

Watsonville and Unforgettable Experience!

By Gabriela Gordillo



Our Mission was an awesome experience for each one of us; we realized that we take for granted what we have but other lack. The pictures the pictures that you can see in this article are from a farm worker's camp called "Murphy". The people there are very poor, the area gets really muddy in rainy days and the houses are very small. They live away from the city, pretty much in the middle of nowhere and they go to school by bus. Some of the families there know the Salesian family because they kids (which are now grown up and married) used to go to the "Penny club", so they have good memories of enjoying themselves during the summer with us.

What touch our hearts the most is that even though we noticed that there weren't any gifts under their Christmas trees, they were really excited about Christmas! When we dropped their gifts, the kids were really grateful and in spite of their needs, every single house prepared breakfast for us. We really got to love the kids and the families there, who wouldn't, they didn't know us and they received us with open arms and big smiles.



We plan to do more next year and perhaps organize "posadas" and activities for them. We also realized that a week is not enough and God willing we plan to make it two next year. It was an amazing experience that taught us the real meaning of Christmas!

Thanks to each one of you for your support and donations; you helped make a difference in the lives of many kids at that poor area.

Don't forget to read our next page... Miami Mission Trip!

MIAMI MISSION TRIP

By Juan Carlos Montenegro

On December 22, 2008, a group of 6 young adults left our Province and they began their pilgrimage to Miami (Florida) where they spent their Christmas vacation helping immigrant families.



If we take a moment to think of where and how we celebrated Christmas, believe me, the majority of us were in very comfortable surroundings.

This was not the fate of one immigrant family in Maim. The house looked like a hurricane went through it. This family consisted of an alcoholic father, mother and 4 children, ranging in age from a few months, to a 2 year old, a 3 year old and a 4 year old.

The 6 young people arrived bright and early on Christmas Day, and after greeting the family, they started to work with the hope of transforming the place into a home where the family could live and feel comfortable in their own home. It was no easy task!

After about 10 hours of hard work, the young people and the family commented and contemplated on the good work they had already done. Together they said a prayer to thank God for the gifts received and enjoy a nice time together. This is an example of an action that beautifully expresses and brings to life the Gospel verse “I have not come to be served, but to serve” and “let him that wants to be served... be the servant of all”.

Thanks to everybody who supported this mission with prayers. 6 young adults, (they were all 18) were able to realize a dream of a missionary experience, let’s keep praying for vocations!.

