

Several parishes and a bank get together to support health and education in a shanty town slum area in Lima's Southern Cone.

Faith in Action: Sister Parish Service Mission to shanty town slum parish in Lima, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Utica, NY – Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, Lima, Peru
09 Aug 2013

A team of 4 volunteers from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Utica and 12 volunteers from Lourdes Lima prepared 626 health kits hand stuffing large "baggies" with soap, toothpaste, tooth brush, and for 210 of the 626 kits, a toy. The volunteers also prepared 340 school supply packets. After the "work session" there was time for faith sharing and lunch together. A generous donation from St Francis of Assisi Parish, Triangle, VA, covered the costs of buying material for the health kits (baggies, toothpaste, soap, and tooth brush) and other set-up costs. A Peruvian bank (MiBanco) donated note pads for the school supply packets. The team from Utica brought a limited number of toys and some addition school supplies in their luggage.

The health packets with toys will be part of the Lima parish's Christmas programs. The rest of the health kits are given out to the grade school children (K-4 grade) during medical evaluations that are performed annually by a team of doctors, nurses, and volunteers from Christ the King Parish in Toledo, Ohio. After their medical exam the students receive a talk on personal hygiene and one health kit. The school supply packets will be distributed at the beginning of next year's school year (March 2014).

The Utica team also spent time visiting and Lima parishioners' home and families. The team also participated in a parish mass on Saturday evening. They visited Fire Company 120 where the fire departments from Central New York have sent used material.

After the "work day" and visits in Lima the Utica team spent a week in Cuzco working in a public school.

In addition to these annual mission visits, the parish in Utica sponsors educational programs, especially for post high school technical students.

Participants from Lourdes Utica for Mission 2013:

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