

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

—Philippians 2:3-4

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

It was Karen's idea to paint a "Bridge of Hope" mural on the side of the rectory garage, which was attached to the church. The mural was intended to raise awareness and funds for the ministry of Cristosal in El Salvador. Karen is an accomplished artist and could have completed the mural herself, but instead she drew the outline and then with a paint-by-number scheme invited the parish and community to make the vision a reality.

With every brush stroke, volunteers from ages three to eighty-six worked to complete the mural. We were painting a mural of a Bridge of Hope, but we were also building bridges of relationship between young and old, new and longtime friends. Participating in this project reminded me that how we do ministry is as important as the ministry we are seeking to accomplish.

Am I willing to go slower if it will allow others to participate? Am I willing to let go of taking the credit so that the community can say, "Look what we did together!" Karen could have painted the mural without us, but she knew that the building of bridges within our community was what would make the mural truly extraordinary.

—Susan Copley