

To those interested in an El Salvador Relationship Trip,

If you are reading this letter, there is something that is drawing you to learn more about our El Salvador Relationship Trips. Perhaps someone who has gone in the past has shared their experiences with you. Perhaps someone has invited you to participate in an upcoming trip. Perhaps you have had a desire for many years to find new ways to live your faith, learn about new cultures, and serve others. Whatever the reason, we are happy to share a little bit more information about the trips so that you can decide whether this is something that God is calling you to do.

The gifts of those on Relationship Trips are always very different, but the goal of every trip is essentially the same: to strengthen the connection between the parishioners of Santo Domingo in Chiltiupan, El Salvador and St. Dominic in Cleveland. Our primary goal is not to give them something or fix something, but rather to continue to build the relationship between our two parishes.

As part of our experience, we will be visiting many homes, traveling to various small, rural communities where Mass is held, visiting several of their schools, and simply spending time with the people of Chiltiupan. We will also visit the sites where Cleveland Ursuline Sr. Dorothy Kasel, Archbishop Oscar Romero, and the six Jesuit priests were martyred.

Undoubtedly, Sr. Rose will also have a work project that will require painting or cleaning around the clinic or church. However, please keep in mind, we are not about “doing things” on these trips, rather our focus is seeing Christ in our brothers and sisters, and allowing them to see Christ in us.

Each person’s experience in El Salvador is different. Most people experience a mix of emotions during the trip: joy with meeting the people, intrigue at the cultural differences, anger at the poverty of the people, excitement with the new connections that are forged, indignation at the injustice in the area, and gratitude for the gift of time spent with the incredible people of El Salvador. Whatever the emotions of the individual, each person has a powerful experience that can change their lives and an opportunity to grow closer to God in ways they had never imagined. We hope you can join us in continuing the mission of building our connection with Santo Domingo parish in El Salvador.

For more information about the trip contact Nick Borchers at [borchersn@gmail.com](mailto:borchersn@gmail.com) or 216-991-1444 ext. 111.

Sincerely,  
The St. Dominic Mission Team