

GUATEMALA CLINIC

Celebrates 15 Years

By S. Victoria Marie Forde

During May the Daniel Comboni Community Clinic, co-founded by S. Sarah Mulligan and Comboni Father Bill Jansen, celebrated its 15th anniversary. The parishioners who first requested a clinic from the priests and city developed into a nonprofit organization Amicasi (Missionary Association of Charity for Health and Education). They continue to plan and implement programs for the community of 80,000.

Publicity for the celebration spread through church announcements, flyers, banners and notices at the clinic. The people eagerly awaited the celebratory events highlighted in these two pages. ¡Felicidades! Congratulations, S. Sarah and community!



S. Sarah Mulligan (fourth from left) and the Board of Directors of the Daniel Comboni Community Clinic kicked off the celebrations surrounding the 15th anniversary of the clinic on May 9 with special Eucharistic liturgies of Thanksgiving in each of the five churches of the parish.



A social hour was held following the five special liturgies recognizing the clinic's anniversary. Parishioners enjoyed seeing themselves in the four banners depicting the clinic's growth and service to the community.



In celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Daniel Comboni Community Clinic, a 4.4 mile walk/run with 100 registered participants was organized through the streets of Mixco.



The well-known clinic generated the support of volunteer ambulances and City Council. Children from a local school provided music, and sports education majors from San Carlos University clocked the winners at the finish line.



S. Sarah Mulligan sits next to the tree planted in recognition of her 15 years of devoted and strong leadership of the clinic in its growth. Sister co-founded the clinic 15 years ago to reach out to the large population of indigenous people living in poverty in Mixco by offering health, dental and educational services.



T-shirts, water bottles and prizes were presented to participants of the 4.4 mile walk/run. The clinic logo on the T-shirts was designed by Associate Sharon Foley.



The joy of the month-long celebration overflowed into traditional Guatemalan dancing as the sound of native marimba music played in the background.



In recognition of the anniversary, five trees were planted in the clinic's newly graveled parking lot. The first was to give thanks to God for the overflowing gifts of these 15 years. The second was in gratitude for the patients whose confidence and trust in the clinic keeps it growing and supports the services. The third honored the past and present clinic employees for their compassionate and loving service to the community. The fourth was to ask God's continued blessing and guidance on the board of directors and benefactors. The fifth honored S. Sarah.



A luncheon culminated the month-long celebration with the clinic board, staff and special guests. Certificates totaling 100 years of service were awarded to 11 staff members, including maintenance worker Romelia Juarez.



Board members, employees and special guests were treated to a meal of special Guatemalan dishes and cake at the recognition luncheon.