Mission Experience to Jamaica

Sponsored by Divine Word Missionaries Vocation Office

May 19 - 28, 2012

Get ready for an adventure. Recent participants report that there are many needs in Jamaica. People need adequate housing, kids need help in school and others just need someone to care. This is your chance to make a difference. Apply today!



Join a group of volunteers and assist the **Divine Word Missionaries** in southeast Jamaica in their day-to-day ministries. Activities include:

- Building a house
- · Painting homes and schools
- Bible Study with youth and adults
- Visiting the homebound and elderly
- Assisting at schools
- Food distribution
- Other day-to-day missionary activities

Program Goals

The goals are to expose those interested in the missionary work of the Church to the day-to-day activities of some missionaries, to learn more about the Divine Word Missionaries, and learn more about Jamaican language and culture.

Mission Jamaica

Divine Word Missionaries staff three parishes in the civil parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica. Priests and Brothers live at our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Morant Bay and minister at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Port Morant and St. Bartholomew Parish in Yallas.

The missionaries serve about 100,000 local people of whom about two percent are Catholic. From youth ministry to taking Holy Communion to the home bound; from liturgical services to ministry in a food pantry, the Divine Word Missionaries in this area reach out to meet the spiritual and temporal needs of the people.

Housing

During your stay in Jamaica, volunteers will stay at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Morant Bay, Jamaica. The rectory and convent sit on a hillside and overlook the ocean about five city blocks away. Accommodations are very modest. Each volunteer will have his/her own bed, but will need to share a room with someone and possibly use bunk beds. Bathrooms will be shared and offer warm showers.

Most meals will be provided at the parish. Some lunches will be provided on the job site as volunteers work. Most evenings are spent with fellow volunteers and missionaries from the parish discussing the day's experiences and learning more about the missionary work of the Church.



Apply Today!

Please contact:

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Dates/Schedule

May 19-28, 2012

May 19: Arrive in Chicago -- Orientation Program

May 20: Depart for Jamaica

May 20-27: Mission Experience Days in Jamaica

May 28: Return to the States

Cost

The cost of the Mission Experience trip is approximately \$1,000.

This includes an overnight stay at Techny, Illinois, for an orientation program, round-trip airfare from Chicago to Kingston, Jamaica; room, board and travel while in Jamaica, and materials needed for the housing project. All other travel is at the participant's expense.

Partial scholarships are available.

Participation Criteria

The Mission Experience trip is planned principally with Catholics in mind, but can accommodate people of other faiths under special circumstances. In addition, those wishing to participate must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a passport to travel outside the country
- Be physically able to participate in manual labor (painting, carrying up to 40 pounds, etc)
- Have health insurance or purchase insurance
- Sign a liability waiver