the consolation of the tenderness of Jesus and his mercy."* The Pope has reminded us that if we are disciples of Jesus, then we are *all* missionaries.

Since Fr. Matt's arrival at the Catholic Center, that call to mission has been lived out and embraced in a very concrete way through service to the Mustard Seed community in Nicaragua. Dozens of young people (and not-as-young people!) from URI and our parish have embraced the challenge of mission and have shared their time, talent and most importantly, their love, with the poorest of the poor. When I first met with Fr. Matt back in April to begin the transition to my new role, we discussed the importance of the annual Mission Trip and our mutual desire that it continue well into the future. Because my responsibilities are divided between URI, Prout and Christ the King, I knew it would be impossible for me to actually accompany the missionaries on their trip, but I wanted to be certain that the trip would go on and would have the full support of both the URI and the parish communities.

Fr. Matt recommended two Mission Trip veterans and CTK parishioners, **Marybeth Nunnery** and **Ken Pelletier**, to head up the trip. Recently, **Jen Marran**, our parish pastoral associate, has graciously agreed to fill a spiritually supportive role through the preparation process, as well as accompany our missionaries to Nicaragua in January. Many thanks to Marybeth, Ken and Jen for working so hard to make the trip happen.

This past week, applications for the trip were made available to all interested students and decisions will be made in the coming days. When all is said and done, a team of twenty-five students and three adults will go to Nicaragua in January, 2016. Very soon, the missionary team will need our support and our encouragement as they begin concrete preparations for the trip. I know that in the past, the parish has been incredibly generous with this effort. On behalf of all those who have gone to Nicaragua and all those who benefitted from the work and presence of our missionaries, thank you! And thank you in advance to all those who will help send our missionaries forth in 2016. I know that we'll be able to count again on your generosity.

It's important to know that every single member of our community can support the Mission Trip. Not everyone can be physically present on the trip itself, but everyone can play a role in supporting the effort. Many of you will make a financial contribution to one of our upcoming fundraisers that will make the trip possible. Others will donate goods for the missionaries to take with them to the orphans. Still others will offer an encouraging word, and most importantly, we can pray for the success of the trip and for those whose lives the trip will impact most. Whether in Kingston or Nicaragua, we all share in the missionary challenge of the Church. And whether or not we physically accompany our missionaries, we go forth with them in spirit to share the consolation and tenderness of Jesus.

So mark your calendars now! Our Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Catholic Center on Sunday, November 15. And the sale of handmade purses from the Mustard Seek Community Sewing Center will be held during the weekend of December 5 and 6. More details will be forthcoming. And again, thank you, for all that you have done and will do—financially and spiritually—for the missionaries. **–Fr. Joe**