

Sister Parish “Holy Martyrs”

Bonito Oriental, Colón
Honduras

Dear Parishioners of Saint Ignatius,

Here is a typical day in our missionary life in Honduras. For this particular village, it takes me three or four hours on motorcycle (good weather permitting), along mountain trails that take your breath away (hoping you **don't go over the edge**), finally arriving and meeting the people 'til it's time to sleep. Next morning we attend to the daily chores like milking the cows, splitting the wood for the fire and then sacrificing the fattened bovine for the post Eucharist meal.



Then comes the Mass. Families come walking from miles away. The musicians tune their instruments and everyone gathers in the patio under the house. The Eucharist begins. The Eucharistic liturgy is the event of the year lasting two hours or more. Everyone participates and the community is once again united in friendship and in faith.



The Jesuits have 10 mega parishes in Bonito. Mine is one of the smallest, covering two cities and some 60 villages. Over the past 12 years the Bonito parish has grown, matured, and the laity has assumed its responsibility for evangelizing the many Catholics who as yet do not participate in the church. Without your support little of this would have been possible. We have built a parish! With your help we have built the parish church, helped the young people get a high school education, protected our natural resources against the rapacious mining interests, but most important, we have built the Body of Christ and boast of well over a hundred Lay Ministers: Lay Deacons, Catechists, Youth Groups, Marriage Encounters, our Committee on Peace and Justice and the grand experience of *Cursillos de Cristiandad*.



God bless and come on down for a visit. The name of the town “Bonito” means pretty”, it is without a doubt, a very beautiful place to live and work. Of course poverty in all its forms is very prevalent and we can always use a helping hand if you want to visit us. Again I thank you for your generosity in years past and for your continuing prayers.

Fr. Jack Donald, SJ