

Stories

A Newsletter of Parishioners' Enlightening Stories of Life Events

VOLUME ONE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Life Teen Graduate Lily Hannan's Missionary Story
- Sponsorship for Lily
- Newsletter Introduction from Fr. Eric Tellez

Life Teen Parishioner Graduate . . .



Lily Hannan at Ecuador Mission

How did Lily Hannan, a Life Teen graduate and parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Community become a missionary in Ecuador? How could a "good kid" raised in a privileged area of Scottsdale, Arizona chose the life of a missionary in Ecuador? These are the questions that immediately come to our mind when we hear of one of our own choosing a missionary path in life. Yet, is this not

everyone? Here is Lily's *Story*.

I am Lily Hannan and I am a Catholic, lay missionary. My family and I moved to the valley six years ago and have been parishioners at St. Patrick every since. My father, Jim Hannan gives his time as a Core Team Member for Life Teen, my mother, Diane,

Now a Missionary

what our Catholic faith teaches? Are we not called to "bring the Good News" to

serves with M.O.M.'s and my sister, Rose, attends Life Teen. In High School, I attended Life Teen and sang in the Youth Choir. Eventually, I served as an EDGE Core Team Member. While attending Franciscan University of Steubenville, I continued to contribute to Life Teen Programs in Steubenville during (continued on page two)



Lily Hannan & Mission Children

Introductory Letter from Fr. Eric

Today we begin a monthly newsletter filled with stories about parishioners of St. Patrick Catholic Community. We are very blessed to have many amazing people who are part of

our vibrant community. This newsletter, which we have entitled simply *Stories*, will feature true life stories of everyday parishioners in our parish. Often we can learn from others

and make our own lives better and thus our family, our community and our world.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Eric Tellez



Lily in Ecuador

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven He commanded his disciples to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” (Matt 28:18).

If you would like to sponsor Lily in her mission work, please read this

the school year and during the summer at Cove Crest Life Teen Camp and St. Patrick. However, I came home less and less because I found the Lord was calling me to the foreign missions!

When I was a junior in high school I met Jesus at a St. Patrick Life Teen retreat. I realized that Jesus was my Savior and I was totally overwhelmed with His LOVE.

I am a Catholic, lay missionary. What does that mean? It means just like you I am a lay member of the Catholic Church. We go to Mass. We partake in the Sacraments. We give our time in the ministries of the Church. Ultimately, as laity, we engage in the temporal affairs of the world—working, parenting, studying—living as WITNESS to the transforming LOVE of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has called me and I have given my “yes” to be sent to “all nations” with the Good News. As a missionary, I have served in many ways, from demolishing ruined Hurricane Katrina houses in New Orleans to repairing houses in New Mexico. I have witnessed to many, led Bible studies, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick. I have taught English and assisted in a first grade class in Ecuador. I have cared for orphans. No matter what I do, I seek to do it for the Lord and to do it with great love.

While on missionary work in Ecuador, “it was time for vacation at the orphanage and (except for Pedro) the other little boys were leaving to go to their host families. They had their bags

packed and were sitting on the front steps waiting to be picked up. Pedro too, had his bag packed and was waiting. However, Pedro would not be going to a host family for vacation. He is a special boy and needs special one on one attention. He was going to be with me for vacation. I told him over and over that he was going to spend his vacation with me. We had plans to go to the beach and play basketball. I tried over and over to distract him from all the other boys leaving. However, he insisted on being like the other boys and waiting to be picked up.

Eventually, all the boys left and he was left on the steps alone and he got it. He was not going to be picked up and he was not happy with this and the tantrum began. He cried and wailed and threw his body on the ground. I tried to hold him but he was flailing his body everywhere. One half hour later, I tried again to comfort him. I stretched out my hands to him and said, “I am here, take my hands, I love you,” but he would not even look at me. He was so consumed in his misery. I tried again, and this time he saw me, but he chose to stay in his fit, in his pain. I waited and offered him my hands again, but he did not accept them.

This experience helped me realize how many times God is there holding out his hands to us

and we don’t even see Him or we see Him and we choose to stay in our misery. I wanted to help Pedro, to hold him, to love him, but he refused my love just as we refuse the love of God. Or sometimes we are so wrapped up in our misery that we do not even see God waiting to pull us out of it. God loves us so much.

God works for good in all things. God worked through a little seven year old orphan boy who never learned how to talk. Pedro showed me God’s enormous love.



Orphans Cared for by Lily

In May I graduated with Honors in Theology and Catechetics, and now I am ready and excited to go to “all nations.” On September 15, I started missionary formation with the Catholic missions organization **Family Missions Company (FMC)**. Based in Lafayette, Louisiana, FMC has mission bases throughout the world. For more information, or if you or your family want to go on mission, check out FMC at www.fmcmisions.com.

Blessings, Lily Hannan



I am so excited to be able to share my stories from my missions with you. Prayer is so powerful. Please keep me in your prayers. I am also in need of financial support. Please prayerfully consider a tax-free donation to my missionary work. There is desperate need, so any amount helps. **Blessings, Lily Hannan**

To Donate by Check

1. Make check payable to Family Missions Company.
2. Write Lily Hannan in the Memo Line.
3. Send to Family Missions Company, 12624 Everglade Road, Abbeville, Louisiana, 70510.

To Donate Online using PayPal