

30 year relationship – Kansas City/Anapra & Poleo

Thirty years ago, 1992, Ross Beaudoin and a small group of parishioners from St. Mark's Parish were asked to help build a house for a family with four children in Colonia Puerto de Anapra, Juarez. The parishioners said Yes to that challenge. Thirty years later people from Kansas City not only still have a relationship with the people of Anapra/Poleo, but that relationship has grown in many different ways!

People from St. James Parish have joined in that relationship across our southern border. Some have gone to Anapra or donated to help build & repair homes, to help with Vacation Bible School, to provide medical help, to assist new moms and senior citizens, etc. Some parishioners have sponsored children in school – from grade 1 even through college! Many have donated funds to help with winter heating and other needs. Relationships have been established that bring us together as One Family.

Thirty years... and *we've only just begun*. Like family, relationships are not measured in time but in mutual love and appreciation for each other. This September 10 we will celebrate our relationships with people of Anapra/Poleo. Our lives have been enriched through our experiences of sharing life at the border and sharing our resources through assistance for students, senior citizens, new mothers, those with medical needs and so on.

Come celebrate this milestone with us on September 10. There will be people from St. Mark, St. James, St. Sabina, Lakeland Church and others. Anapra brings together many people of many backgrounds to be one family. Estela Huerta and others will join us via Skype.

We will gather from 11 am to 1 pm at St. Mark's, 3736 Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. We'll share stories and pictures. We'll have lunch. And we will pray a prayer of gratitude and solidarity. If you can write some memories of your involvement with Anapra/Poleo, that would help us construct a *memoir* of our relationships.

I hope you can come and celebrate with us. Whether you are a former volunteer, a sponsor of a student or a donor in any way, please RSVP to manosamigaskc@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 816-806-9760 to let us know how many we should prepare for.

On behalf of the people of Anapra/Poleo and Kansas City friends, thank you.