Continuing our series of articles from our young people traveling to Guatemala on Mission, here is an article by Joshua Maynard:

Subsidiarity

As the plans for the trip to San Lucas come to a close, we asked that the youth going on the mission write an article on each social teaching for the bulletin every week. The subject of discussion this week is subsidiarity. Taken from *A Society of Mutual Aid: Natural Law and Subsidiarity in Early Modern Reformed Perspective*, subsidiarity is, in its most basic sense, a corollary of natural law, in that it is an aspect of the rational ordering of society, including human individuals with a common nature as well as a variety of institutions with different ends. Subsidiarity is then in fact, the principle that we who work with another culture must begin with the positions of those who we are helping, respecting their decisions as we do not fully understand the situations in which they live. This social teaching of subsidiarity can be put in correlation to the mission by using these grounds as a standard for action and thought processes. This will in fact help both those sent on the mission, and those who are trying to be receive aid. Beginning fifty years ago in San Lucas, there were no health care facilities, schools, or programs for people to receive proper education and health treatments. The San Lucas Mission now consists of multiple projects which will be further progressed on, as well as healthcare and nutrition programs, a women's clinic, dental facilities, and an eye clinic. It is our hope that you consider us in your prayers as we travel abroad in following Our Lord’s teachings and make an attempt at leading those in need to a stronger faith through our work and practice of subsidiarity.