

—JAMAICA MISSION—

Our Lady of the Fields 2019

Mission

Mustard Seed Communities (MSC) is an international Catholic nonprofit dedicated to caring for the most vulnerable populations throughout the developing world. MSC began in 1978 as a home for a handful of children with disabilities who had been abandoned to the streets of Jamaica. Today, MSC provides loving and lifelong care to over 600 children and adults with disabilities, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and young mothers in crisis across Jamaica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.

Our mission week will be spent at a MSC community called *Jacob's Ladder*, located just outside Moneague, Jamaica. *Jacob's Ladder* provides shelter, health care, and community to 95 adult residents with varied degrees of developmental disabilities. While at *Jacob's Ladder* we will participate in small work projects, have time for group prayer, reflection, and sharing, and most of all we will spend time getting to know the residents.

Commitment

In preparation for our Mission we will meet each month for various service experiences as well as times for reflection and community building. Certainly more than a one week trip, this is meant to be a mission experience that will broaden our perspectives on poverty, the beauties as well as challenges of developmental disabilities, Jamaican culture and ongoing struggles for greater justice, and most of all the reality of God's love as God continues to draw us to a greater communion with himself and with one another.

We will buy our airfare tickets together on a group plan and costs are estimated at \$580. Mustard Seed Communities also asks each person that goes on mission to their locations to raise \$950 that will be donated to their ongoing work of caring for the most vulnerable. To meet this goal we will have group fundraising projects. We will also ask each team member to reach out to their circles of family and friends to spread the word about our mission trip and to help offset the overall cost.

Application

To apply, send an email to Fr. Josh at joshua.laws@archbalt.org by February 15th. In your email, provide a brief (no more than two paragraphs) response to the following questions: **1) Why do you want to go on this mission trip to Jamaica?** And **2) How do you hope this experience will impact your relationship with God?** Once you have heard from Fr. Josh that you have been accepted there will be a \$100 commitment deposit.

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Dates

- Submit Application to Fr. Josh by Friday, February 15, 2019
- Leave from BWI on Saturday, July 6, 2019
- Return to BWI on Saturday, July 13, 2019

Cost

- Deposit once through the application process: \$100
- Airfare: **estimated** to be around \$580
- Fundraised donation: \$950

What to bring

- Work clothes
- Anything you would like to donate
- Sunscreen and bug repellent
- PASSPORT