Cross Catholic OUTREACH

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

How We Serve

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

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INTERNATIONAL PROJECT **9021**

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UPDATE

Saint Ignatius Parish

Relieving Hunger and Restoring Hope

— Dominican Republic —

Prepared for

Saint Ignatius Parish

June 2022

“The words of Jesus, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive,’ rang true to me as soon as I walked into our gym that Friday night and witnessed over 100 of my parishioners — donned in hairnets, aprons and gloves — smiling, laughing and working side by side to pack meals to be shipped to those in need. Parents with young children, grandparents with teenagers, young adults both single and married, teens with their friends — all just giving up a few hours on a Friday night to serve. There are not many opportunities in our parish life, outside of Mass, for such fellowship among all ages! St. Ignatius Parish has participated in food packing [events] for many years, and it is always a blessing for us. I am grateful to Cross Catholic Outreach for giving us the opportunity to serve the poor. We are certainly blessed to have done so again this year!”

FATHER BRY SHIELDS, PASTOR

May God Bless You!

Dear friends, we see the actions of Saint Ignatius Parish’s foodpacking teams as a direct application of the Church’s mission to be a light in the world, and we thank you for sharing the hope of Christ with those in need! Your decision to host a foodpacking event has led to the shipment of **41,472 meals** for the benefit of vulnerable families, at-risk children and neglected elderly in the Dominican Republic who might otherwise go hungry. Your compassion opened hearts and minds to Christ — and that is a blessing with an eternal impact!

May God bless you for putting food on the tables of hungry families! As an act of mercy, your sacrifice has played an important role in the Church’s efforts to rescue children and vulnerable families from the threat of malnutrition. It has filled stomachs, healed hearts, and placed a bounty of Christ’s love before those who needed help most!

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

ISAIAH 58:10

More Memories Your Parish Shared

Thank you for being part of this event that will serve the poor, both physically and spiritually.

Each box contains 216 meals, all weighed, sealed and ready to send to families in need.

Special Thank You!

Cross Catholic Outreach Gratefully Acknowledges

Saint Ignatius Parish

for generously volunteering to pack

41,472 meals for poor children and families

— DOMINICAN REPUBLIC —

Thank You for Feeding Hungry Children and Families!

We are grateful for the generosity Saint Ignatius Parish has shown in packing meals for poor families in the Dominican Republic. Many people assume this country is prosperous because of tourism and international trade, but Catholic leaders serving in the Dominican Republic know otherwise, with families from farming communities struggling most.

Those who rely on agriculture tend to live in areas without basic infrastructure such as running water or paved roads, and just one bad harvest can make it a struggle to put food on the table. Many families eat just one meal a day due to lack of infrastructure, resources and income. Even in the prosperous capital city of Santo Domingo, deep need is easy to find. Without adequate nutrition, children fail to thrive. Their growth is stunted, they fall behind in school, they suffer frequent illness, and they lose hope of escaping poverty.

That's why the food packing event hosted at Saint Ignatius Parish was so important. It enabled parishioners to come together to pack 41,472 meals for poor and vulnerable families!

By collaborating with Cross Catholic Outreach and our Dominican ministry partner, New Joy Foundation, food outreach programs will fill the stomachs of vulnerable children and neglected elderly men and women. We are very grateful for the Vitafood meals packed by your parish because we know this food represents a critical, nutritional lifeline to those with extreme needs.

We pray the following pages help you recall fond memories of the event and that your parish community will experience an outpouring of God's grace for the generosity you have shown.

When your meals are distributed to New Joy Foundation beneficiaries, it will help open doors to bring the light of Christ to poor families and empower at-risk youth to pursue a brighter future.

Dominican Republic at a Glance

- About 21% of Dominicans live below the national poverty line.
- Anemia, a condition associated with malnutrition, affects 28% of Dominican children under age 5.
- Poverty is most severe in the country's 230 bateyes — communities built on sugarcane plantations to house Haitian migrant sugarcane cutters.
- Needs are also evident in urban environments, where street kids suffer violence, abuse and disenfranchisement.

Source: World Bank Organization

Your Food Packing Event

We are grateful to the families of Saint Ignatius Parish who gathered in April and packed 41,472 meals for children and families in poverty-stricken areas of the Dominican Republic. Soon, these meals will be in the hands of those in need thanks to the generosity your parish exhibited.

Christ's love of the poor was evident to all who participated. Tori Miller, principal of Saint Ignatius Catholic School, said, "The Cross Catholic [Outreach] food packing experience at Saint Ignatius Parish was one that I will always remember. The event allowed a variety of members from our school, parish and community to come together for one purpose: to pray for the poor and provide food for them."

The order of assembling a Vitafood meal is important — soy, then beans, then vegetables and finally rice. Your attentiveness and care for each meal packed is allowing families to receive meals that will nourish them. Thank you!