

EL CCIDD Newsletter

September 2011



Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico



The new face of migration

<<<<<< **Journeying back home**



MISSION- To provide opportunities for churches and other groups from the U.S. and Canada to encounter the presence of God in the struggle for Justice in the Americas and to empower them to work for social transformation.

“The experience I had at CCIDD was life defining and empowering, and I would strongly suggest it to anyone who is looking to bridge the gap between their academic perspective and reality”: Chinmay Thakkar, UBC Group 2011



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GREETINGS FROM SR. KATHLEEN LONG, DIRECTOR OF CCIDD

Dear friends of CCIDD,

Repeatedly I am convinced that our cross cultural immersion programs are impacting all participants in profound ways. Students want to come and volunteer! CCIDD alumni after 10 years write and express the impact of their experience at CCIDD. Teachers, group leaders share their quest for a deeper understanding of justice and nonviolent alternatives for community development. They are inspired by the programs here and motivated by the children, teens and families in need. University students change their majors; many study more Spanish. Groups continue coming year after year. These are all blessings for us at CCIDD.

In this newsletter you see the sights and sounds of poverty in the Cuernavaca area. We are here today because of the lack of adequate income for many families, the government's inadequacy to attend to the needs of the people. Our world has developed corporations and products but fails to develop processes and specific employment for families to leave poverty behind. The Millennium Development Goals due to be completed in 2015 are running behind. When will Mexico eliminate the numbers of those living in extreme poverty? When will the 70 % number be lessened to 30 or 25 or even 10% in poverty here? Mexico is neighbor to the US and Canada and a major trade partner. The products have priority and the people suffer. How long will this reality continue?

As we move to the last four months of this year 2011 I am grateful to all who have come to CCIDD these past months. Thank you for the risk to be open to see the world differently. Thank you for the good energy shared here with us. Thank you for your action plans to go back home and continue the transformation of our world!

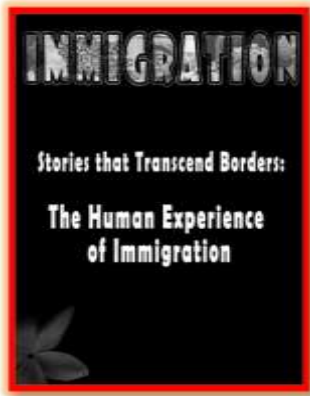
May God continue to guide our mission and work in the struggle for justice and peace!

Kathleen Long OP

REMINDER ABOUT ACTION PLANS!

All groups that have passed through CCIDD and formulated action plans we encourage you to continue moving full steam ahead with these. If you have any queries or need further support please address CCIDD's Director.





UBC students produce book on Immigration

From May to August, CCIDD hosted seven students from University of British Columbia for three months while they worked on a project to highlight the plight of the Mexicans who immigrate to North America. The outcome was an interesting slideshow on the origins and outcome of their project and a printed book of collected interviews. This book is presently on sale at CCIDD for \$10 and is an excellent resource for persons studying or doing research on the topic of immigration. Proceeds of the sale will aid in developing the various communities in Jiutepec, Cuentepec and La Estación in Cuernavaca. Morelos, Mexico. CCIDD is elated at having this educational resource on immigration to share with future groups.

Thoughts by the UBC Group *"We arrived here knowing only that the theme of our project would be migration but the process of collecting information and the form in which we would present it were left up to us. Through meeting the people whose stories we are now presenting in our book, we realized that what we wanted our end product to portray a more humanized view of migrants, which is too often absent in literature and media stories on migration. The book we've created contains the stories of some of our interviewees, as well as an overview of the communities in which they live, our relationships with them and the projects we've been involved in during our stay. We've also included information about Mexican migration including statistics, opinions from the public and views from various experts. ..We hope that the people who purchase our book are as inspired and compelled by reading it as we were by hearing the stories firsthand"*





Alex Knott and I making buns for Thank you breakfast for CCIDD Staff

My CCIDD Experience by Danisa Blaser, UBC Graduate

The University of British Columbia in conjunction with CCIDD developed an international service-learning program for students who are interested in immigration, especially from Mexico to the United States. Seven of us students decided to take the trip and immerse ourselves in Mexican culture, lifestyle, and food and also learn about its economy, politics and social issues.

The focus of our group project was primarily on undocumented immigration. Immigration is a topic that has become increasingly more relevant in today's globalized world. It is a complex issue that requires a micro approach of analysis to gain an overarching understanding of the topic. Also, often in North American media, undocumented immigration is portrayed as a terrible crime where the people undergoing this process are often not respected or recognized. Due to this, we decided to aim our project at breaking stereotypes, humanize the immigration experience and raise awareness. In order to do this, the project consisted of interviewing individuals who have immigrated to the United States undocumented. We found it necessary to honor these stories because they are rarely told in today's discourse on immigration and it was through this story telling that we understood the real experience of those undergoing this process such as their hopes and fears of having left everything they knew behind in search for an improved economic lifestyle. At first, the topic and conducting the interviews seemed overwhelming. However, once a friendship was created with those individuals whom we met in communities like La Estacion, Cuentepec and Jiutepec, the interviews were enriching for both of us. In hindsight, I am still in awe and grateful for the relationship we were able to create with them and all that they shared with us.

Although the interviews were the core of our project, our experience in Mexico was filled with many other experiences. We learned about the current problem of narco trafficking, crimes, Mexican history, politics, social justice as well as composting, breakfast programs, food, music and so on. The list of enriching and eye opening learning experiences could continue, however, I must say that the best part of it all was, at least for me, was to create relationships with the people we met, the staff that works at CCIDD, the people in these communities and other friends we met along the way. It's humanizing to share our experiences with one another and accept our differences despite the fact that we come from different worlds. This experience allowed these worlds to merge through the development of a friendship. I am thankful for the experience and I will not forget the lessons I learned while I was there as well as the people I met.

Boston College experiences at CCIDD

From 3rd August 2011 to 15th August 2011 a group of 16 persons from Boston College under the leadership of Father Donald participated in an intensive CCIDD cross – cultural immersion experience. They were a vibrant, well informed and socially conscious group, full of life and questions about the



reality in Mexico. Apart from listening to enlightening talks on issues such as the socio-economic reality in Mexico, militarization, human rights, liberation theology, Javier Sicilia’s Movement for Peace and Justice in Mexico and immigration, the group participated in various activities that ranged from service with a family and the community centre at La Estación, visiting the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, climbing the heights of the Tepozteco pyramid in Tepoztlan and assisting youngsters from poor communities in La Estación and Jiutepec to purchase shoes for the new school term.

HIGHLIGHTS- *‘ Learning about the Zapatistas and the Peace and Justice and Dignity Movement were the best moments for me because it is a loving movement and we are privileged to be in this country while this movement is taking place’; Boston College participant August 2011*



Boston College students at Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Boston College reaches out to La EstaciónCommunity



“The story of the appearance of our lady of Guadalupe was intriguing and made so much sense in terms of solidifying the nation at the time of the conquest”: CCIDD participant

Sixteen summers at CCIDD, it is an overwhelming moment when...

The Cuernavaca Center for Intercultural Dialogue on Development, aka CCIDD, is located in the mountains of the state of Morelos, in the city of Cuernavaca about 40 miles south of Mexico City. It has become a busy place over the years but it was the summer resort for Aztec princes, Spanish colonizers and The Rolling Stones according to legend. Many wealthy people have homes, gated communities and spectacular views. So Boston College, at the invitation of Campus Ministry at Holy Cross, went off to the Center to experience intercultural dialogue in 1995. Boston College has continued to experience this dialogue to this year, 2011. I have had the honor of gathering a group of students together, preparing them for this experience and then being there with them for sixteen summers.

Immersion, dialogue and debrief

Each experience is a little different for me and enormously challenging for the students. CCIDD's mission is 'to encounter God in the struggle for justice in the Americas and to empower groups to work for social transformation.' The programs center on immersion, dialogue and reflection. We sit with our Mexican neighbors, listen to their stories, share their laughter and tears, and enjoy each others' company. We reflect on the experiences of immersion regularly and debrief each encounter using the norms of critical social analysis. We also share Scripture passages that support our souls and encourage our spirits to stand up for justice. We look at the world, its events, its joys and its sorrows from the view of those who are poor. It is an overwhelming moment when we experience our neighbors living in poverty sacrificing education in order to be able to eat. It is an overwhelming moment when we visit our neighbors in their cardboard and cinderblock homes knowing they are under governmental threat to be torn down and made homeless. It is an overwhelming moment when we learn that children die from diabetes contracted from a lack of proper nutrition compounded by a supply of super sweet Coca-Cola and a lack of drinking water. It is an overwhelming moment when we visit women and children whose fathers, husbands, mothers, brothers, sisters and other family members have disappeared North and not been heard from again. They went North to find jobs and money to care for their families. Many are lost in the desert, abandoned by unscrupulous coyotes or murdered by drug cartels. The reasons are many but the outcome is always the same. It is an overwhelming moment to see shoeless children unable to go to school because they don't have uniforms and shoes required by Mexican governments. Parents would rather have them eat. That's the choice they have. It was an overwhelming moment when we were able to bring children to a shoe store and let them choose shoes. We prayed in thanksgiving for the benefactors who made those shopping trips possible.

What to do? ... Work for global peace

So once your life is interrupted and your heart broken, what do you do about it? Pretend you never saw what you saw? Continue to exploit and ignore the plight of your neighbors? Probably not. The experience at CCIDD energizes you to learn about what is really going on. It energizes you to learn what is not happening at the levels where something can be done but isn't. It energizes you to get mad, to overcome the sadness and start working for global peace and justice in your own backyard. The experience makes you seek a quiet spot to reflect and pray that your energy never wavers and you continue the search to find God

in all things and people daily. The experience empowers you to have courage to speak, to act, to make peace.

So, back to where I began. Cuernavaca is a city, still a resort city for some. But we have found that under that cover are thousands of human beings forced to live without dignity; forced to live long days trying to earn some pesos to feed their families; forced to sleep in the same clothes they wear every day without running water and warmth; forced to live in fear of rape, robbery and murder; but worst of all, live ignored by their own brothers and sisters as well as us neighbors in the North. Each year we hear about how good God is to them. Each year we ask how their faith can be so strong. It is humbling. Each year we leave CCIDD wondering what can we do? What are we going to do? As Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ said so often when confronted with these issues of injustice: “what to do”? Indeed, what are we going to do?

Yes, we were safe in Cuernavaca

Recently the U.S. media has headlined the drug cartels and violence that rages in certain parts of the U.S. and Mexican border. It makes travelers feel that all of Mexico is unsafe and to be avoided. My experience, our experience, has been somewhat different. While acknowledging that there is violence at the border, we have never felt unsafe in Cuernavaca and surrounding areas that we visit. We go to well known and open villages and places within Cuernavaca to be with the residents and share stories. We visit and share stories and offer some service to residents of La Estación who are in terribly undignified circumstances. These have always been daytime visits and accompanied by translators/social workers who minister to us and to the people of that settlement. Walking through the city has always been comfortable as long as we keep our eyes on the traffic. Pedestrians do not have the right of way and we learn that the first moment we see the way traffic moves in the city! Recently many schools and programs including CCIDD have lost participants due to the anxiety and regulations of some U.S. institutions and families who fear for their daughters and sons. While the fear of the unknown has always hampered human interactions and may be understandable, I feel this recent fear and anxiety-driven refusal to go to CCIDD or Cuernavaca is unnecessary media-driven anxiety. And I say that based on my sixteen years of going to CCIDD and its programs. It is dangerous in New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, Dallas but we go to these places regularly. CCIDD is smart and very careful to provide us with safe surroundings.

Come and dialogue with our Mexican sisters and brothers. Have your eyes opened, your hearts expanded, your intellects challenged and your love blessed by God and His people, our neighbors in Mexico.

Fr. Don MacMillan, SJ

Boston College Campus Ministry



2011 THOUGHTS ON JOYS OF SERVICE WITH CCIDD *"This was an excellent visit that put a 'face' on the issue of poverty": Joanna Chorazecweski, University of Loyola*

"It pushed me to be a more outward person-to help even when it hurts and to care even when it is uncomfortable": Katie Younke, University of Loyola

"The service experience was amazing. It was truly eye opening and rewarding. ...it was so rewarding to make a difference in someone's life for the people who need it most" :St. Francis Xavier College, Nova Scotia, Canada

"My service in my opinion is the integral part of my overall experience at CCIDD. The programs such as the Cuernavaca quest and others help support the service that is done. The service is the heart and soul of the experience which opens my eyes to the reality of poverty and the relationships that were created. It made me see that I am on the right path and it sparked that fire and passion to help, create change and change my understanding of life": Vanessa Delgado Dominican University River Forest Illinois, USA



"I feel that service personalizes and helps one to internalize some of the daily challenges faced by our sisters and brothers. It also provides some sense of accomplishment": Joe Modeste JP11 High School Ontario Canada

"It helped me see the human face of the situations that we learn abroad in our workshops. It's a lot more motivation to take action and create change when you can put a name, a face and a spirit and personality to the issue? There's no turning back, You never forget the person": Candace Marshall: Carleton University:

"It made me really reflect on everything I take for granted in my life": Kim Corbiere Lakeland Catholic High School

CUERNAVACA QUEST

"This helped me open my eyes to the reality and struggle of the average Mexican family living on minimum wage" Caroline Rodriguez, Loyola University



Farewell

From June to August with Final Celebrations. Keating, two theology students from the United States completed their and returned home. Other short- term CCIDD Dressler Family, Sr. Kevin and Mary Ellen



At left- Jessica and Ryan

Celebrations

2011, CCIDD was abuzz Ryan Wilson and Jessica students from the United service experiences here persons who completed experience were the Christine Walcott O.P. Long,

Our University of British Columbia group of students also left after successfully completing their three month long immigration project. Amidst some tearful farewells they returned home equipped with knowledge and experience gained from CCIDD.



Chef Berna presents UBC group with farewell treat



Farewell Lunch for UBC group and CCIDD staff

Program Staff Member Carlos Cruz heads south to Witness for Peace, Colombia!

Here's a little bit about Carlos's project – an excerpt from Witness for Peace website www.witnessforpeace.org.
"Since Plan Colombia was undertaken in 2000, the United States has sent \$7 billion to Colombia - mostly in counter narcotics and military aid. But instead of reducing coca production or bringing peace, Plan Colombia only subjected the population to more violence. Witness for Peace delegates see the effects of U.S. policy firsthand, learning about positive alternatives from communities at the frontlines of misguided and inhumane approaches to stopping drug trafficking. Delegates witness the effects of U.S. military aid and aerial fumigations while gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate against Plan Colombia and for investment in Colombian people. Witness for Peace introduces delegates to the people who have been most personally affected by the economic and political realities of the country."



Wishing you all the best Carlos as you embark on a new adventure at Witness for Peace!



Farewell also to Program Staff Member Michelle Flores who completed about a year of service with CCIDD and this September returns to the U.S.



We will miss you Michelle.....

CCIDD 'Language School'



From (l-r) Renessa, Jessica, Sr. Lilia, Sr. Soledad and Sr. Kathy

For three weeks during July 2011 CCIDD opened its doors to two Mexican Dominican sisters, Sr. Lilia and Sr. Soledad, both Directors of Children's Homes in San Miguel Allende and Chiapas respectively. They came to learn more about social justice issues as well as to improve their English. It was a pleasure for us who received them- Sr. Kathy, Jessica and Renessa to interact with them in different languages – English and Spanish and to share on the issue of culture. From playing interactive games and singing songs to learning some serious English vocabulary, and touring the sights of Cuernavaca- it was all in all a fun experience! CCIDD also continues Language School on a weekly basis to a few university students from the neighbouring La Estación Community to assist them in improving their English, which they are studying as either their university major or a university course.

CCIDD on the road!

In August 2011 Sr. Christine Walcott O.P. (Sinsinawa) who hails from Trinidad and Tobago came to do three week service training at CCIDD where she met up with our International Dominican Volunteer Renessa Tang Pack who is a fellow Trinidadian. They both had a chance to link up with Trinidadian priest Fr. Gerard County who ministers in Tampico and visit San Louis Potosi where they stopped off for a day and got to know the indigenous villagers of Patnel, San Louis Potosi a little better.



Sr. Christine (l) and Renessa (r) with indigenous family



Patnel, San Louis Potosi

CCIDD REACHES OUT



Members of Comite Cerezo at CCIDD



Visiting Trinidadian priest Fr. Gerard County with Sr. Kathy and Fresvinda at La Estación Community Centre



Sr. Michelle at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage



Artisan Isidro's Rosalines' children David and Ruth of Tlamacacapa graduate from Grade 9

CCIDD STAFF SERVICE DAY – 29th August 2011



CCIDD employees on the job at La Estacion



Pitching in to give Rosa's house a new floor

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP LA ESTACION- PART 11

In July 2011 the La Estación Community conducted another clean up day. Days in advance community members were seen at the Community Centre feverishly working on their creation- the Community clean up mascot. The frame was made out of bamboo and wire and paper and cardboard were used as backing. UBC students from CCIDD and our volunteers Jessica Keating, Renessa Tang Pack and staff members Carlos Cruz and Michelle Flores all pitched in on this fun experience.



Community clean up Mascot made of recycled materials



Community organizers Juan Manuel and Fresvinda

LA ESTACION CELEBRATES



Feast of St. James festivities



CCIDD pool party

Thanks to MISSION MEXICO!

Mission Mexico from Alberta, Canada connected with CCIDD via Fr. Jack Bastigal in 2010. Since this brief e mail to reconnect with CCIDD we have had a visit from Fr. Fred Monk director of Mission Mexico and Fr. Wilbert Chin Pastor of St. Bonaventure Catholic church, Calgary. They generously sent us \$ 12,000 the end of 2010. Here at CCIDD we were able to replace our three asbestos water tanks and we have a new automatic door opener at the Abasolo entrance. This is a great help to all staff as we come and go regularly. You saw photos in the June CCIDD newsletter of the rehabbing of homes in la Estacion. Many of our service projects continued with our university Service Learning groups from Canada and the USA and were funded partly via Mission Mexico donations of \$4,000. The rehabbing involves purchasing bags of cement, mortar, piles of sand and gravel to mix together for cement floors. We purchased cement block, metal roofing and other construction materials to build up the walls and roofs of various homes in la Estacion. Fixing up the homes helps eliminate sickness, protecting the furniture and clothing of the families. Another key element of the Mission Mexico is helping provide scholarships for students for high school and university study. The scholarships will help the students move forward with their hopes for employment and family development.



As this new school year begins we have \$2,000 to help many children buy school shoes. We call the project LOS ZAPATOS. Families in the flower Estacion are recipients of these and Boston College guests enjoyed Costs of shoes range from \$20-generous 15% discount since we buy THE PHOTOS



industry in Jutepec and families in la donations. CCIDD staff, volunteers shopping with the children and teens. \$38/pair. The shoe store gives a close to 75 pairs of shoes. ENJOY



"I really loved being able to help the kids pick out shoes..It was reciprocal love that I was getting from the kids and giving it in return": Tiera



Additionally we have \$ 1,500 to help support the teacher's salaries in the preschool/Kindergarten in la Estacion. A huge benefit to CCIDD is the donation to help pay our insurance cost for our staff this year. One staff member, Maru Colin has received help putting new roofing on her house. Since CCIDD salaries are low we look for ways to give our staff various benefits. Some receive help for their children in school and some receive assistance with their housing needs. These donations help cut costs for CCIDD staff. With the longevity of staff members here we are grateful for the donations when we can offer help to our dedicated workers.

MISSION MEXICO is a Catholic Church centered organization helping many groups in Mexico. We at CCIDD are the recipients of donations dedicated parishioners in Alberta churches. They read the gospel and respond to children, families and communities in need. At CCIDD we make the connections with our Mexican partners and the donors. Here in the office Hugo organizes all the receipts and photos for the project. He sends reports to Mission Mexico and keeps the communication current. Perhaps your church or school would choose to do likewise and find ways to connect with us and our partners here. Many thanks to all donors of Mission Mexico!

CCIDD mourns passing of Sr. Jacqueline, Dominican Sister of the Incarnate Word

On 15th July 2011, Sr. Jacqueline Darre, Dominican Sister of the Congregation of the Incarnate Word passed away at the age of 91 at CCIDD. She was a resident at CCIDD for about one year. Though Sr. Jacqueline was called home by her heavenly Father, she continues to leave us the legacy of her well- lived life. Here are some highlights of her life:-

Sister Jacqueline was born on the 8th of June in 1920 in Italy near to Pavia and was the first of ten children. She lived in Italy for eight years with her family of French origin who had relocated there because of the effects of World War II on their home country. Her family remained in Italy for eight years and then returned back to France. After Sr. Jacqueline completed her basic education she studied one year of nursing and qualified in social work.



As a young woman, Sr. Jacqueline was interested in the social issues around her as well as the contemplative aspect of the life of the Dominican Congregation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. She entered their congregation at age 25. After her initial formation she continued working in various institutions as a social worker as a result of and in response to the charism of her congregation. In 1953 there was an invitation from Mexico to start a school of social work to which the founder of Sr. Jacqueline's congregation responded to by assigning Sr. Jacqueline this important task. Sr. Jacqueline left for Mexico in February 1953 and founded the school for social work where she taught the subject for many years of her life. In addition to this work she was called to work in other institutions with a social justice focus and assumed many responsibilities in her community in Mexico particularly in her role as General Prioress.

In 2002 she suffered a heart attack which began to leave her immobilized and in 2009 she began succumbing strongly to the effects of her heart illness. It was only in 2010 that she was invited to reside at CCIDD along with Sr. Rosa and Sr. Aline of her congregation where she remained until her death. Many persons from the visiting groups to CCIDD who came in 2010 and the first half of 2011 may have met her. Sr. Jacqueline will always be remembered as a gentle, loving and generous soul who always had a kind, friendly word and sweet smile for everyone she encountered. We thank her for the gift of her presence while at CCIDD and we continue to remember her in prayer and hope she prays for us at CCIDD also.

Insights from Program Staff Member Isabel returning from World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain

Before I started talking about the experience of the World Youth Day and the Pope's message, I will start talking about the entire pilgrimage I did the days before that.



Everything started in Lisbon, Portugal on July the 26th when I met this great group of Canadians with whom I spent and shared this pilgrimage to Madrid. We started meeting a youth group of locals; they invited us to attend mass in Portuguese and to spend some time learning about their lives. After Lisbon, we headed to Fatima where we met this awesome guy from Brazil, he decided to move to Fatima with a mission: spread the message of Our Lady of Fatima, her message and the importance of praying the Rosary for peace. That's why on the first day we went to pray the Rosary, they do that like 3 or 4 times a day; and as Fatima is a place where a lot of pilgrims from everywhere visit, they pray the Rosary in 6 different

languages; it was great to see the faith that people have for the virgin of Fatima. We also had the opportunity to walk to the place where Our lady of Fatima appeared and we went inside the houses of the three kids, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, that Our Lady appeared to. After Fatima we took a bus to Ponte de Lima where we started our Camino de Santiago (way to Santiago). During 7 days we were walking, praying and reflecting a lot, basically we were building our community. When we finally got there; we attended the pilgrim's mass; inside the beautiful church they have a big Botafumeiro (one of the largest incensors of the world). It is a tradition that they burn incense for the pilgrims that just came walking or by bike who are tired and unwashed, the incense smoke will have a good effect against plagues and epidemics. To finish our first part of the pilgrimage we went to have a few days of relaxing in Finisterra (the end of the world) almost all the pilgrims of the Camino walk there to relax on the beach and see the sunset; this place was where the people thought that the world ended before the discovering of America.

Finally, on August 12th, we took our train for the days of Dioceses in Malaga; south Spain, to start with the World Youth Day events. In Malaga we stayed in a church in Torre del Mar; a beautiful place with beautiful and great people; they introduced us to the way they have their faith in the area. We heard about La Virgen del Mar (the Virgin of the Sea), we sang, we danced and we spent a really good time getting to know the Spanish culture and sharing our faith. After a week of sharing a lot of experiences with the people in Malaga we headed to Madrid to start with the world youth day events.



For me it was a great experience talking with people from all over, in the metro, the bus, in the plazas etc. We attended the Opening Mass, celebrated by Madrid Cardinal Antonio Rouco Varela in the Plaza de Cibeles with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims. The Cardinal highlighted that the World Youth Day was as an encounter with God, who is the only one who can understand you and lead you to the truth giving life that never ends, to give you happiness, true love.

Everyday we attended the Catechesis, where we learned a lot about different topics. In one, actually my favorite, the priest mentions that Jesus, like all of us who were there, was a Pilgrim to Jerusalem and other places and he asks us to walk with him no matter what or where.

On Thursday the 18th the Pope arrived in Madrid, to enter to the city he crossed the Puerta de Alcalá where we were waiting him; and we finally did see him while standing in a chair. He went from there to Plaza Cibeles to give his message, he started greeting people and mentioning a small part of the Bible “spirit and life” (Jn 6:63), roots which nourish your being, a rule of life which likens us - poor in spirit, thirsting for justice, merciful, pure in heart, lovers of peace - to the person of Christ. Listen regularly every day as if he were the one friend who does not deceive the one with whom we wish to share the path of life. Of course, you know that when we do not walk beside Christ our guide, we get lost on other paths, like the path of our blind and selfish impulses, or the path of flattering but self-serving suggestions, deceiving and fickle, which leave emptiness and frustration in their wake. It was really powerful for me and I think for other young people to listen to the Pope many times comparing our lives as young people with parts of the bible.

On the night of the vigil the rain came and the Pope had to short his speech because of the wind and rain. But he said goodbye to the youth for the night with these words: **“We have lived together an adventure.** Strengthened by your faith in Christ, you have resisted the rain. Before leaving I wish you all a good night. Have a good rest. **I thank you for the sacrifice that you are making and I have no doubt that you will offer it generously to the Lord.** We shall see on another tomorrow, God willing, in the celebration of the Eucharist.”

The last day came and the Closing mass in Cuatro Vientos was really significant with the words of the pope during the homily the Gospel was read from. *Mt 16:13-20* and Benedict the XVI related it to the



young saying: Dear young people, today Christ is asking you the same question which he asked the Apostles: “Who do you say that I am?” Respond to him with generosity and courage as befits young hearts like your own. Say to him: “Jesus, I know that you are the Son of God, who have given your life for me. I want to follow you faithfully and to be led by your word. You know me and you love me. I place my trust in you and I put my whole life into your hands. I want you to be the power that strengthens me and the joy which never leaves me”.

I realize that the WYD is more than just getting to see the Pope but listening to his messages and getting closer to God, making your faith stronger and getting to know other people who’s faith is the same as yours. It is building a new community of young people and spreading the word and the love of God.

What I learnt from the CCIDD experience in May 2011: Briana Rohde, Loyola University

“That poverty is not one dimensional. Multidimensionality of poverty consists of factors such as politics, culture, education, society. There is a common thread that is often times overlooked in the cycle that causes poverty. A specific example that was addressed was NAFTA and how it has affected the poor oftentimes causing migration north, contributing to unemployment and the susceptibility to participation in the drug trade with the resultant governmental war against drugs and militarization of Mexico”

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURE - COMPOST CENTRE

In Colonia Otilio Montano, Jiutepec, Morelos there is a Compost Centre that CCIDD visits with groups to learn more about composting and to actually assist in the process. The origins of the centre started in May 1994 from a Base Christian Community which in addition to reflection on scripture started analysing the problems of pollution and sought in a small way to contribute to the improvement of the environment. They did this by forming the Centre for the purpose of making compost and educating others about compost.

The Centre composts organic waste and makes compost soil for gardening and for sale at very reasonable prices. There are a variety of useful medicinal herbs grown here as well. They also conduct education efforts at times to encourage families, schoolchildren and groups to compost. Composting is a way of reducing the amount of soil, water and air pollution and ensuring that nutrients are returned to the soil. In addition the Centre tries to improve life in the neighbourhood in which they are situated through reforestation projects and campaigns to control street dogs.



CCIDD'S Environmental Education outreach to La Estacion kids held at Compost Centre in Jiutepec

TIPS ON BEING ECO- FRIENDLY

Educate others about the environment and eco-friendly practices

- 1. Pick up waste and litter from communities***
- 2. Reduce consumption of water, electricity and paper***
- 3. Recycle and promote recycling in recycling centers.***



DONATIONS REQUEST

See our web page to DONATE on line with PAY PAL. www.ccidd.org & click 'Form a Group and Donations.' Or you may send a check or money order made to CCIDD and mail it to:

**CCIDD, % Pat Lucas 28613
Isleworth Ct., Lake Bluff, IL 60044 USA.**
Kindly include your e mail.

This has been a long year with some groups not coming. Our income has decreased and this makes it difficult to pay our staff. Your generosity to our CCIDD operation fund will be greatly appreciated.

Can you send us \$20? \$50 or \$100?

Thank you! Your generosity is appreciated.



CONTACT US AT CCIDD

Our webpage:

<http://www.ccidd.org>

Our email address:

ccidd@cableonline.com

Our Facebook page:

CCIDD: Cuernavaca Center for Intercultural Dialogue on Development

Our phone numbers:

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US direct line to Mexico: 414-431-4244

Fax number: (011-52-777) 312 9392

Central Standard Time

Our Mexico Address:

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