



**MAY, 2021**

## Father Tom's Greeting

**Queridos Amigos:**

You know by now of the change in leadership with Alan Thiebaud stepping down after two decades of service and Linda and Dave Waggoner stepping up to assume leadership.

Alan and his wife, Marianna, have given so much of themselves over the last twenty years and have left a lasting impact on all the undertakings of Las Mercedes. What a blessing they both have been. By their example they have invited so many other dedicated people to be a part of this beautiful relationship between Las Mercedes and Prince Of Peace.

Dave and Linda Waggoner are no less dedicated individuals who have been so involved from the very beginnings and I know will give heart and soul to see that every undertaking will be successful because of so many beautiful people involved here and there.

The dream of Padre Ramon and Fr. Jim will definitely live on because of the fine leadership of these individuals matched with the goodness of Liliam and her staff.

Speaking of Liliam, Happy Birthday to you on May 5th.  
**Blessings, Father Tom**

### News from the Nutrition Center.....

Dear brothers of our POP Sister Parish.

As a consequence of the pandemic, there are children who have not returned home with their parents and in view of this need the house was full, we set out to create small meetings with the families of our children from the Nutrition Center. The impact we had with the home visits was very welcoming and an incredible spiritual impact.

Some of them know the story of our beautiful Dunia, who came to the Center when she was 4 years old. With the joy of Easter we ventured and after 6 hours we arrived in the community. Four years ago her father did not speak Spanish, only his Tol language; he four years to be able to communicate with our team. *Continued on page 2*



*Online Classes at the Hogar*

## Salutations From Liliam

Dear Prince of Peace community,

I would like to thank God for how blessed we are in Las Mercedes, as you continue to support our children in the different projects. I cannot stop saying Thank you Alan, and Marianne for giving over so many years in this beautiful work. We will never tire of blessing you and thanking you every day with our prayers.

Also we want to give thanks Father Tom for choosing a wonderful couple, with a testimony of love and dedication towards our projects from the beginning. Thank you David and Linda for having said yes.

At Hogar Suyapa, we continue to prevent the pandemic with easy tests every week, to staff entering the weekly shift. The vaccines are not coming yet, and our authorities, only, are promises. We pray very much for this to happen as soon as possible. We have had very difficult experiences but we have come through.

Our Two university students continue their studies online just like our children in school and high school. They continue to grow and strive to be useful people in life and you are an important part of this development.

Our children and adolescents also continue their Christian formation and 5 children are preparing for their first communion this year and 9 for confirmation this and next year.

I would like to end by thanking God for the life of Father Tom and his new anniversary in his Priestly life. We are eager to meet again and that you can visit us as soon as this situation ends, knowing that only in God do we have hope and trust.

We love you Prince of Peace Community! ~~*Liliam*



### Meet Liliam

My name is Liliam Elisa Handal, I was born on May 5, 1956 in El Progreso. I attended elementary school at the San Jose school and secondary school at Notre Dame High School, both in El Progreso. I went to UL in Lafayette, LA majoring in Business.

I was called to volunteer at Hogar Suyapa in 2004 when Hogar Suyapa was born. My mission as a volunteer was to organize fund-raising activities for the Hogar. I also served finding accommodation for visitors from POP or European volunteers. I also organized meetings for our visitors, taking them with the administration of the Hogar to different places and cities in Honduras—a task that I carried out with much love and dedication for the love of the children.

In 2014 a new stage in my life began when I was appointed Administrator of this beautiful Hogar—not easy but rewarding work.

It is now 17 years in this place where God placed me.

*The full newsletter and more pictures are online.*

*Visit <https://www.popplano.org/sister-parish>*

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He is currently part of the council of the Immaculate Conception Local Church.

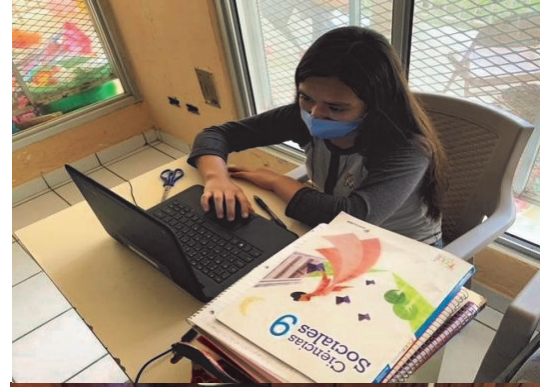
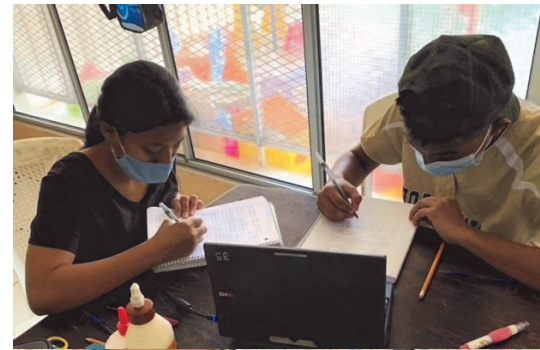
We celebrate God's word and share what donors give us; enough clothes and food for 50 families. It is beautiful to hear the parents express what the Venter has done in their lives and after this visit I confirm that Dunia will be in a home that loves God from its simplicity. We currently have 22 children in the Center and are supporting 180 of the Enlace community. All supported with food during these difficult times giving a total of 1200 food rations.

This Easter our joy as the risen Jesus is to be able to see God through these little wrinkled faces, which little by little turn into huge smiles. Thank you again for reaching out to our children through your prayers and donations.

*With Love, Alicia Velasquez, Nutrition Center Director*



*Left and Just below:  
Pictures from Alicia*



*Above: More Online Learning!*



**Sister Parish Steering Committee:**

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>David and Linda Waggoner</b> | <b>972-596-4993</b>       |
| <b>Denise Colcutt</b>           | <b>214-282-5622</b>       |
| <b>Kri McGinnis</b>             | <b>972-380-5505 x 172</b> |
| <b>Julie Messner</b>            | <b>972-742-9931</b>       |
| <b>John Stich</b>               | <b>972-732-7704</b>       |

**Sister Parish Meetings:**

Meetings are open to everyone. We invite you to join us the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.—St. Katharine's Hall. Come see how you can be part of this rewarding ministry!

**Quinceanera  
of  
Karla Rodriguez  
Congratulations!**

