

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT UPDATE

PROJECT 1458



Cross Catholic
OUTREACH

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

St. Ignatius Cuilapa Housing

A New Home for a Needy Family

— Cuilapa, Santa Rosa, Guatemala —



Special Thank You!



A new house for Blanca and Alexis starts to take shape.

This Family Is Forever Changed!

Before your gift helped change Blanca Suriano's life, she suffered in a constant state of pain and anxiety. Chronically sick to her stomach, she could not hold down a full-time job, making it nearly impossible for her to support herself and her 9-year-old son, Alexis.

When she could muster the strength to put in a few hours' labor, she worked as a maid for a family who paid her in food. It provided the one meal she and Alexis would eat that day (if not every day), and for that she was deeply grateful. Unfortunately, because her jobs rarely covered the rent on her tarp-and-scrap shanty — a shelter too crude to be called a home — she lived in a state of limbo, never feeling safe or secure.

Blanca's illness persisted, their hunger increased, and pressure to pay the rent intensified. Powerless to change her circumstances, all she could do was pray. Be encouraged as you read how our ever-compassionate God brought "angels" into her life — **including you** — to answer her prayers.

Thank you for being a willing instrument of the Holy Spirit to provide this blessing of a lifetime!

Santa Rosa de Lima Diocese

The Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima is based in the town of Cuilapa, capital of the Santa Rosa department in southern Guatemala. The diocese's 31 priests serve in 21 parishes spread among a population of 300,000 people, of whom 65 percent are Catholic.

Bishop Bernabe Sagasume oversees the diocese and its Pastoral Social evangelization, while Father Raul Monterroso runs the diocese's Caritas group. These humble Catholic leaders work together to combine humanitarian outreach with evangelization and spiritual formation.

With support from Cross Catholic Outreach donors such as you, the diocese's ministry can make a positive material and spiritual impact on poor families such as that of Blanca Suriano.



Angels in Disguise

Through You, the Lord Provides

Anibal Roberto, a staff member of the Santa Rosa de Lima Diocese, heard about Blanca Suriano's plight and went to learn more about the woman's situation. Moved with compassion, he added her name to the top of a list of families in urgent need of housing.

God's timing is amazing. The very day Blanca learned she was selected to receive a new house was the same day she received an eviction notice!

Anibal needed to acquire a plot of land for Blanca's house, but prices were unrealistic for the diocese's modest budget. Just when it looked like house construction may have to wait, one seller asked about the family who would be living on the land. Upon learning about Blanca and Alexis, he, too, was moved with compassion and lowered his price to an affordable amount. Construction could begin!

There was one problem, though: The crew needed water to use for construction, but the lot was not yet hooked up to any water service. God responded again, and a neighbor offered his water free of charge.

Normally, new-home beneficiaries are required to contribute "sweat equity" by helping build the home, whether digging the foundation or pouring water into the cement mixer. But Blanca was too sick to help. Instead, God sent a mission group from St. Ignatius Parish in Alabama, who helped lay the foundation. While they were there, the group's priest also covered the bill for Blanca to get medical help.

God provided everyone and everything that was needed for Blanca's house to become a reality — **including you!**



For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Psalm 91:11



Blanca and Alexis thank God for sending you to help build their sturdy new house!

A New Home...and More!

Blanca and Alexis were elated to receive the key to their new house. No longer would Blanca have to scrape together rent money or fear eviction. No longer would rain leak in and ruin their meager belongings. Now they had three rooms and a bathroom — plenty of clean space in which to live comfortably. They could also enjoy a newfound sense of safety and security.

But that was not the end of their blessings. God’s “angels” kept coming...

Another visiting mission group bought a stove and table for their house, and a visiting priest bought them a new bed. The Diocese even gave Alexis a Cross Catholic-funded scholarship so he could go to school and get a hearty daily lunch.

Blanca is on a slow road to recovery from chronic gastritis and anemia. She would greatly benefit from your prayers so she can return to full-time work. In the meantime, her burden is much, much lighter, thanks to you and others God placed in her path. **You were among those to whom she was referring when Blanca said, “God always sends me his angels to help me when I need it the most!”**

Financial Report

Below is a breakdown of the actual costs to build this family’s new home — costs covered, thanks to your gift!

Land Purchase	\$4,700
Water Service Hookup	\$362
Construction Labor	\$1,176
Construction Materials	\$1,869
Doors, Windows and Toilet Installation	\$293
Cross Project Management	\$840
Total House Construction Project	\$9,240



Heavenly Orchestra

St. Benedict said, “Listen and attend with the ear of your heart” — and that is what you did when you followed the Holy Spirit’s whisper to give. Others followed his nudge too, and they contributed in additional ways.

A single musician may be aware of only his own instrument and sheet music. But when all the musicians in an orchestra follow the notes before them under a great conductor’s guidance, they come together in harmony to produce a moving symphony.

In the same way, the Lord brought us all together and orchestrated a beautiful outcome for Blanca and Alexis. He brought about more than just the building of a home; he expressed the power of love for the whole world to see. This is an example of Christ’s Church at work, and we’re thrilled you played a part!

May God bless you for providing a home to a family in need!

God Bless You!

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalm 40:3