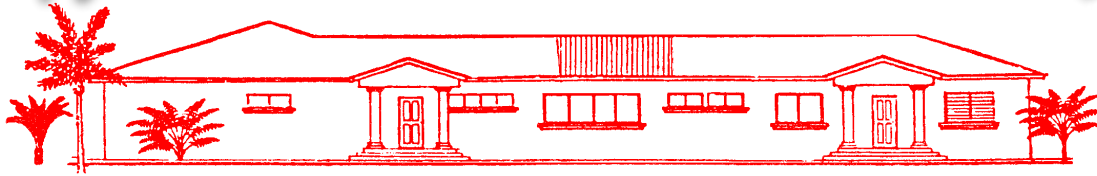


Nuestras Pequeñas Rosas



A safe haven for abused and abandoned girls and other ministries that serve the community.

Vol 22, No. 1

Our Little Roses Ministries

Spring 2008

From the Founder and President

OLR Educational Achievements Applauded Scholarships Are Key to High Scores



Dear Friends of
Our Little Roses,

Our Little Roses
is making a
difference! We
are reaping the
rewards of twenty

years of dedication to the ideals and commitment that, YES, we can make a difference in a girl's life by providing a strong foundation of Christian principles coupled with the best education that we can offer.

One of the practices we do before the end of one year and the beginning of the next is to take a look at our achievements and plan for the future. This yearly assessment of accomplishments and future goals is also required by the Honduran government because Our Little Roses is a NGO (non governmental organization).

This past year, 2007, educational achievements were again high on our list of accomplishments. This is not surprising since education is our number one focus. We are especially pleased with the success of our girls and the hard work they continue to put forth.

As a child, my parents always told us that our inheritance would be our education. I have repeated those very words to our girls when we talk about the future. In the United States we take our education for granted



Ash Wednesday with the Holy Family School students. The Rev. Rosa Angelica Gamez came to share a very powerful sermon with the participation of some children, as she was talking about the cycle of life. The special service was held in the OLR chapel.

but for our girls, it is a monumental achievement just to graduate from grade school, much less high school or even the university.

All our school age girls are attending classes in ten different semi-private and private educational centers in the city according to their individual needs. We are proud that 24 of our girls are able to attend our Holy Family Bilingual School.

They are fortunate that they have come to Our Little Roses young enough to receive a bilingual education. These girls will have many doors opened for them that otherwise

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The Mission of Our Little Roses is to provide the best possible environment that reflects God's love where girls can grow in freedom to be whole, happy and equipped to meet the challenges of life.

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would not be possible by virtue of their being bilingual.

Not all of the girls have the same intellectual abilities that will allow them to be university graduates but they will be educated and prepared to the maximum, each in their own abilities and interests.

Every year we are graduating more and more girls from high school and the university well prepared to meet the challenges that await them. Over these past twenty years we have been able to nurture and graduate over 40 girls, all of whom have gone on to be integral members of society. All of them were once without hope, coming from abject poverty and indescribable situations that made it impossible for them to imagine ever going to school much less to be a university graduate.

This February, the Board members of Our Little Roses Foreign Missionary Society were treated to a small reception at the new transition house located within walking distance to the university. Ten of the university girls, who live here, greeted everyone with smiles. They were proud that they were able to offer this reception as a token of their gratitude for what Our Little Roses has provided for them over the years.

The girls introduced themselves and told of their future plans upon graduation. Their personal aspirations and determination to become elements of change for their country and society were awe-inspiring. Several of them expressed a desire to start their own business or to be self-employed. But whatever their goals, they spoke only of being successful in achieving their careers.

Many of the OLRFMS board members have known these girls from the time they first arrived at Our Little Roses. This particular day, served as an incredible testimony to the ministry of Our Little Roses.

Hearing them speak with such pride in their accomplishments and with so much self-confidence left everyone present with the conviction that education is without a doubt the tool to success.

Today, you can be an element of change by sponsoring the education of a child who needs your help and support. It is only through you that we can truly make a difference.

Faithfully in His Service,



Vanessa Pineda



Please pray with us June 7 – 8, 2008 World Weekend of Prayer for children at risk.

Our Little Roses Ministries is a member of the VIVA Network Serving Children at Risk Worldwide. www.VIVA.org

Children at risk is the biggest social problem facing the world today. How should we respond to such an overwhelming problem?

Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." *Matthew 25:35-40*

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All funds raised by OLRFMS are used for the support of Our Little Roses Ministries in Honduras or the US. Funds raised for specific projects will be used as designated unless special circumstances dictate otherwise, at the discretion of Our Little Roses Ministries.

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Volunteers Bring Talent, Energy and Academic Resources

This is a first in a series of reports from Joan Bouchard, a volunteer teacher at Holy Family Bilingual School from St. Paul's Church, Windham, Conn.

Dateline: Post # 1,
Our Little Roses

Here's who we are, initially:

- Karen, mid-50s, from a small church in Idaho — she teaches “Prepa”, like our Kindergarten. She is VERY well prepared, has done this for 30-some-odd years, and has brought lots of materials with her.
- Hunter, 24, from South Carolina, already has her Master's Degree, a new teacher. She teaches the 4-year-olds. She is sweet and quiet and smart, and the kids already adore her! She returned home in April because of illness.
- April, mid-40s, a former Peace Corps volunteer who has been working in the social services field since then — mainly with homeless single mothers who have been victims of abuse. She teaches 5th grade.

And then, of course, yours truly — that makes four of us, to share the chores and cooking in the house. Everyone is helpful, friendly, and personable, and we get along well.

Our home is comfortable — each of us has a separate bath; there's a regular stove and everything except a dishwasher in the kitchen; we have a washer and dryer, both quite new; and cable tv and internet service (though the latter often goes out, and only two people can be on at once.)

The rest of the teaching staff at Holy Family Bilingual School is Honduran, and we number 20 in all,



Volunteers: Hunter, April, Karen and Joan.

including Evelyn Romero, Head of School, and Diana Frade, wife of the bishop of SE Florida. Diana is the Founder and President of Our Little Roses Ministries, of which the school is a component, and where 25 or so of the girls attend.

The staff is well-qualified, and we have spent the past week devising Vision and Mission statements, based on the values and objectives of the school. It has brought us together as teachers — and I am the only one of the volunteers that joined the bilingual working group, the others are in a group who speak only a bit of Spanish, with two Spanish speakers to help them.

As a group, this is the most motivated school staff I've ever been a part of. And the brand-new curriculum is OUTSTANDING — all due to contributions from generous individuals who know about the school, mainly from Episcopal

congregations all over the US.

The school building contains the three pre-school grades, the computer lab, the two English-study rooms, and a nice indoor play-space downstairs, and grades 1–8 (8 is new this year) and the office space for OLR upstairs.

Each classroom, by the way, was contributed by an Episcopal congregation and bears a plaque with a dedication from them — such a great cloud of witnesses have been here before us, and I feel very grateful to them all for the work they've done so that we can do OUR work.

Right next to the school building is the children's residence — it is built court-yard style, with a fountain and a garden in the center, and the girls' quarters, divided between little, older, and almost college-age girls, plus the kitchen, dining room, study room/library, sewing room, and

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laundry.

There are about 70 girls, ranging from barely 3 to almost 18.

We walk back and forth, staying for the day once we get there and lunching with the girls, but eating breakfast and supper at home. The food is good there, by the way!

University-age live in the transition residence near the church.

All this sounds pretty nice, huh? Well, you don't get the picture of how important and unusual a place this is until you look a bit further, and ask a few questions about how these girls got here.

Right beyond the OLR campus fence is the local shanty town or barrio like many that surround the city and where the very poor live. From the second floor of Holy Family school inside the wall you can look right down on the cardboard and rusty corrugated-iron roofs of the shacks and see scantily clad children, pigs and chickens where extreme poverty limits opportunity. Some of our girls came to OLR so early that they remember nothing of living in places like that, but most do and can appreciate what a difference the home has made in their lives.

All these girls are ADORABLE. they are being very well brought-up



Jensy, Katty, Olga Diaz before the kayaking trip in Tela

and taken care of by their Tias #1, who one can tell are very fond of the girls. (Tias is Spanish for aunts or caregivers.) The girls LOVE to be around the volunteers, and they sit with us at lunch, chattering away about their day and correcting our halting Spanish and trying out their English, and welcoming our company when they go to the Olympic Stadium to run and play in the afternoon each day. I am trying hard to remember their names, which are all wonderful — Dayana, Rosenda, Ana Cecilia, each one more lovely than the last!

And after 20 years now, OLR is establishing an extraordinary “track record” — one girl attended the Honduran Air Force Academy; one high school senior is on a 3-month project in social work in Puerto Cortez, about a hour's drive away. There are a total of about 16 girls in the university, or doing similar studies, living in the transitional homes (those also, as well as our volunteer home, are the result of work and gifts of various past supporters of OLR). The reality of their accomplishments is that these girls came from what the world would consider nothing but in God's plan their unknown worth was revealed through the ministry of Our Little Roses. ■

Education Leads to Setting Goals and Ambition Can Make a Difference

We need sponsors for our girls' education. These Scholarships are what set this ministry apart. It is the most important gift that you can give to one of our girls. I encourage you to consider being an advocate for education that will catapult the life of a deserving child into a world of success.



Two exchange students from Holy Family School, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, share school experiences with three girls from St. Joseph's School, Boynton Beach, Florida. Holy Family eighth grade girls Joselyn Boquin from OLR and Mayra Romero (left to right) spent a week this spring in Florida learning American ways in and out of the classroom. (St. Joseph's girls on right are unidentified)

To Receive Current OLR Updates Send Your Email Address

In an effort to keep our readers current about activities and the accomplishments of our girls and related ministries we plan on sending updates by Email. Please send us your Email address if you wish to receive this information in a timely fashion to bev@ourlittleroses.org.

Newsletters: we are revising distribution of OLR Newsletters by publishing a yearly news magazine that will be sent by postal mail. It will also be on our new website: www.ourlittleroses.org. We may also send occasional newsletters and special mailings by old fashion mail as well as posting them on the OLR website. We are in the process of redoing our website to make it more versatile and user friendly.

The Rose

The wilderness and the solitary place we shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

— Isaiah 35:1

The Bible has numerous references to trees (trees of knowledge and of life) and to vineyards. An internet search for “roses” in the NRSV, however, turned up only three citations.

As valued as roses may be in our society today, there are few mentions of them in this translation of the Bible. Still, after our first trip to the Our Little Roses home in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, we came to believe that God has a special place in His garden for our little roses that are nurtured with so much love.

Our friend Sheryl, another “rookie” on this trip, told us of a rosebush in her garden, one planted by her husband. During her husband’s last illness, Sheryl did not have time to care for the shrub. Only when she strolled through her yard after his death did she realize how much it had withered.

Not wanting to lose this connection to her husband, she wept and prayed that God would let this plant live. Sheryl fed, fertilized, watered and pruned the rose until the once-dying bush began to flourish.

Many of the girls we met were born into abuse and neglect, into circumstances that we can only imagine and that they will probably never forget.

They are fragile beauties with impish faces, at once tender and



Franco twins Ana Cecilia and Anne Ruth.



Honduran carver Jose Ayala teaches the girls woodworking skills. Carvings they produce are sold in the OLR shop with one third of sales income re-applied to woodcarving supplies. The girls receive a percentage for their work. Master carver Peg Clarke Van Brunt (not shown), her husband and brother-in-law paid the start up costs including carving tools and Jose’s salary. Many of the younger girls are designing and creating their own projects. Older girls who have acquired the skills are helping Peg complete the relief carving of Christ and the Children with animals. When finished the piece will measure approximately 54 inches wide by 34 inches high and is made of basswood. Peg travels to work with the girls from her home in Long Valley, NJ and has inspired OLR woodcarvers who are producing items that are sold as fast as they are completed.

tough, wary and wistful. Patsy Curry, who has spearheaded St. George’s ministry to Honduras since 1993, explained to us that these little roses are being nurtured by this ministry and that they have what they need—a safe place to stay, food, clothes and schooling. We were there, Patsy said, to give them memories.

From hiding hot dogs in duffel bags for a Saturday cookout to hauling stuffed animals for Bingo prizes to spending hours in knitting instruction to singing endless choruses of “Rise and Shine,” we laughed like children with these children, sharing Christ’s love and the blessing of special memories for us all.

If you get the chance, go to Our Little Roses, but be prepared to leave a piece of your heart. You can decide for yourself whether God has a special place in His garden for these little ones. We believe God does because we know that He sent Christ to die on the cross for all our sins and that on the third day...Christ rose.

Gail Thompson and Monica Carlson are members of St. George’s, Nashville, Tenn.



Dayana was baptized last October 7, 2007 during the beautiful service at the Good Shepherd Cathedral. The Reverend Rosa Angelica officiated. The five year old is in pre-kindergarten at Holy Family School and enjoying her teacher and classmates.

¿Habla Español?

Spanish Language Immersion Studies Holy Family Language School

Our Little Roses

San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Our Little Roses language school study program is designed to equip students to speak Spanish by centering them in the culture. Language classes can be tailored to the wishes of students according to time and level of desired fluency. We specialize in teaching Spanish to students at all levels.

Live and learn within total immersion environment of Our Little Roses community. Four weeks or more study packages include room and board.

For details please contact Belkis Prieto; E-mail belkis@ourlittleroses.org or call in the US 1-800-849-9252 or visit Our Little Roses website: www.ourlittleroses.org.

A Language School brochure is available on request.

Prevailing Crisis in Honduras is Poverty.

OLR Committed to Help Break This Cycle of Oppression

With a population of over 7.5 million people, Honduras ranks as the poorest Spanish speaking country in the western hemisphere. The distribution of income is extraordinarily unequal among the very rich and the poor. However the ministries of Our Little Roses are addressing all the Millennium Development Goals excluding Goal No seven that addresses environmental issues.

Eighty-two percent of Hondurans live in poverty and sixty-two percent of these live in what is considered abject poverty. The majority of these poor are children under the age of 15. The current rate of about 30 % and rising seriously affect the poor, especially children whose growing bodies suffer from the lack of essential nutrients.

The Honduran government provides limited social service programs and no financial support for destitute children. Less than 42% of Honduran girls complete a 6th grade education, dramatically increasing their vulnerability to the debilitating effects of poverty, disease, and oppression. Less than 2% of university graduates are women.

Unemployment rate in 2007 was estimated at 27.9%. In 1998, the country was devastated by hurricane Mitch which caused almost \$1 billion in damage. After five years the number of missing persons never found and 5,600 documented dead totaled 13,000. This huge loss affected all area and strata of this poor country that continues to struggle to meet the needs of its people. ■

NGO Status Helps Address Poverty

OLR is the only childcare facility to receive a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) designation in Honduras that was bestowed by an act of their congress. It took many years to gain this desired NGO status and signifies that OLR meets rigorous child care standards in providing a loving, nurturing environment for the girls they have been given to raise. In most cases, the Honduran Juvenile Court System place our girls in the care of Our Little Roses Ministries.

The OLR child care program was designed to provide the best possible foundation for destitute girls to mature into successful, productive young women and ultimately benefit their families, communities, and country.

OLR strives to overcome the conditions of poverty and abuse by providing comprehensive health care (including psychiatric consultation

and evaluations, and individual and group therapy sessions), bilingual educations, and cultural opportunities.

The OLR Jubilee Justice Center addresses legal and abuse issues. Financial support for Our Little Roses comes from donations from churches, organizations, grants and individuals mostly in the United States, Canada and Europe.

A Little History

In January 1988, a ministry of hope began when Our Little Roses (OLR) Home opened its door for destitute young girls in a rented house in San Pedro Sula. With the blessing of the Diocese of Honduras under the leadership of Bishop Leo Frade and his wife Diana Dillenberger, founder of the new ministry, the Home began providing life-changing dimensions for abused, abandoned, and impoverished girls. The Home



Anne Ruth and Ana Cecilia in front, Katty, Sihan, Wendy and Tania in back on New Year's Eve.

was named in honor of Episcopalian Rosa Cisneros (1938-1981) who was murdered for defending the rights of women and children in El Salvador.

In April 1992, Our Little Roses moved from its first quarters to the permanent home for girls at risk that was built on three and one-half acres the city of San Pedro Sula donated for this ministry.

This valuable donation of land enabled the ministry to expand into many ministries that include services to poor families, medical and dental clinics as well as Holy Family Bilingual School for middle class children, OLR girls and others on scholarship

Because the key to breaking the cycle of poverty from which the OLR girls come, education is the focus to prepare them to be competitive in a middle class society.

A university education is a provable, achievable goal for our girls even in a country where only 1-2 percent of university graduates are women. Presently there are 14 girls attending university. Our first university graduate has earned a Master's degree in business administration. ■



There is enough love and hugs to go around. Riccy, Vanessa, Rosenda, Maryuri and Damaris surround Diana Frade, Founder and President of Our Little Roses Ministries.

Our Lady of the Roses Retreat House and Weeks-Schilling Training Center Near Completion To Serve the Community and OLR Family

Excitement and expectation grows in Petoa, Santa Barbara as completion of Our Lady of the Roses Retreat House and the Weeks-Schilling Training Center draw closer to reality.

At the beginning of April Diana Frade, Founder and President of Our Little Roses Ministries had an opportunity to meet with the Mayor Roberto Santo Guzman and other leaders of the Municipality of Petoa, in the State of Santa Barbara, to discuss the opening of the retreat and training center.

“The mayor is totally committed to support the OLR Center in any way that he can to make our presence in the community a success,” Diana said, “He is excited that our main objective for the community is to help create a venue for training programs to improve the quality of life of the people who live in one of the poorest States of Honduras.”

Members representing various organizations including the city council, Red Cross, the local medical doctor and nurse, teachers and women leaders from the community met with Our Little Roses’ representatives to discuss ways in which to support each other. OLRM will conduct a survey to help ascertain the most valuable issues and tools needed to improve the communities’ welfare.

In addition to providing a venue for other NGO’s that will bring in the training programs, the retreat and training center will be a source of employment for the area of Pueblo Nuevo and Petoa.

Diana said that it is exciting to see the facility take shape that will



Members of the work group from St. Thomas Church, Fort Washington, Penn. are standing where a balcony will be added, contemplating what they can do to help finish the new Our Little Roses mountain retreat facility called Our Lady of the Roses Retreat House and Weeks-Schilling Training Center.

be the center of activity in the area. There will be many opportunities for visiting work groups to help with final touches such as painting, carpentry, landscaping and other projects when the building is completed. Acreage donated by the Mayor that is behind the walled-in center will be developed into a park with trees and other plantings and inviting settings.

The dedication of this beautiful OLR retreat/training center will be held February 20, 2009. The gorgeous facility and park will create an arena for relaxation and training for OLR girls, staff, and visitors as well as being available for organizations to rent.

Our Little Roses is pleased that their rural presence will also benefit local people by providing jobs and services through the extension of its many outreach ministries. ■

To find Petoa using Google Earth, use these coordinates:

15° 16' 18.35"N
88° 17' 04.21"W



Heidy Benitez, Martita Moreno, Vanessa Paz and Dayana Alonso.

Seven New Girls in 2007 and One So Far in 2008



Damaris Aguilera



Fanny Mejia



Vanessa Paz Pineda



Iris Mercedes



Waldy Mejia



Kathy Carbajal



Carolina Joseline Mercedes



Ricci Mejia

Eight New Girls Found Home at Our Little Roses

In 2007 seven new girls were added to our family. Damaris Aguilera arrived in early May. Three sisters, Fany, Waldi and Riccy Mejia arrived in July. Vanessa Pineda came to the home in October and the two Mercedes sisters, Iris and Joseline Carolina arrived in early December.

In January 2008 Kathy Carbajal came to live at the Home.

Wings Fly High for OLR



Wings is a new support group of flight attendants from Southwest Airlines who are Associates of Our Little Roses Foreign Mission Society actively raising funds for Our Little Roses Ministries. (L-R) OLRFMS Board member Carol Garrison and flight attendants Cheri Hill, Claudia Rocha, Sarah Hecox, Dolores Mercado, and Joy Sturges.

Invitation to OLR 20th Year Celebration and Dedication of Retreat and Training Center February 20, 2009

The dedication of the Our Lady of the Roses Retreat House and Weeks-Schilling Training Center will coincide with the twentieth year celebration of Our Little Roses Ministries.

This is an open invitation to anyone who has supported the construction of the new Retreat and Training Center and the OLR Ministry to celebrate what God has made possible through the gifts of many. The ceremonies will include dignitaries from the Petoa mountain area as well as friends and supporters of Our Little Roses. It is expected that OLR's presence in Petoa will impact more than 40,000 people through the many services the ministry provides including medical and dental clinics, training opportunities and employment. For more information contact olr@ourlittleroses.org or 1-800 849 9252.

Transformed Lives

LISA ELLIS

One of the most powerful images of my first visit to the Our Little Roses home in Honduras is a "before and after" comparison.

While the February mission trip group was waiting at the Miami airport for the flight to San Pedro Sula, OLR Board Member Patsy Curry showed us photos she had taken when she was at the home in December to attend high school graduation.

One of the photos was of a girl who had just arrived at the home, a 10-year-old named Carolina. Patsy described her as looking "shell-shocked." Carolina and her 8-year-old sister, who also came to live at Our Little Roses, had never been to school. The face in the photo was empty, from poverty and neglect.

The Carolina I met that day had been transformed by three months of being nourished physically, emotionally and spiritually at Our Little Roses. It was a blessing to witness the change in her life, and also to see the love of Christ reflected in the faces of the more than 60 other girls currently at the home who have

been rescued by this ministry.

We had the privilege of spending time with the girls, both in large-group activities and in quiet conversation one-on-one. We baked cupcakes and helped with math homework. We had lessons in spiritual gifts from God, and the girls talked about giving and receiving special gifts and talents.

We did a lot of reading. Thanks to generous St. George's parishioners, we had taken a huge duffel bag filled with crisp, new books.

All around me, in the courtyard and the library and the craft room, the air was filled with affirmation: "Good! You read so well. That is a beautiful painting. I like your hair that way. Come sit next to me."

We ended our trip by visiting the transitional home near the University where OLR alumnae live with a house mother while they are students. We were greeted by a vibrant young woman who plans to be a chemical engineer. It was hard to believe that she too was once shell-shocked. Grace abounds. ■



University girls living in the new Transitional House located within walking distance of the University: standing Heather Hertz; seated left to right: Julia Ortiz, Eugenia Ortiz, Francis Guzman, Jency Maldonado Vasquez, Olga Diaz and Tirza Romero. Not pictured: Paula Ortiz, Dulmy Hernandez, Kenia Martinez, Cati Kawas, and Bernarda Mejia

Graduations in 2007 — Education Achievements



Dayana Alonso graduated to Holy Family Kindergarten. Twenty-two OLR girls attend Holy Family School with boys and girls from the community.



Heather Patricia Hertz Sanchez graduated from a bilingual high school and lives in the Transition House. She is attending the University of San Pedro Sula with several other Our Little Roses girls. Heather hopes to study chemical engineering.



Jessica Amador



Karla Patricia Godoy



Five girls graduated from 6th Grade: Fany Mejia, Kenia Rivera, Nataly M. Zepeda, Yorleny M. Zepeda, and Jennifer Salinas are enrolled at Primero de Mayo high school.



Jasmin Cardoza



Frances Guzman



Recent high school graduates begin University: Jasmin Miguel Cardoza, Karla Patricia Godoy, Francis Guzman, and Jessica Amador. Not pictured: Heather Hertz.

OLR Addresses 7 of 8 Millennium Development Goals Are Justice Issues

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals agreed to in 2000 by 191 heads of state and government — including the United States — from around the world that address the deepest material brokenness in the world today.

The goals reflect a global consensus and provide a roadmap toward a world free from suffering caused by extreme poverty. The ministries of Our Little Roses are addressing all the Millennium Development Goals excluding Goal No. 7 that deals with environmental issues. The MD goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

UN member nations during the Millennium Summit in September 2000, in which the nations declared,

...We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected.

— *The Millennium Declaration*



OLR's *Joselyn Boquin*, second from left, and other 8th grade girls at Holy Family School explain their winning Science Fair project.

Birthday Girls First and Second Quarter

Rosa Maria Santos - January 16
 Marta Moreno - January 21
 Karen Garcia - January 20-
 Veronica Pena - January 28
 Vivany Zepeda - January 21
 Jency M. Vasquez - January 25

Abigail Cribas - February 8
 Wendoli Bardales - February 17
 Jessica Amador - February 19
 Olga Diaz - February 25

Heather Hertz - March 3
 Yorlenny Zepeda - March 7
 Odalis Hernandez - March 10
 Tania Santos - March 25
 Eugenia Ortiz - March 26
 Cindy Murga - March 29

Bernarda Mejia - April 16
 Brenda Zamora - April 27

Cindy Alvarado - May 13
 Lilian Dinora Castellanos - May 21
 Maricruz Pinto - May 21
 Wendy Enamorado - May 22
 Vanessa Pineda - May 24
 Ingrid Portillo - May 28
 Leily Rodriguez - May 29
 Astrid Dayana Alonso - May 30
 Mayra Maldonado - May 30

Maria Rosenda Rodriguez - June 3
 Paula Ortiz - June 7
 Kati Kawas - June 16
 Astrid Villalobes - June 26

**Please Pray for
 Children all
 over the world.**

Announcing

Two Pilgrimages to Holy Places in 2009 Will Also Benefit Our Little Roses Ministries



*Diana and Bishop Frade lead the 2008 Holy Land group
on the route to the place of Christ's Crucifixion.*

January 2-16, 2009, Bishop Leo Frade will lead the first Pilgrimage to Egypt, the Sinai to include cruising up the Nile from Aswan to Luxor and three days in Rome. They will meet the Coptic Pope Shenouda III, worship with the Coptic Christians for their Christmas Eve Liturgy at St. Mark's in Cairo, St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai. This exciting trip will wind up in Rome where the group will have an audience with the Roman Pope Benedict XVI in the Vatican and also visit other special places and events.

January 27 to February 5, 2009 the Frades will lead their third Holy Land trip to places in Israel, Palestine and Galilee where they have traveled annually in support of fellow Christians in the Holy Land.

Included in the total cost of each Pilgrimage is a tax deductible donation to Our Little Roses Ministries. A special receipt will be sent to each participant for this donation directly from Our Little Roses Foreign Mission Society. Diana Frade is Founder and President of OLRM that serves the poor, especially destitute and abused girls in Honduras.

For details about either Pilgrimage call 1-800-268-9993 or visit www.diosef.org and click onto **2009 Holy Land Pilgrimage** or **Egypt-Rome Pilgrimage** with Bishop Leo Frade, Bishop of Southeast Florida.



Urgent

Please Remember
October 1 Christmas
Shipping Deadline

Christmas packages
must arrive in Miami
at the Diocese of
Southeast FL address
(see information on
page 3) by October 1 for
Santa to reach the OLR
girls in Honduras.

2007 Visiting Groups

Each year Our Little Roses is blessed by groups and people who come to interact with our girls and staff and share their love and joy.

For repeats, friendships are nourished and grow. New relationships are established and lives are truly enriched because there is always discovery of something new and wonderful in the exchanges that take place.

One thing is certain: The incomprehensible majesty of God is seen in the miracle of transformations as people cross boundaries to meet one another in the love of Christ.

Visitors tell us that they go home renewed in the power of God's love and provision that is realized in the transformation of the lives of the girls and commitment of the OLR staff. "What God has done in this place is really amazing" is the comment we hear. And they share the miracles of changed lives of what they have witnessed with others back home.

Groups In 2007 We Remember and Are Grateful

January 2-6
St. Benedicts and Bethesda by the
Sea, Palm Beach, FL

January 18-27
Diocese of Northern Michigan
Marquette MI

January 29 - February 11
Diocese of Western New York
Buffalo, NY

February 15-20
St. George's Church
Nashville, TN

March 5-15
Christ and Holy Trinity Church
Westport, CT

March 14-20
Daphne United Methodist Church
Daphne, Alabama

March 24-31
St. Andrew's Church and School
Boca Raton, FL

April 28-May 5
St. Martin's Church
Pompano Beach, FL

May 7 -14
St. James's Church
Richmond, VA

May 24 - 29
St. Thomas Church
Fort Washington, PA

June 2 -10
Grace Episcopal Church
Arlington, VA

June 11- 18
St. Phillips Church
Coral Gables, FL

June 18 - July 2
St. George's Church
Nashville, TN

July 2 -11
St. Alban's Church
Annandale, VA

July 22-30
Christ Church
Alexandria, VA

August 5-13
St. George's Church
Fredericksburg, VA



Dentistry student Jency Maldonado Vasquez has been working with medical brigades in Azacualpa, Tela and other places. She said, "I am proud of myself for what I have done and learned. For this reason I wish to thank every one who has supported me on my road to success."

Our Little Roses Foreign Mission Society, Inc
PO Box 464
Somerset Virginia 22972

www.ourlittleroses.org

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Spring 2008

Our Little Roses Ministries San Pedro Sula, Honduras

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. — Isaiah 35:1

A **Run for the Roses** marathon is being planned for May 2009 in Newport Beach, California. This will be a 26.2 mile run. Anyone that cannot attend or participate in the event itself will be able to sponsor a runner. For more information please call Cheri Hill at 949-929-4473.

Happy Quinceanera



In most Spanish speaking countries girls celebrate their fifteenth birthday in a special Quinceanera Celebration usually as a church ceremony and party afterwards. At Our Little Roses this celebration takes place in December when all those who have become 15 during the year are presented together to the congregation of Holy Family Chapel. It is a joyous occasion and particularly so because the OLR family is so large. Left to right: **Maricruz Guardado, Maryuri Ponce, Josselyn Boquin, and Abigail Cribas.**



Mauda Hernandez wearing the national dress of Honduras during celebration of Honduras independence day. She was born on August 3, 2000 in San Pedro Sula and came to Our Little Roses through the Juvenile Court in June 10, 2002. She is in Kindergarten at Holy Family Bilingual School, where she has many friends. She loves to dance typical music. Mauda enjoys playing with dolls and her "sisters". Like most of the girls, pizza is her favorite food.