



The Hospitaller Order with SAN PEDRO SULA -Honduras-

THE BROTHERS OF ST JOHN OF GOD in Honduras. The Hospitaller Order of St John of God first arrived in Honduras in 1662 when a Community was established at Comayagua, and remained there until 1806-1816. At the beginning of the new millennium, cooperation between the Order and the people of Honduras was re-established with the return of a new Community of Brothers at San Pedro Sula in the spring of 2000.

Located in the northern part of the country, San Pedro is only a few miles from the coast and has always played a leading part in the history of Honduras. The town was founded on June 27, 1536 by Pedro de Alvarado. Originally, the town was called *San Pedro de Caballos*, and was subsequently changed simply to San Pedro, and later on Sula was added to the name. Some attribute Sula to the local Usula dialect, meaning "the Valley of the birds", others to the Aztec language, where Sol-la means "Place of the quails", while others say that it comes from the Misquito dialect word solá, which means "venison".

The Hospitaller Order of St John of God responded to the 2002 appeal of the Bishop of San Pedro Sula, Mgr Ángel Garachana CMS to make its Charism present to "meet the local people's needs". The Province of Mexico and Central America decided to take up the proposal and sent two Brothers there to begin analysing the situation and see whether to join the San Pedro Pula community.

In order to survey the situation in the zone, with the help of the local Caritas they visited the existing hospitals and health care Centres, the patients and people living alone or on the outskirts of the town, and ran a small dispensary at Aurora, close to the Church of St John of God.

All this led to the proposal to set up a Mental Health Community Centre. Throughout this process, relations were established with public and private entities, the mass media, and particularly by working very closely with organising the Pastoral Health Care Team of the Diocese of San Pedro Sula.



THE PROJECT: supporting the St John of God Mental Health Community Centre at San Pedro Sula. Honduras spent 1999 mainly endeavouring to recover from the loss of more than 10,000 lives and over 3000 million dollars' worth of damage caused by Hurricane Mitch.

Today, Honduras is still suffering from the aftermath of that situation with a very grave financial and economic crisis, health problems (HIV-AIDS, drug addiction, mental health etc) and violence: gangs of young people (maras) bent on destabilising the economy and the culture of the poor districts, creating a climate of instability and insecurity.

The Honduran health care system is in crisis at every level of care, but particularly with regard to mental health care, because they do not have the units they need to look after the people. The huge demand for mental health services has been generated by the many situations that have just been referred to, that are causing individual maladjustment and distress, social unease and family problems which need to be dealt with by professionals.

Responding to the call of the diocesan Church, the Hospitaller Order wishes to provide high-quality and humanised care through the Mental Health Community Centre, supported by adequate human resources with a vocation to serve, and with effective institutional communications and educational and research programmes through the Mental Health Community Centre, running the following programmes:

Training Programme for Community Social Workers, Inter-Institutional Promotion Programme, Organisational Psychology Services Programme, the Programme to treat disturbed children and children with learning difficulties,

providing external consultancy and rehabilitation services, home care, and psychiatric emergency care, with the support of a small inpatient unit.

WE NEED: 394.934 €



2012



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