

Villanova School of Nursing Trip to South Africa

By Alyssa Canino, Nursing Student



Alyssa Canino and Lindsey Waters from Villanova University playing with children in South Africa

Working with the Zulu children was absolutely the most rewarding aspect of my experience in Durban, South Africa. I love interacting with children, and I aspire to be a pediatric nurse practitioner. I have come to believe that children from different cultures have a great deal in common. They are naive, open-minded, and ready to absorb new information about the world. My experiences with the children included time at St. Theresa's Boys Home and St. Leo's Primary School. I worked with the children between the ages of five and ten, teaching them hand washing

and basic hygiene skills. The children were so appreciative and eager to learn. It was clear that my lessons and mere presence truly made a difference to them. Education allows us to give something to the children of South Africa that can last a lifetime.

South Africa still has invisible walls and remnants of Apartheid that need to be broken down. I feel like placing myself in the Zulu communities made a small difference. While I believe I made a difference, at the same time the people of South Africa made a difference in me. I have come back from this experience with a newfound appreciation and pride in my life. It breaks my heart that some of the people living in South Africa will never have the same opportunities that I am blessed with. I will always have a place for the Zulu people in my heart. I am so thankful for all the support I have received. I can honestly say that this experience has affected my mind, heart, and spirit. I will always remember my time in South Africa, and I am so blessed to have had this experience.



Villanova School of Nursing students and professors pose with the Augustinian Sisters

Augustinian Mission Office

PO Box 340

Villanova, PA 19085

Phone: 610-527-3330 Ext. 278

E-mail: missions@augustinian.org

4. <http://www.augustinian.org>

The Augustinian Friars

Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova

Summer 2010



Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions,

As a new summer begins, school students turn their thoughts to "freedom from school." We have all had that feeling. Before the students of the Augustinian schools of Villanova University and Malvern Prep concluded the school year, several of them joined the friars in service to our missions of Peru and South Africa for ten-day trips.

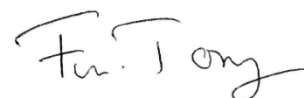
In May ten students from the Villanova School of Nursing journeyed to South Africa and used their medical skills to help many people, including the children of our Zulu school of St. Leo's, the Augustinian Sisters' Home for children, Hillcrest AIDS Respite Unit and "Thousand Hills Community Helpers" outreach. Listening to the nursing students each evening, they may have "dispensed" their professionalism, but they also received so much more in return from the love and affection of the people they served.

May was also a busy time for two groups of fourteen Malvern Prep seniors. One group journeyed to South Africa for ten days and used their "youth and strength" to paint our Zulu school, dig a garden to grow food for a program for Zulu street children, and erect a large fenced-in area for Zulu grandmothers who have become the caregivers of their grandchildren due to the death of their parents from HIV/AIDS. But the students received so much in return from all the people they encountered. You will see one of their reflections in this Newsletter.

The second group of Malvern students traveled to our mission in northern Peru. As you can see from the article in this Newsletter, it was a great eye opener and "teacher" for these students from the US.

We are always proud of the students in our Augustinian schools in the US, and as you read these reflections of their experiences in our mission areas, you will see why we feel so blessed with these young men and women.

In St. Augustine,



Anthony P. Burrascano, O.S.A.

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Malvern Prep Student Reflects on Service Trip to South Africa

By Andrew Cloetingh, Malvern Prep Student

As we drove through the poorest areas of South Africa, I saw things that I could not believe: ten children without parents living in a one room mud hut; grandmothers carrying wood down hills so that we could construct fences for them; and children literally climbing mountains each day so that they could go to school. South Africa, I realized, isn't a glorious nation, as its recent hosting of the World Cup may make it appear, but a divided, poor country that is falling victim to disastrous epidemics and heartbreaking poverty.

But it is not a land of darkness. Here I have witnessed true love, caring, passion, and faith. While I knew that, unfortunately,



Students from Malvern Prep work on building a fence in a project with the Hillcrest AIDS Center

tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS were common, I was not aware that there was something else going around: laughter, and with that, an endless sea of smiles. At St. Leo's School, I played with the most playful and joyous kids I have ever met. I cannot express how terribly I will miss them. As I sit here and am forced to realize that many of those kids could soon die from a number of causes, I am both in awe and perplexed, because no one has made me as happy as these children, who have so little materially, but so much when it comes to faith, hope and dreams.



Malvern senior Andrew Cloetingh plays with children at St. Leo's

Mass Cards

The Mission Office offers Mass Cards throughout the year for your deceased friends and loved ones.

To receive Mass Cards please contact the Mission Office at: 610-527-3330 Ext 278



Malvern Prep students with children in Chulucanas, Peru

The Golden Anniversary of Fr. Mahoney

Fr. Maurice (Moe) Mahoney, O.S.A., is celebrating his golden anniversary of priestly ordination. Fr. Mahoney was ordained 50 years ago on July 10, 1960. Just two years after his ordination, Fr. Mahoney was asked about his interest in the Province's mission in Japan. With his fateful and faithful decision in 1962, Fr. Mahoney began his lifetime of ministry in Japan with three years of intensive Japanese language school.

Over his 48 years in Japan, Fr. Mahoney has spent time in all four of the Augustinian parishes in the country, including 13 years as pastor in Fukuoka (1975-87) and more than two decades in Tokyo (1988-2008). Since 2008, Fr. Mahoney has been in the parish in Nagasaki, which is also where he spent his first twelve years after language school.

The celebration of Fr. Mahoney's golden anniversary of priestly ordination will take place in June at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Please contact the Mission Office for more information.



Fr. Mahoney, O.S.A., in Japan

Reactions to Peru from the Malvern Prep Service Trip

Compiled by Stephen Borish and Alex Cardile, Malvern Prep Students

Coming into Peru, we were expecting far less, developmentally. From the pictures we had painted in our heads, we thought Chulucanas was going to look like a disaster area. Needless to say, we were surprised to see traffic lights, internet cafes and other hints of development in a city stricken with poverty and struggle. However poor it may have seemed, the area in which we were staying was a cut above the surrounding area.

Places like Immaculata Concepcion and other villages barely a mile away from where we stayed exhibited signs of incredible need: the parents were often nowhere to be found, and the people had no sanitation, education, or even running water. They barely had anything— tangible or intangible. Despite these setbacks, as we walked through the dirt roads of the villages, we could see God's providence in the resilience of the people. Instead of complaining about what is absent in their lives, they accepted what they did have. After spending time with the people, it became evident to us that their basic desires mirror our own.