

“Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening...”

A reflection by Timothy Aller, O.F.M. Cap.

My name is Tim Aller and I am in the second year of simple vows. I live in San Lorenzo Friary, Jamaica Plain, Boston. There are ten other brothers who reside in this friary. I love living with these other great men who each day live out an example of Franciscan brotherhood. I am beginning my Theology studies at Boston College, School of Theology and Ministry. I pray and have a ministry commitment with the community at St. Mark’s Parish in Dorchester. I will serve as Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Youth Group Facilitator and a regular member of that parish.

This summer I went to Central America, specifically Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. I visited the Tomb, Chapel and Home of Oscar Romero. I passed through the area of the “Four Women of El Salvador”, and paid my respects also to the martyrs at the University of Central America.

We lived in the Novitiate for Central American Provinces. For the first month we took Spanish lessons every weekday afternoon. The second month I taught social studies, natural science, and religion to the best of my ability in my newly acquired and very limited Spanish.

The sixth graders were patient and very intelligent and with the Grace of God they did learn. I miss them a great deal. There was a military coup while we were there and the region still suffers from upheaval and violence. Please pray for the people of Honduras. This does not reflect the beauty of the land and the people. I loved my time there and would someday like to return.



I learned much about myself, and for a time made a home with these brothers and sisters that I had just met. I lived, worked and prayed with a proud people. I watched great expressions of God’s love in the worship and interaction of the people of the region. I am forever changed for the better by my experience and the relationships that I formed there.

How did I get here? Well, God called and I ran and eventually I could run no farther. I did not feel worthy, and I am not, however, God calls and he justifies and anything is possible with God. So my deep desire to express my love for God has placed me here in the Capuchin Order. An Order that allows me to be who and where I am in my understanding. My brothers strive to support and teach me as I progress in knowledge and experience. An Order and Province, that for me aids in my devotion and service to God and the Church. The best answer to how I came to be here... I attended a Come and See weekend. I finally found the courage to say “Speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

