



Alex Buldak  
Office of Mission Lead

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Dear Diocese of Joliet Missions Community,

For the past year, we have been discerning a new international mission trip for the diocese. It is with great joy and excitement that that we share with you our new mission site will be in Villavicencio, Colombia serving alongside La Hijos de la Madre de Dios – a religious community that has been serving at St. Mary’s in West Chicago for the past eleven years.

This past September, Justin Reyes, the Director of the Department of Catechesis and Evangelization, Father Steven Borello, the Vocations Director for the Diocese, and I, Alex Buldak went to visit La Hijos in Villavicencio. These religious sisters serve as bright lights of hope amidst communities that face emotional, physical, spiritual, and financial hardships. Their joy and love for Mary our Mother, and Our Lord Jesus, especially in the Eucharist, transcends the material and spiritual poverty that their communities confront each day. Eleven years ago, La Hijos de la Madre de Dios came to the Diocese of Joliet to serve our people. Now it is our turn to travel to their home in the Archdiocese of Villavicencio to serve them.

This first mission will consist of painting the school building the sisters use to teach and catechize their preschool students of the impoverished and unrecognized “Group B” neighborhood. It is called “Group B” as the government does not officially recognize its zoning within the city. Along with painting, the building needs some interior maintenance and a new garden planted in a large one hundred square meter plot of land behind the building.

We thank you for your dedication to past missions. Your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure have allowed the Diocese of Joliet to put its faith into action in a life-giving way for over thirty years. In this exciting and historic moment, we are continuing the legacy of Missions in the Diocese.

With our eyes toward the future hoping to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ and bringing others into His love and mercy, we are making an appeal to you today to help us help La Hijos de la Madre de Dios in Villavicencio, Colombia. Your donation will be used specifically to purchase painting supplies, paint for classrooms, materials to begin a garden at the school, and many other items that the sisters have specifically requested. We hope you may prayerfully consider donating to this new mission which we are excited to share.

Please follow the following link to look inside the mission field we will be stepping into with La Hijos de la Madre de Dios: [CLICK HERE](#)

**If you’d like to help support this mission, please send cash or check to the Blanchette Catholic Center with “Colombia Mission” in the memo line.**

May God bless you for your generosity as you continue participating in this grand love story.

In Christ,  
Alex Buldak  
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