



RECOGNITION OF BLANCHE CLARK

CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

MAY 15, 2011

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Well before we had a Global Mission Committee, Blanche and Henry Clark were actively encouraging us to be engaged as a parish beyond the borders of our parish and of our nation. With the formation of the Global Mission Committee in 2005, they became its strongest supporters, both with their inspiration and encouragement and with their money.

In 2006 the Clarks made it possible for San Patricio, our sister parish, to complete the roof of their beautiful new church, and in 2007 they donated the sum of \$50,000 for the Global Mission Committee to put to use in the Diocese of Honduras. That gift has made possible the seminary education of Cesar, the assistant vicar at San Patricio, the installation of electrical infrastructure at the Diocesan Retreat Center at Muchilena, and the visit of Lloyd Allen, the Bishop of Honduras, to our parish in 2009.

In 2010, with Blanche's endorsement, the committee elected to donate \$22,000 of the remainder to La Esperanza de Jesus, a new cottage-style orphanage that Bishop Allen had envisioned and that SAMS missionaries Kim and Mike Miller, who visited us last April, are directing. Some of that money went to dig a well that will ensure a supply for safe water for the La Esperanza children; another sum was used to pay the salary of the Honduran woman who is now the project's sub-director. But nearly half of that money has been used to renovate a stucco building original to the orphanage site so that the children who live at La Esperanza will have a space in which to worship.

On Monday, May 23, while our mission team is working at La Esperanza, Bishop Allen will consecrate that chapel—La Capilla de la Cruz, the Honduran Chapel of the Cross. Thanks to Henry and Blanche there is a new Episcopal church in Honduras—a place for the people of a remote little mountain community to gather, a place where children who would otherwise be abandoned on the streets can worship and learn of God's love for them.

At the consecration service, this plaque (which Ann Henley is holding) will be mounted on a wall of La Capilla de la Cruz. It says (in Spanish): "To the Glory of God, and in thanksgiving for the vision and generosity of Blanche and Henry Clark."



Blanche, since you can't be there with our mission team for that inspirational occasion, we just wanted to celebrate that with you now and to honor both you and Henry (whom you called Hank for so many years together). Thanks to you both for your vision and your generosity and for your incredible example to us all in living out the Gospel.



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