

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

Completing the journey

Our three linked parishes are again joining with our Divine Savior School community in a Lenten almsgiving project. The Pastoral Councils of our three linked parishes have chosen to link this year's project with a project we did in 2019 to raise funds to have a bridge erected in Honduras. This year's theme is "Bridging Communities: Completing the Journey."

A little history. . .

A small stream just north of the clinic the Human Concerns Committee worked to get operational in Honduras was cut out by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Due to the change in the landscape, the stream changed in size until it created difficulties during the rainy season. It became dangerous to cross. Our 2019 Lenten project was to build a bridge to go over the stream so the livelihood of the residents would not be so affected when the stream was too dangerous.

Where are we today . . .

The start of the project was halted by the pandemic. No one was allowed in or out of Honduras. On top of that, two hurricanes have hit the area and changed much of the landscape. Much of the area has had the top soil washed away. Through the grace of God, the land where the bridge is to be built was not destroyed. With the help of bridge experts from Engineers without Borders, new plans were drawn. The original bridge was to be fifty feet, but has been redesigned to 200 feet to better protect the bridge and area around it. Now, other factors are affecting the project. Prices are now an issue. All supplies have to be purchased in Honduras. There are no shipping containers available to ship donated equipment. Previously, wood to be used to build frames was free, but now due to supply issues, it needs to be purchased. With the extra expenses, the cost is now double. The bridge will now be built in two phases, the foundation and abutments are planned for this summer and the deck of the foot bridge next year.

The Bishop in this region of Honduras has been able to get engineers from Honduras to run the project with the engineers here and they are working to find as many volunteers there to help. Volunteers from the US are still needed to help with the project as well. Carpenters, people with knowledge of working with cement, general labors and interpreters (Spanish to English and vice versa) are needed.



The bridge is critical to the livelihood of these people. Let's help complete the journey to a safer passage across. Let's connect the bridge, connect the people to their work and families on the other side and connect ourselves to them through our Lenten almsgiving.