

European princess marvels at Miami

□ Multicultural diversity impresses visitor from Europe.

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MIAMI

She came to honor an archbishop and wound up fascinated by the multicultural splendor of Miami.

During a 48-hour, whirlwind tour of Miami, Her Serene Highness Princess Nora of Liechtenstein journeyed from the streets of Little Haiti to the migrant camps of Homestead.

In the tiny rectory of St. Ann Mission, she sipped Cuban coffee with Mexican parishioners and Cuban volunteers from Epiphany Parish in South Miami.

Moments earlier, outside, she hugged and greeted women and children who had waited for her in the hot sun, holding bags of groceries they collect each month from the mission's pantry.

The day before, Princess Nora toured St. Mary Cathedral School and hosted a luncheon to benefit its scholarship fund. She smiled as a mostly Haitian class of second-graders recited their ABC's and later marveled at the heartfelt essays in which St. Mary's eighth-graders Angelica Gateau and Serge Fleurimond extolled the benefits of a Catholic education.

While shaking an endless procession of hands at St. Mary Cathedral after an "evening of music and prayer" for migrant and refugee children, she greeted Haitians in French and Mexicans in Spanish, then posed for countless pictures with choir members from three participating Catholic schools.

"These two days I'm living here I think are going to be very special in my life,"



Princess Nora listens to St. Mary Cathedral School kindergarteners Lisa Joseph, Wallesha Fortner and Kendrick Cevere sing "Angels Watching Over Me."



Outside St. Ann Mission in Homestead, Princess Nora speaks with women and children picking up donated grocery items.

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the princess told benefactors of St. Mary Cathedral School during the luncheon. "I've seen people who really work for good and who are doing really marvelous things."

"In a way, I would have liked my 9-year-old daughter to be here and see that," she said of her morning visit to the little Haiti school. "What's happening here is really preparing children for life, especially with a spiritual education."

Princess Nora, who lives in Spain, is the sister of Liechtenstein's reigning prince. She was brought here by the James J. Norris Foundation, an international aid organization dedicated to alleviating the plight of

migrants, refugees and displaced persons.

She is the patron of the foundation, which this year conferred its Medal for Distinguished Service on Behalf of Refugees to Miami Archbishop Emeritus Edward A. McCarthy.

One of those who spoke in praise of the archbishop during the evening of song and prayer was Raul Hernandez, a Cuban exile and director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Migrant and Refugee Services in Miami. He noted the many occasions in the 1980s and '90s when Archbishop McCarthy spoke out for the release of Cuban and Haitian refugees being held at the Krome Avenue detention camp.

"In the name of all those thousands of thousands of desperate people who were welcomed by you, Archbishop, thank you very much," Hernandez said.

The Norris foundation, led by its namesake's son and Miami Beach resident Stephen Norris, is planning to establish a full-service facility for migrants on the grounds behind St. Ann Mission. The facility would work



Princess Nora presents Archbishop Emeritus Edward McCarthy with the Norris Foundation Medal for Distinguished Service to Migrants and Refugees.

with archdiocesan agencies and churches to provide whatever services the migrants need, from medical and dental care to legal representation.

On the first day of her visit, Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Wenksi also took Princess Nora on a tour of the offices of Catholic

Charities Legal Services and the Pierre Toussaint Haitian Catholic Center in Miami.

"I did not expect to find that many Haitians, I must say," she told *The Florida Catholic*. "What you learn is that there are Cubans and Mexicans (in Miami). That's what everybody knows. But the Haitians are not something that's so known. I think that was one of my biggest surprises."

In fact, what Princess Nora realized during her brief visit was what cathedral rector Father Terence Hogan had predicted during an early morning Mass in the chapel of St. Mary Cathedral on the first day of her tour.

"The beauty of this area is like this stained glass window," he told her. "We have many, many colors and they all shine."