



Heartbeats

A publication to share our accompaniment on the mission journey

Volunteers International for Development Education and Service

TX: director@vides-usa.org, NJ: east.director@vides-usa.org

Website: www.vides-usa.org, Blog: www.xanga.com/vwest

July 15, 2006

Volume 2 Issue 7

Dear Volunteer Missioners and Friends of VIDES+USA,

Our VIDES+USA July news features the **First Formation Service Camp (FSC) of VIDES East USA**. It took place July 2-15, in North Haledon, New Jersey, next to the Provincial House of our FMA Eastern USA Province.

Under the direction of S Denise Sickinger, FMA, and S Antoinette Cedrone, FMA, the FSC was attended by four incoming VIDES volunteers and a guest. Five of our VIDES West USA, as you will see on next page, also visited and shared of their expertise and experience with the new attendees.



S Antoinette, Anne, Jill, Jenny, Lisa, Laura, and S Denise in front of the beautiful Passaic Falls, NJ



BETTERS, Jill M.

From: Munhall, PA
Degree: BS in Chemistry (Villanova U., September 2006), wants to be a lawyer
Interests: AIDS victims, preventive education, orphanage, social work, teaching
Service: September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007
Mission: **SOUTH AFRICA**



COLELLA, Lisa M.

From: Olympia, WA
Degree: BA in Psychology
Interests: Working with children, tutoring, summer camp, childcare
Service: September 1, 2006 – June, 2007
Mission: **ECUADOR**



COTE, Anne

From: New Hampshire
Degree: Nursing, BS in Health Ed, certified Elementary Ed (K-8), Health Ed (K-12)
Interests: Healthcare, AIDS children, hospital, education, piano
Service: January – July, 2007
Mission: Wishes to serve in Ireland or Scotland



McCOLPIN, Jennifer Ann

From: Lee's Summit, MO
Degree: Bachelor of Nursing, St. Louis University
Interests: Healthcare, AIDS ministry, nursing, children with special needs
Service: September, 2006 – September, 2007 (approx.)
Mission: KENYA

Highlights

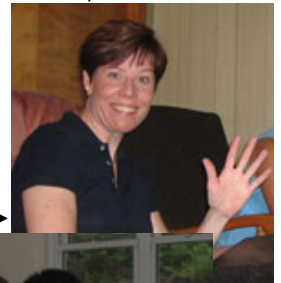
(Contributed by Amanda Z Randall)

First VIDES FSC VIDES East USA Missioners!



- Welcomed by Sister Phyllis Neves, FMA Provincial of East USA
- Assisted by TX Central Office VIDES+USA volunteer Missioners:

- Christina Chou (2005 Formation Year) from TX, served VIDES in San Antonio, and now doing graduate work at the University of Connecticut



- Amanda Z Randall (2004 FY) from TX, VIDES+USA President, presented on Culture Stress; served in Lusaka, Zambia
- Erin Sherry (2004 FY) from NY, served in Zway, Ethiopia
- Frank So (2006 FY) OR, and Matt Putorti (2006 FY) NY, attended the VIDES FSC in San Antonio and Asherton last month; presented on Conflict Resolution and the importance of Teamwork



- Introduced many of the Sisters in the Eastern Province to VIDES by sharing meals, community prayer, and recreation
 - Met Salesians (SDB): Fr. Tim Zak, Fr. Jim Malloy, Bro. Sal Sammarco, Salesian Lay Missioners Lynette and Adam Rudin (current Missioner in charge of the SLM program for the Eastern Province (The SLMs are volunteers affiliated with the Salesian Priests and Brothers.))
 - Learned about the Salesian Institute, charism, and history in the Eastern US
 - Served at the summer camp run by the FMAs at Mary Help of Christians Academy and at an inner city youth program run by the SDBs in inner-city Paterson, a once flourishing immigrant community bordering North Haledon that is now plagued by poverty, drugs, and gang violence
 - Enjoyed recreation and community-building with the Sisters, camp counselors, and young people from the Paterson youth program
 - Toured New York City (Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a boat tour around lower Manhattan, and a walk in Central Park)
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NEWS from **VIDES+USA Central Office in San Antonio**

In the warmth of Texas, we are also buzzing with activity as we prepare for three major projects:

- The **2006 Re-Entry** (August 1-6).
We will feature the returning VIDES+USA Missioners in our August e-newsletter.
- **The 2006 CNVS National Convention** (Catholic Network of Volunteer Services) which we are hosting in San Antonio at the airport Hilton (November 9-12).
- The **2007 Re-Entry** (Aug 1-3), and **VIDES+USA 10th Anniversary** (Aug 3-6) which will take place in San Antonio next year. Mark your calendars!

Having finished her 10-month service at our international VIDES Headquarters in Rome; Suzanna Kennedy is here in San Antonio, deeply involved, helping us with the three projects, together with Amanda Isaac, and Allison Skinner who will arrive shortly.

Let us **keep in prayer our Volunteers in Mission**: Jason and Vanessa Lively in Ecuador, Rebecca Regan in El Salvador, Marilyn Santos in Ecuador, Kathy Meus in Poland, Maria Mueller and Joe Ferreira in Westwego, LA, Wendy Macagno in Colorado, and Frank So and Matthew Putorti preparing to go to Sudan very soon.

Let us continue to be united in prayer, being a voice for the voiceless, hope for the hopeless, and walking with others as sisters and brothers united in love.

God bless!

Sister Mary Gloria Mar, FMA
VIDES+USA Director

Take Action with Current Advocacy Issues

World Poverty and Related Policies and Practices:

- The **root causes** of world poverty are often connected to international and U.S. policies that perpetuate inequity and injustice. Policies and practices related to such issues as, food aid, international assistance, trade, extractive industries, and migration all make an enormous impact on the lives of poor people around the globe. Follow the links to find out about:
 - **Food Aid:** http://www.crs.org/get_involved/advocacy/food_aid/index.cfm
 - **International Assistance:**
http://www.crs.org/get_involved/advocacy/policy_and_strategic_issues/foreign_assistance.cfm
 - **Sudan:** http://www.crs.org/get_involved/advocacy/grass_roots/senate.cfm
- July 15 through 17, 2005, should be designated as a national weekend of prayer and reflection for Darfur.
 - **Extractive industries:** http://www.crs.org/get_involved/advocacy/extractives/index.cfm
 - **Migration:** http://www.crs.org/get_involved/advocacy/migration/index.cfm
- Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), Economic Migrants, Human Trafficking

Immigration – Respond July-August!

- **It is vital to communicate with House members throughout July and August asking them to endorse a comprehensive immigration reform bill.** Any legislation agreed to should include:
 - a viable path to citizenship for the 11-12 million undocumented in the country;
 - a temporary worker program which protects the rights of all workers;
 - reform of the family-based immigration system to reduce waiting times for family reunification; and restoration of due process protections for immigrants.

- Go to: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/action.html> to learn more and to get **links to e-mail or call your Senators and Representatives.**

Catholic Global Poverty Conference: San Francisco, Oct. 27-28, 2006

- St. Mary's Cathedral
 - Speakers:
 - Jeffrey Sachs, renowned economist and author of [The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time](#)
 - Fr. John Donahue, SJ, St. Mary's Seminary and University
 - Cardinal Renato Martino, President, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
 - Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, Fordham Center on Religion and Culture.
 - Sponsors:
 - Catholic Relief Services, Archdiocese of San Francisco
 - U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
 - For more information and to register visit the conference's website or call 415-614-5567.
 - Parish resources for educating against poverty:
 - Weave education and action on global poverty into four weeks of liturgies, religious education and faith formation programs, and youth and young adult ministry:
 - A pledge to end global poverty that can be used as part of parish meetings
 - Age-appropriate ideas and activities for engaging adults, youth, families and intergenerational groups in their meetings throughout the month.
 - Liturgy resources such as bulletin announcements and general intercessions to reinforce the call to global justice in the Sunday assembly.
 - Please look out for more information on the Catholic Campaign against Global Poverty's <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/>
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With Mary we give praise
and thanks to God for the
great things He does for us
and through us!



VIDES+USA Heartbeats
Electronic Newsletter
Editors:
Sarah E Herrmann and
SMGloria Mar, FMA