Mission Trip

Statement of Risks

In the interest of full disclosure, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a developing nation and much of the basic infra-structure of health and safety which we enjoy and often take for granted in the United States of America may not be present. This is especially true of the areas we will visit. For example,

* While we will purchase bottled water, much of the water in the areas we will visit is non-potable or not drinkable. For instance, the tap water could be contaminated with E-coli bacteria.
* In some areas, pit toilets will be the only accessible bathroom facilities.
* Some areas will not have access to electricity.
* Some of the time, we will not have access to telephone service and will be out of contact with the “rest of the world”.
* A certain physical strength and agility is required. Much of the walking surfaces will be irregular and hazardous. In general, a person should be able to walk at least a mile on mountainous terrain.
* Road conditions are sometimes primitive at best - equivalent to “off-roading” in the United States. During these times, you may have to travel in the back of an open pick-up truck or walk.
* The flora and fauna are tropical and can be hazardous to health. For example, there are snakes, biting insects, scorpions, dogs, etc.
* While basic first aid will be available, access to a hospital capable of treating you may well be hours away. Even then, the care will not be the same as you will find in our local hospitals.
* The Center for Disease Control has recommended vaccinations. You are responsible to follow these recommendations, under your doctor’s advice.
* Although most areas are “safe,” police protection is often not available.
* As a guest in the host country, we are obliged to follow the laws and regulations of the host country and will enjoy some of the basic rights we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America. (Hint: If it is illegal or immoral, don’t do it!)

Therefore, in accepting the invitation to participate on this Mission, I am doing so at my own risk. For this reason, you must be over 18 years of age (if under 21, you also need your parent’s permission) and must assume full and total responsibility for your health and well-being, rendering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Catholic Church in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , Florida and the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida, their employees, clergy, officers, directors, trustees, volunteers, sponsors and affiliates of these organizations, harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, damages, costs, liabilities, fees, penalties and expenses, including attorney fees and costs, arising out of or resulting from any actions, including any misfeasance, malfeasance, negligence or intentional act or omission of mine, with respect to the Mission trip.

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Date Signature of Person Signature of Parent or Guardian *(If under age 21)*