

Day 6 | Honduras Mission Trip | Friday 17

Today was something else.

After a restful night and breakfast, we set out on a three-hour journey to San Francisco Village, the future home of what will become the first Nativity Village in Honduras.

During the drive, our dear Nativity friend Delane—lovingly known by many as the "Awesome God" lady—shared a story from one of Father Martin's mission trips to a prison in Haiti. She recalled how he shook the hands of every prisoner, paid for the release of those imprisoned for petty crimes, washed their feet, and gave them new shoes as a sign of a new beginning as the prison doors opened. It was a beautiful reminder that true mission is always about encounter, restoring dignity, and reminding others that they are deeply loved by God.

San Francisco is a community of nearly 11,000 people, where many households are led by single mothers. Phase One of this project will provide 25 families with safe homes, a year of food assistance, and a community center dedicated to education, training, and community life.

And just when we thought our hearts couldn't hold any more joy...

The teams from Food For The Poor and CEPUDO finally revealed the surprise they had been carefully keeping from us.

We believed we were simply coming to see the land where the future homes would one day be built and to meet the families who would eventually live there.

Instead...

We arrived to find that the project had already begun.

Standing before us were 10 homes that were nearly complete, including the home generously funded by our Kind Leaders at Nativity.

There were tears of joy as we realized we were witnessing God's providence unfolding before our eyes. As the Mayor shared that he had entrusted this dream to Our Lady of Mercy (La Virgen de la Merced) through prayer, a strong breeze swept across the property—a beautiful reminder that God has been present in this project from the very beginning.

As a touching sign of friendship, the Mayor presented Nativity with a small figure of a sugar cane farmer, honoring the community's primary livelihood and symbolizing the partnership that now unites us. Father Bennett blessed the homes during a procession with our Blessed Mother.

In just a few days, the first ten mothers will receive the keys to homes where they will no longer have to choose between paying rent or feeding their children, between keeping a roof overhead or sending their children to school. Soon, twenty-five families will experience the security, dignity, and hope that every family deserves.

Thank you, Blessed Mother. You interceded, and God's people responded.

The day continued with lunch in Catacamas, a stop in Valle de Ángeles to pick up small souvenirs to remember this unforgettable journey, and an unexpected blessing as Archbishop Vicente Náchter of Tegucigalpa visited us before celebrating Mass at the hotel.

Our evening reflection could only be one thing: Thanksgiving. For God's providence, for every donor, for every missionary, for every prayer, for the partnerships and every beneficiary whose life has become intertwined with ours through God's perfect timing.

To conclude this unforgettable day, Linda Coello, President of CEPUDO, presented Nativity with a beautiful image of Our Lady of Suyapa, Patroness of Honduras.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" Ephesians 3:20

- Patty