



# EL NIÑO REY

*A Mexican Scholarship Program and Dental Mission*

Fall 2011

## Woman Extraordinaire:

### El Niño Rey's Nancy McGovern Named St. Norbert "Woman of the Year"

Nancy McGovern has set a near unattainable standard. To date, Nancy has participated in sixteen dental mission trips to Guerrero, Mexico since 2002, serving as trip coordinator for most of them.

The complex and frustrating duties of coordinating volunteers, coordinating with our partners in Mexico, arranging accommodations, packing, overseeing the status of equipment needs, and organizing the collection of toothpaste/brushes, supplies, and dentist's tools can be overwhelming just to think about.

This would be an impressive feat on its own, but that's not all. Nancy's work within her Women's Club Guild One for the past 20 years as Guild leader, Cookie Walk chairman, organizer of clothing collections, Fashion Shows, Casino Nights, and Women's Bake Sale events has made her the one everyone can depend on, and the one who always lent a hand.

Nancy's record of service underscores the trust placed in her by her peers and reason enough for the award she received.

Added to all these accom-



*Nancy (center in black) stands with her daughters and other members of the El Niño Rey team after receiving the award for Woman's Club Woman of the Year.*

plishments is her 10 years teaching Religious Ed, and her time as 4<sup>th</sup> grade chairman and mentor for the catechists, all while raising three remarkable daughters as a single mom.

"Nancy makes it all look routine," said Barbara Lee, President of the Women's Club, while presenting her with Woman of the Year award, "but no one underestimates her time, dedication, sacrifice and love of the people she serves."

Several of El Niño Rey's mission volunteers gathered for the

October Mass and award presentation to offer a, "well done and well deserved," congratulations to *Nanciana*.

Maybe all this can best be summed up in this tribute to Nancy from one of her fellow El Niño Rey Board members:

*"Indispensable? Energetic? Leads by doing? Compassionate? Always can do? A woman for others? All of the prior descriptions apply to Nancy, plus being a believer in 'every child is king' in Guerrero."*



## Good Luck to Our 2012 El Niño Rey Mission Trips!

In January, El Niño Rey will be sending its 23rd and 24th dental missions to provide much needed services for the people of Guerrero. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they plan for their trips.

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### Trip 1: December 31 - January 7, 2012

*Jalapa, Guerrero, Mexico*

Jim Orbon

Beth Orbon

Tracy Windlinger

Mike Gordon

Tom Gordon

Maura Windlinger

Mike Nolan

Bill Gordon

Kevin O'Malley

Bill Nickel

Andrew Lane

Ted Johnson

Gary Alberts

Megan Crowe

David Alberts

Nancy McGovern

Breghan Nolan

Maureen Brady

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### Trip 2: January 28 - February 4, 2012

*Xochitlan, Guerrero, Mexico*

Fr. Peter McQuinn, MDV Shelly Rhoades

John Gutbrod

David Williams

Karen O'Malley

Ray Dempsey

Jackie Slovick

Jonathan Monroe

Joumana Basha-Farat

Bob Slovick

Mark Leaman

Beth Ashton

Peggy Shrader

Colleen Keaveny

Steve Pritchard

Colleen Holohan





# The Priests of El Niño Rey

One of the most important and underlying benefits of El Niño Rey's dental missions remains the spiritual uplift, that divine stirring within us, resulting from the many good deeds performed for the disadvantaged villagers surrounding the Quechultenango, Guerrero, Mexico parish of Santiago Apostal. Key to that experience is the presence and actions of the volunteer priests from the Chicago Archdiocese who have journeyed with us.

Five of those priests are featured here. They shared the Eucharist with us, reminiscent of the travelers on the road to Eramaus and their encounter with Christ in the breaking of the bread.



## Fr. Gary Graf

Fr. Gary Graf, MDV, ordained in 1984, preceded Fr. Matt Foley to Guerrero, Mexico in the Archdiocese of Chicago's original priest exchange program with Mexico.

He is currently the pastor at St. Gall on Chicago's southwest side. Before that, he served as pastor at Waukegan's Holy Family Parish, where he delved into the many immigration issues confronting his parishioners.

## Fr. Matt Foley

Fr. Matt Foley, ordained in 1989, director and founder of El Niño Rey, is currently serving as an Army chaplain with U.S. Special Operations. After serving 6 years in Mexico, he returned and was assigned as pastor at St. Agnes of Bohemia in the Little Village area of Chicago. While in Mexico, he initiated and sponsored a "scholarship" program with funding help from family and friends to assist the poor children in getting into and staying in school. Today ENR helps 850 children.

Upon his return to the states in 2000, he attracted the attention of several dentists who offered to return to the Guerrero villages to service those families. 2012 will see the mobile mission's 22<sup>ND</sup> trip to treat people in these scattered villages. Fr. Matt remains active on ENR's Board of Directors and plans to once again participate on the mission trips in his former Guerrero parish area after discharge from the Army.





## Fr. Bob Heinz

Fr. Bob Heinz, ordained in 1980, has served on several missions in place of Fr. Matt as our spiritual mentor while Fr. Matt serves the troops of the U.S. Special Operations.

Fr. Bob currently serves as pastor at St. Norbert Parish in Northbrook and came there from St. Alphonsus Liguori in Prospect Heights. He is a graduate of Xavier University and the proud brother of some very influential, fun loving sisters.



## Fr. Brian Welter

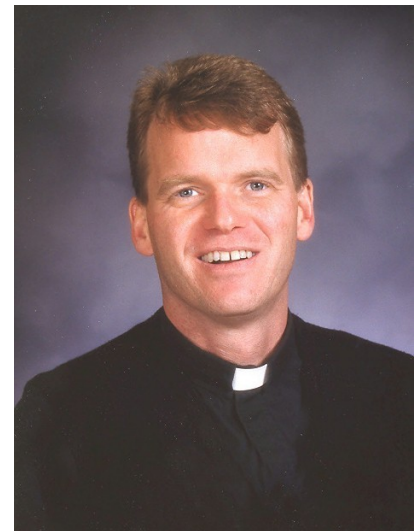
Fr. Brian Welter, ordained in 2005, is a guitar playing former carpenter from Steamwood, IL, serving as an Associate at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Orland Hills. He studied engineering at Bradley University until deciding to enter the priesthood after hearing Fr. Matt Foley speak at the diocese's InSearch discernment program.

Fr. Brian now serves at Holy Name Cathedral as the Vocation Director for the Archdiocese and has been on five El Niño Rey dental mission trips.

## Fr. Peter McQuinn

Fr. Peter McQuinn, MDV, ordained in 1991, is from Elmwood Park and was a contemporary of Fr. Matt Foley at St. Mary of the Lake University Seminary. Their paths later crossed again as neighboring pastors in Chicago's Little Village area where Fr. Pete served for eleven years at Epiphany Parish, while Fr. Matt was at St. Agnes of Bohemia.

His first assignment was as administrator at St. Mark's in West Town/Humboldt Park and he is now associate pastor at Our Lady of the Wayside in Arlington Heights. This year will be a return visit for him to Guerrero. Shortly after ordination, Fr. Gary Graf - then involved in the Genesis phase of the Archdiocesan priest exchange program with Mexico - encouraged him to visit the area parish of Santiago Apostal and its outlying villages to meet and serve its families. He told Fr. Gary "I shall return," and he is so happy to finally be doing so after almost 20 years.





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# News from the Board

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## WEBSITE RENEWAL- A GEEK'S REPORT

Nothing substitutes for verbal hype like actually trying something. El Niño Rey's website, [www.elnino Rey.org](http://www.elnino Rey.org), has been a work-in-progress. Mark Leaman initiated our site three and a half years ago and it has been updated by several volunteers over the past year. Clearly, it is time for a make-over.

The website is now being revamped, including the design, interactivity, and a method for donating directly from the website. So give it a try! [www.elnino Rey.org](http://www.elnino Rey.org)

### New additions to look for:

- New header format with Wordpress template for easy changes
- Newsletter links added to main page
- ENR Board of Directors listing
- Support includes "Underwrite Expense" option for expensive dental equipment
- "Dental Procedures Performed" chart
- PayPal link to facilitate donations
- "Scholarship Registration" chart added to Education
- [information@elnino Rey.org](mailto:information@elnino Rey.org) email address directed to Mark Leaman, who will forward emails to the appropriate persons for response
- Photo gallery with interactive slideshows

More changes will be in the works to keep the site current. Future additions will include dental mission team pictures, an ongoing Fr. Matt Facebook update, Board of Director meeting summaries, and a more active Facebook and Twitter following.

BE SURE TO REGISTER AND START SHARING!

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## Changes to the Board

Dick Murphy, President, has announced that Trish Sweeney, RN, MSN, will be the newest El Niño Rey board member. Trish is replacing Marlo Leaman, who is retiring from the Board. Marlo has been the driving force in organizing El Niño Rey's administrative functions. She will be missed by the entire ENR community and we thank her for her years of service.

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## Relive the Experience

El Niño Rey veteran Dr. Bob Slovick, DDS, put together a movie link and two slide shows of El Niño Rey's 2011 mission to Achicga and Colotlipa. Take a peak and relive your mission's memorable encounters.

[Movie Link](#)

[Slide Show #1](#)

[Slide Show #2](#)