

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

1 November 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am delighted to inform you that IHM's Youth Minister and his family - Eric and Logan Horne - have been accepted to an overseas missionary program. After a training period in early 2013, they and their children (Helena, James, Max, Isabelle, and Sally) will travel overseas for three years to serve God and his people in the missions. Eric and Logan believe that God is calling them to do this, and I fully support them.

The Horne family will be working with "Lay Mission-Helpers." LMH assists local bishops around the world in their apostolic and evangelical endeavors. Their missionaries serve in geographically diverse locations, including Central and South America, Africa, Asia and the South Pacific. At this time the Hornes do not know where they will be serving, but likely destinations include Cameroon and the Marshall Islands. Their gifts and talents will be paired with the needs of the local Church, and there is no doubt that they will be busy in their pastoral work.

As you know, Eric is currently our director of Youth and Adult Formation, and we are torn: we hate to see them go, but we know that they are needed at this time by the church elsewhere. We could merely say "adios" and wish them the best, but after prayer and discernment, I feel like we should do something different.

The Hornes are responsible for raising the necessary funds to support themselves overseas, \$31,000 each year for three years. I propose we claim them as our own and support the missionary activity of Eric and Logan and their family, enough to cover what they need to raise. This is an important opportunity for our parish community to live out the evangelical mission of the Church by supporting foreign missions. While not everyone is called to become a foreign missionary, we are all called to support the missions. We have enough resources within our parish to keep the Youth, Confirmation, and Adult Education programs running smoothly, thanks to excellent staff and volunteers. After their time of service the Hornes plan to return to Los Alamos, the community they have come to call home, and we will all benefit from their experience. Eric will resume his position of Youth Minister.

I hesitate to make this decision without parishioner input, so I ask for your response. Please write down your thoughts in a letter or email them to me at pastor@ihmcc.org with the subject "Horne Missionary Support Thoughts," and sign your missive.

Let us keep the Horne family in our prayers as they begin this new time in their lives. God bless you, and thank you for your consideration.

Rev. John F. Carney
Pastor

PS - As we were discussing Eric and Logan's plans, one of our beloved parishioners, Earl Meyers, made a contribution of \$30,000.00 to cover the cost of the first year of the missionary effort. Thank you, Earl. The Lord will certainly bless you.