Autumn Colors

Newsletter for the Mission of Friendship

Diocese of Erie, USA **November 2026**



Happy Welcome to the New School Year

Warm greetings from the Mission of Friendship Erie-Yucatán.

At this time, we're delighted to share how we welcomed back the children from the Nueva Vida (New Life) Comprehensive Child Development Center after their nice summer break.

The children eagerly awaited this day, arriving full of excitement and dreams, happy to reunite with their friends.

With help from volunteers, collaborators, and social service teams, we spent the weeks before the start date preparing classrooms and making welcome banners. Our preparation meetings inspired ideas and changes to help the children and their families feel truly welcome.

The Nueva Vida Program provides ongoing support to 35 children facing financial, psychological, or health-related challenges, and indirectly we also benefit 75 people from communities in the south of Mérida city. As we growth our efforts, each day we reach more people in need.



Together, we're confident we can make this the best year for our children and the community. Thank you for helping make this change possible.

By Azucena







Great News of Faith

Parish: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Colonia Yucatán-Sister Parish of Beloved Disciple Church, Grove City

On June 28, Holy Mass was celebrated, during which ten children from the community received the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. We thank God for this sacrament.

Parish: Saint Peter and Paul, Chacsinkin-Sister Parish of St. Patrick Parish, Franklin

On August 1, First Communion celebrations took place at the parish, where 27 children received the Body of Christ for the first time.









School Supplies Bring Relief to Amigos Families in Mérida

In August, the Amigos program distributed essential school supplies purchased through the generous contributions of our sponsors. Families in Mérida were grateful and felt so blessed to receive the materials their children needed to begin the school year.

Why does this support matters?

The Mexican school system does not provide all school supplies that the students need, which can force families to choose between buying food and purchasing required school materials. Thanks to your support, our Amigos families did not face that difficult choice this school year. Together, we made it possible once again!

Our heartfelt thanks to each of you for making this possible.















Celebrating Our Graduates

The Mission of Friendship is proud to celebrate several long-time members who graduated last summer. Their achievements are inspiring examples of perseverance, dedication, and faith:

Luis Gerardo Campechano Gutierrez graduated with a degree in Human Resources. He is sponsored by Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

Ana Laura Malaver, earned a degree in Education. She is sponsored by the Crosby and Armbruster families.

Jazmin Puc Yam graduated with a degree in Arts Education. She is sponsored by Mr. Vandyken.

Congratulations to all our graduates, and heartfelt thanks to the sponsors whose generous support helped make these achievements possible!

By Silvia









A letter from the Mission Coordinator

An Instrument of Divine Love

Celebrating 55 years of the Mission of Friendship Erie-Yucatán is, above all, an act of profound thanksgiving. As we look back, we see more than just the passage of time; we see the hand of God guiding our every step and blessing this work, which was born from His love. As the current director, I embrace this service with humility and a heart overflowing with gratitude, mindful that we are the custodians of a sacred legacy.

I wish to honor and bless the memory and the work of those who came before me. To the founders, the volunteers, and everyone who has served as an instrument of God in achieving so much—whether they have already departed or are still with us today, continuing their journey with the depth that comes from a lifetime of dedication: thank you. You were the ones who planted this vineyard. With unwavering faith, you sowed in fertile soil and nurtured this project with your prayers, your time, and your sacrifices. Today, we reap the fruits of your generosity and walk in the light of the Catholic and human values that you so lovingly championed: compassion, charity, and selfless dedication.

Our Mission is, in essence, a miracle of fraternity. Through cultural exchange between Mérida, Yucatán, and Erie, PA (as well as other locations in the USA), the Lord has shown us that for the spirit, there are no borders, languages, or distances. He has united us in a single faith and a single purpose: to be His hands and His compassionate gaze for the most vulnerable. In the face of every person living in poverty, illness, or destitution whom we have been able to serve, we have encountered the very face of Christ. Every act of assistance provided, and every project undertaken have not been mere social initiatives; they have been prayers transformed into deeds.

This Mission is of utmost importance to all of us because it transforms us. It not only changes the reality of those who receive support, but it also sanctifies the lives of those who provide it. It reminds us that life finds its true meaning when it is spent in service to others. Mérida and Erie are joined by a spiritual bridge that nothing has been able to tear down for more than half a century, because it is sustained by love. As we celebrate these 55 years, we renew our vows of service. We ask the Creator to continue blessing our benefactors, to strengthen our team, and to grant us the wisdom to remain instruments of His peace and His providence. May the past inspire us, the present commit us, and hope guide us toward the future that He has prepared for us.

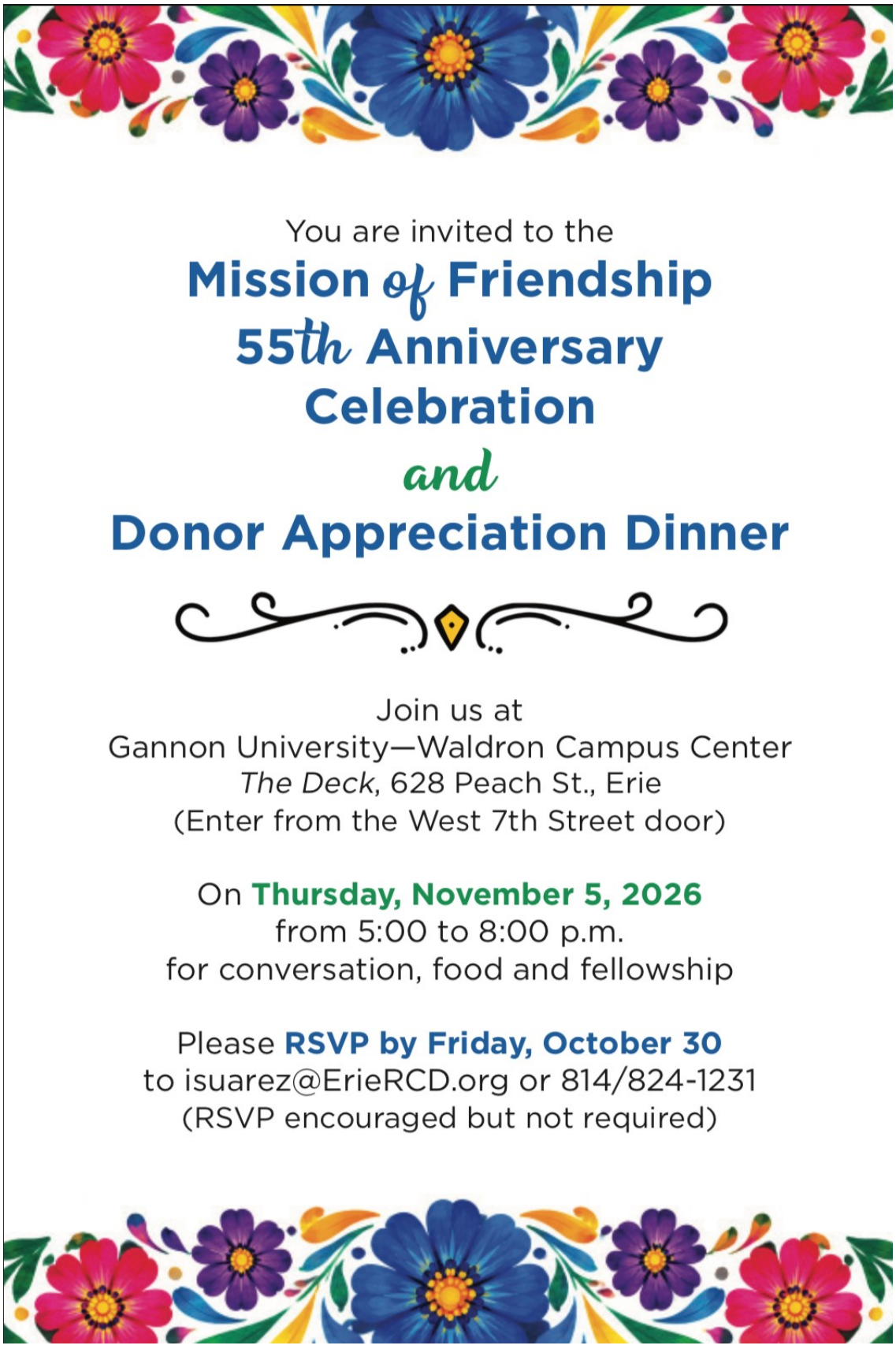
Praised be God for these 55 years of blessing and friendship.

With affection,

Azucena Santos

The Mission of Friendship is celebrating its 55th Anniversary this November 5th! You are invited to join us at this special celebration!

Just save the day, contact the Mission Office to RSVP, and we will see you there!!!



Note From the Director's Desk

Dear Amigos,

As usual, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Amigos Program, Nueva Vida Program, and Sister Parish Program participants for the generous support you give to our sisters and brothers in Yucatán.

As Christmas time is approaching, I would like to encourage Amigos and Nueva Vida sponsors, who are planning to send monetary Christmas gifts to México, to please be sure to forward your contributions to the Diocese of Erie's Mission Office by **November 30, 2026**. This is to ensure that your sponsored family can have your gifts **before** Christmas day. Contributions received after the deadline will be still forwarded to your family as soon as possible, but more likely after Christmas.

The Mission Office is pleased to announce that the Mission of Friendship is participating in the **#iGiveCathoic - Giving Tuesday 2026**! Thank you once again to all who supported our cause last year! Please know that we count on your support to again achieve a great success this year. Advance donations will be open on Monday **November 16!** The actual Giving Day is on **December 1st, 2026.**
This Thanksgiving season, together we can make a great difference!

Some Important Reminders…

The Mission Office in Erie will continue to receive and forward to Mérida cards, letters, and photos sent by **Amigos sponsors, Nueva Vida/Day Care sponsors and Sister Parishes.** The Mission Office also continues to receive financial contributions by way of checks and online credit card donations. These funds will be wired periodically to the mission account in Mérida.

Amigos sponsors can send special donations, in addition to their regular monthly contributions, that are earmarked specifically for their particular sponsored family as Christmas gifts, Easter gifts, birthdays, graduations and so on. These special gifts are not added to the common Amigos fund. They are kept separate to be given specifically to the sponsor's particular Amigos family. If you would like to give a special gift just for your sponsored family, please make a note in the memo line of your check or enclose a note of explanation with your donation. Your intentions for the special gifts will be communicated to the mission staff in Mérida.

If you have questions regarding your donations, tax deductions, or new sponsorship or would like to communicate changes in your contact information or sponsorship status, please contact mission office director **Indira J. Suárez** by e-mail: isuarez@eriercd.org or by phone: (814) 824-1231. For online donations and more information visit: https://www.eriercd.org/missions/mission-of-friendship.html

Please know that we are grateful to all of you who made the generous decision to sponsor a family or children in Mérida through the Mission of Friendship programs, for supporting them with your prayers, concern, and financial support**. Please use the QR code here donate to #iGiveCatholic!**

May God bless you and your family this Autumn!

Indira J Suárez



Mission of Friendship

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