

## The Story of the Sister Parish Agreement between Santa Rita and SFX

- 2006 – following a visit by two SFX parishioners to Colombia, an agreement was reached with the parish in Cartagena to forge a sister parish relationship with Santa Rita de Casia Parish in Cartagena. The parish was founded in 1974 and was entrusted to the Society of Jesus.
- 2010-2011 – Cultural exchanges took place with 8 SFX parishioners visiting Colombia and 4 Santa Rita Parishioners visiting Missoula. A Lenten Project helped build a chapel in the barrio above Santa Rita.
- 2012 - the McKays spent several months at Santa Rita giving the Spiritual Exercises to 12 parishioners and a wood-turning class was offered as an opportunity for a micro-business.
- 2013 4 more Santa Rita parishioners visit Missoula for additional training as SEEL directors. The women also learned quilting in order to start a second micro-business in Cartagena and they participated in several service projects with us.
- Our Lenten Project for 2015 raised money to help fund a parish youth band who wanted to purchase instruments.
- In 2016, 7 parishioners traveled to Cartagena and the parish priest, Fr. Jorge visited Missoula for a retreat. We also helped fund a student from the Emerging Voices program to spend a semester studying at Loyola High School.
- In 2017, when news of the Pope's visit to Colombia came, a delegation of 4, led by Father Matt Holland, SJ was formed to visit Cartagena and join the Pope as he celebrated the Angelus at the Sanctuary of Peter Claver, the patron of Human Rights. Mattie Burke worked on her senior project around the quilt-making micro-business of Elba Sanchez Llerena and others from the parish.
- In 2020, our Lenten Project helped Santa Rita provide food, clothing and other needed items to the most vulnerable folks in the barrio.
- 2021 - Now as a pandemic grips the world, the need is greater than ever. Our Lenten Almsgiving Project this year will help our friends from Santa Rita as they continue their outreach and ultimately to recover from the additional economic hardships devastating their community due to Covid.

