

Day 7 | Honduras Mission Trip | Saturday 17

Our final day in Honduras began with grateful hearts over breakfast before making one last meaningful stop: the **Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Suyapa**, home of Honduras' beloved patroness.

One of the most touching moments came when **Father Bennett** brought forward the beautiful gift our partners at CEPUDO had given us the day before and gently touched Our Lady of Suyapa. It was a simple yet profound gesture, entrusting our parish, our mission, and everyone who has supported Operation Starfish to Our Blessed Mother.

During Mass, the responsorial psalm echoed deeply within us: "*Señor, no te olvides de los pobres*" ("Lord, do not forget the poor."). After a week spent walking alongside families, visiting communities, and witnessing both incredible resilience and profound need, those words carried a renewed meaning. Another hymn became our prayer at the end of Mass:

"Danos un corazón fuerte para amar, danos un corazón fuerte para luchar."
("Give us a heart strong enough to love, and a heart strong enough to persevere.")

The two-hour drive to Palmerola Airport was filled with gratitude as we said goodbye to our new friends from **Food For The Poor Honduras** and **CEPUDO**. These partnerships have become so much more than organizations; they are family in mission.

Our flight to Miami departed on time, and just as we were preparing to land, our adventure had one final surprise for us. We received the notification that our connecting flight to Virginia had been canceled due to severe weather along the East Coast.

What followed were long lines, countless phone calls, uncertainty, and one final opportunity to live out everything we had practiced this week: patience, teamwork, and trust in God. While we were navigating the airport, our friends at Food For The Poor were working behind the scenes to help us find solutions. We are rebooked for a flight on Monday.

Completely exhausted after 6.5 hours of waiting and problem-solving, we are finally ready to sleep at our hotel in Miami. It wasn't the ending we expected, but it reminded us once again that mission isn't only about serving in another country. Sometimes it's about extending grace to one another when plans change, encouraging each other when spirits are low, and trusting that God is present even in airport terminals and delayed flights.

Please keep our missionaries in your prayers as we rest, recover our energy, and prepare for the final leg of our journey home.

Thank you for walking this mission with us through your prayers, generosity, and encouragement. You have been part of every step.

"The Lord watches over the way of the righteous." - Psalm 1:6 ❤️