



'Hola' from Fr Frank

Hola de Ecuador, Amigos,

Well, it is hot as ever here. The rains are slowly arriving. By December, we will be inundated; that's when the communal kitchen, child care centre, medical dispensary, and presbytery will hopefully become a reality.

Scorpions are making their way around the dispensary where I live at the moment – no more walking around at night without thongs! Luckily my dog Rosa has come to the rescue and fought them off. She is a nine month-old boxer and loves to catch and play with the creatures with the expense of a sting every now and then. Better her than me! (Did need to dose her up with antihistamines after the last sting) San Francisco is looking after Rosa and me.

The Archbishop, Antonio Arregui, will be visiting on 10th December for the confirmations of 140 kids. He will bless the kitchen and the child care centre on the same day. The kids meet every Saturday at 10am - here in Maria de Jesus, the medical dispensary – and we provide breakfast (milk and bread). So far we have had six months of preparing for their first Holy Communion and Confirmation. We have 240 kids every Saturday. Come Saturday arvo all I can say is 'Thank God for celibacy!'

We have been plagued on Saturday nights with robbers from the south of the city, bringing the victim of their car jacking past our place here in San Francisco. They steal taxis or any car they can and bring them with the owner to a remote place just around our corner.



Registrations

You can register interest in the Mission by completing an enrolment form via the website at www.frfrankmission.org.au Enrolling within the Mission will ensure you are kept up-to-date regarding news from Fr Frank, and activities including fundraising to provide support.

Donations

There have been many requests for information regarding the appropriate process for making donations to the Mission. Funds may be direct debited or deposited into the following Commonwealth Bank account:

Manual Deposit:
Account No. 2902 0090 3419
Agent No. 13274

Electronic Transfer:
Account No. 22524
BSB: 062-786



FATHER FRANK JONES

LATIN AMERICAN MISSION

Thank God no one has been murdered. But there have been some close shaves. We end up hearing their cries for help after the thieves have left. Well, I got sick of the troubles and got together with the police and informed them of what is happening.

The police have made regular visits on Saturday nights and even chased the last thieves. They got away. We only hope we have scared them off. One of our St James priests was assaulted last week. They tied him up and put a gun to his left eye and robbed everything. Please pray for Fr Paul. He is recovering and is a brave fellow. I told him he was now officially a legend. His congregation doubled last Sunday. They all wanted to know what he looked like after the assault! He is new to the mission.

I have a children's refuge (Albergue) in the mission that I haven't been able to serve regularly up to now. They are run by a foundation here in Ecuador for children, whose Mums are incarcerated in the local gaol across the highway. There are also abandoned children; altogether, about 50 kids. They are great but it is evident that they have been neglected and abandoned. You can see their pain. I visit them every Thursday and one other afternoon a week. I celebrate Mass with them and talk to each of them. They need a great deal of love and attention. They are also very lively and full of enthusiasm. It would be great to make their Christmas a happy one. It wouldn't take much to do. Let me know if you have any ideas.

Hopefully the Maria de Jesus Dispensary will be operating in the middle of December. I have a young doctor - his name is Wilmer. His wife Patricia will cook in our nutrition centre. They have two little girls. I brought them a cane house as they are poor themselves. They live just around the corner. Wilmer is just starting out from medical school and is in rural practice. They are very devout Catholics who help me with the catechesis of kids in one of our communities, called *El Chorrillos*, a very poor bush community half an hour from San Francisco. They walk two hours every Sunday to get to Chorrillos.

Keep up the prayers, please. They really work. It keeps us on a mission together. I will keep you posted with the projects - all possible due to your generosity.

Gracias y Bendiciones

Frank



San Francisco



Fr Frank Jones, Latin American Mission – Committee:

Ted Anderson, Stephen Cusack, Brendan Mulhall, Michael Ryan, Pamela Slocum, Ashley Watson