



Editorial : An American in Honduras

by Father Thierry de Roucy

During my latest trip to Honduras , it has been a great joy for me to see Ed, one of the first Americans to become a Heart's Home missionary.

It was only a few days after Ed started his 14-month mission there. He looked very happy in his new country, as he started to explore his new neighborhood of Tegucigalpa , and to get to know the friends of his Heart's Home community. He already had befriended with Lesandro, a 15-years-old disabled boy whom Heart's Home has been visiting for years; and he also had just been given the honor of meeting Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, S.D.B, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to receive a special blessing from him.

We hope many other American join Ed and our 160 Heart's Home missionaries on this journey of faith, on this encounter with Christ, whose face we see in the poorest of the poor.

The fraternity Saint Maximilien Kolbe

The Fraternity of Saint Maximilian Kolbe was born in 1997 to enable the former Heart's Home missionaries to keep on living the charism of Heart's Home in their daily life, and to help all our friends - who will never be able to actually join one of our communities - to be instruments of the Virgin Mary's spirit of compassion.

The members of the Fraternity, from all over the world (France, Philippines, Peru, Argentina, El Salvador, USA, Germany, Switzerland...) are united by the daily recitation of the rosary, fraternal and spiritual meetings, and support to Heart's Home.

If you want to know more about the activities of the Fraternity in the US, contact Clement.

clement@heartshomeusa.org



Why do I belong to the Fraternity Saint Maximilian Kolbe ?



Saint Maximilian Kolbe

When I first met heart's Home in 2001, I had no idea what it would mean for my life.

This encounter led me first to Peru for a 14 months mission and then to New York as member of the Fraternity Saint Maximilian Kolbe. The Fraternity which is composed by friends of Heart's Home who have in common the desire to live and share the charism of compassion, is for me a spiritual but true family where I can grow as a catholic in my everyday life: family life, work environment, friends, leisure time... Through a specific commitment of prayer, gathering and specific support for Heart's Home, I am reminded everyday that I rely on Christ and that everything comes from him.

Come and See weekends

If you are interested in becoming a Heart's Home missionary and/or want to know more about the Heart's Home mission, join us for a "come & see" weekend at Heart's Home in the Bronx, NY

The dates for the upcoming weekends are the following:

April 21-24, 2006

June 30 - July 3, 2006

For more information or to register for a weekend, please contact Sr Regine:

srregine@heartshomeusa.org

Tell your church or your university about Heart's Home

After our first large-scale outreach effort last September, as Fr. Thierry de Roucy and two staff members spent four weeks traveling around the country to give conferences and talks, from Stanford, CA to Washington, DC, Heart's Home is launching a second campaign to raise awareness of our work and our volunteer opportunities in parishes and universities all over the US.

If you are interested in spreading the word about Heart's Home to your Church, or College, or introducing us to your pastor or chaplain, please contact us.

info@heartshomeusa.org

Heart's Home USA
 (718) 901-1276

www.heartshomeusa.org
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 Thank you for your support.



Focus on Heart's Home in the Philippines

When I started my mission at Heart's Home, I was really surprised about the lives of our friends, especially those in the squatter's area, the rubbish dump, or at the fishing port. At the fishing port, some families sleep on the ground. Their children's job is to steal the fish



that fall on the ground from the workers' buckets. It is forbidden, but they need to work to help feed the family. I wonder if they ever get much sleep because it's crowded and noisy.

We have a special friend named "Inday" whose family lives there. She is 20 years old, a 2nd year college student supported by the parish church. Inday must be strong to live in that place where she doesn't even have a bed to lie down on (she sleeps in a chair) and has to do her schoolwork amidst noise and chaos. It's amazing; she may not be a

very joyful person, but she approaches life in a positive way. Looking at all these innocent children, I felt they were too young to carry the cross. Sometimes I asked God what would become of them when they grew up. For my part, the greatest help that I could offer them was to keep them in my prayers.

Adeline

Facts

-The Heart's Home Santa Clara opened in 1994 in a 'squatters' area of Manila, the Philippines

-The team of 5 Heart's Home missionaries serve 300 people including 100 children on a regular basis

-The missionaries especially assist children (4-7 years old) living and working at night at the "fishing port" of Manila, as well as families living in extreme poverty

-Heart's Home is planning to open a "village for the poor" in the countryside near Manila, to help the most deprived of these families rebuild their lives.

From Heart's Home in the Bronx: "Oh that today I might find Him"

I would like to share with you the story of our friendship with Gloria. She lives in a residence close to Heart's Home where we just started a mission of presence and consolation. We had been there once to sing some Christmas carols, and the residents we met at that time looked extremely lonely. Many suffered from depression and had a great need to talk.

The lady in charge of the residence advised us to come and visit Gloria. Sr. Blandine and myself went to her apartment and rang the bell. Gloria welcomed us and invited us to sit down in her main room. The kitchen is at one end of the room, and on the opposite side there was an old sewing machine. There was also a cabinet full of religious images and objects of Christ and the Virgin Mary. A Bible in Spanish was open to the page of Job 23:

*" Again Job answered and said:
Though I know my complaint is bitter, His
hand is heavy upon me in my groaning.
Oh that today I might find Him. "*

We talked with Gloria. She was depressed and angry. She was especially angry with her brother and she was saying: "my brother is sick." all the time. Her cat seemed to be her only friend. She was happy to have some visitors and she told us about her life. She was

born in Puerto Rico and her parents died when she was a child. She and her sisters and brother were brought up by someone else.

Then she moved to Brooklyn, she learned how to sew, and she found a job. She lived in Brooklyn until she went to the hospital a few months ago. When she got out of the hospital, her brother found this apartment for her in the Bronx. She was angry with her brother

because he controlled her money and she was dependent on him. She was also angry because she did not like her new neighborhood, where she did not know anyone.

We left her with the promise to come and visit her the following week. Our hearts were heavy...

The following week, we brought some coloring books so that she could be busy with something and find some peace of mind. She welcomed us, and we spent some time together. Her favorite color was red, and she was happy to color the picture of a bird.

Later on, I went with Emmanuel to visit her. Emmanuel suggested she could go to mass with us the following Sunday at the parish nearby. She accepted. On Sunday, we came to pick her up and took her to mass. She was very happy to have this opportunity to attend mass and to see all the people gathered in the church.

The friendship with Gloria epitomizes our mission here in the Bronx: to be the friends of the lost and forgotten, those who don't have anyone to visit them, to take them to church, or simply to care for them.

I entrust Gloria to your prayers. Alexandre

