

## **Resurrection builds a new school!**

The walls are up, the roof is on, and the children cannot wait to attend school. No longer will Mulukuku children have to take home all the books and materials every night because the palm leaves used for the old schoolhouse roof leaked onto the dirt floor, and there was no way to lock the classroom. Thanks to the children of Resurrection School in Sunnyvale, enough money was raised through a penny drive last year to build their sister school, Cristo Rey School in Mulukuku, Nicaragua. Sr. Sandy Price of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur visited Resurrection School last year and appealed to the students for their support. She shared stories about villages without water, telephones or electricity, of traveling hours on a single dirt road to reach civilization or a town. When Sr. Sandy arrived in Nicaragua over twenty years ago, the illiteracy rate was higher than 70%. Since then, she and her fellow sisters have created schools for over 900 students and 100 adults.

The Sisters of Notre Dame were founded in 1804 to educate poor girls in the aftermath of the French Revolution. Throughout the almost 200 years since, Sisters have worked with the poor in the most abandoned places to give them access to education and a way to realize their dreams. The parish of Mulukuku is an example of this vision and is completely dedicated to education. Created in January 2000, it includes 45 rural communities scattered in the mountains of northeast Nicaragua, some communities only accessible by foot or horseback during the dry season. The families served in the parish are predominately farmers who grow beans, corn, bananas and yucca. By bringing educational opportunities to these villagers, the parish offers a new life to these communities whose future could at best be day-to-day survival.

Sister Sandy writes, "What a wonderful scene it is to see women who a short time before would not even stand up to say their names now conducting prayer services, participating in socio-dramas and directing group dynamics sessions. We do hope that education will prepare the women for a better future. We hope that it will open them up to new ideas and enable them to see that they have more options than to marry between the ages of 13 and 16 and raise twelve children (twelve being the number considered as a complete family)."

Resurrection students are not stopping here, this year's Halloween penny drive will be used to send school supplies and materials for the school. When Resurrection's school uniform was changed this year, students suggested sending the old uniform shirts to Cristo Rey School for the students to use. Sr. Georgianna Coonis, SND, and principal of Resurrection School, states, "At this time in our nation's history, the values of peace and social justice must be experienced and lived out in our schools. It is only if we can help our children realize that peace can happen will they be able to make changes in our world." The Resurrection students understand this value more and more each day as they reach out halfway around the world to their fellow students to bring the value of education via the teachings of our faith.

Attached picture: Cristo Rey students outside their old school building