



St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

P.O. Box 1376, Solana Beach, CA 92075

August 2014

www.missioncircle.com

858.792.0516

Our mission is to organize, lead, and engage the parishioners of Saint James and Saint Leo Catholic Community to improve the lives of people in need.

Please Help Us Feed The Hungry:



Clothe The Threadbare:



And Shelter The Homeless:



Thank You For Your Support!



Volunteer To Help Close To Home ...

If you're busy with work and family, it's hard to find time to help the poor. That's why we offer so many programs that are close to home and require just an hour or two to participate. Your kids are welcome to help at most of these activities. Check our website for "kid friendly" events. It's a wonderful way to teach compassion.

3rd Parish Food Packaging Event On Sunday, October 12, we're going to hold our third food packaging event to help the hungry locally as well as in places like the Dominican Republic. The whole parish will help pack non-perishable meals that are nutritionally balanced and cost just pennies each. Because packaging takes very little work, many meals can be packaged in just a few hours. **If you'd like to join us, please contact Bob Giese at qiesemail@san.rr.com.**

The Tutoring Program is conducted after school at St. Leo's twice a week. Homework coaches give young kids who come from Spanish speaking households a little one-on-one help with their homework. Recently we added a pre-school program to give the kindergarten kids a head start before they enter first grade. This tutoring just takes 1 1/2 hours a week and it doesn't require any special training. We need volunteers to sign up every school term.

If you're interested, contact Amanda Maytom at amanda.maytom@att.net.

The Bread and Donations Program -- Volunteers from the parish gather bread from local stores while it's still fresh and send it to local soup kitchens. We also collect gently used clothes, non-perishable food, and household goods for the migrant families in Coachella. Please leave donations in the social room in the back of St. James church. **For more information, contact Ginny Wati-Ruiz at giegie31@yahoo.com**

Dinners For The Homeless at the Bread of Life Mission in Oceanside. Parishioners who like to cook put their culinary skills to work to provide a dinner for people who are homeless. On a designated day, a crew of volunteer "chefs" will shop for the ingredients, prepare the dinner in the parish kitchen, and then take it up to Oceanside and serve it to the street people at the mission. This only takes a few hours. Sometimes a family will do the dinner together, other times it is a club organization. **To volunteer, contact Piere Godefrey at Peteg8@pacbell.net.**

The Sorting Party is held in the parish hall on the Saturday before the Epiphany Celebration. Parishioners meet in the parish hall to sort and pack all the donated items.

To help with this event, contact Katie Hodsdon at katie@stjames-stleo.com.



Or A Just A Few Hours Away.

If you can take the time to travel a bit, there are several other ways to help the poor. While most of our activities are close by, here are a few that require short trips to Coachella to help migrant families or Tijuana to help "at risk" girls:

Support For The Casa Eudes Girls Home in Tijuana is our first priority and has been for almost 40 years. These are kids who have been mistreated or come from homes that are so poor their parents can't afford to raise them. We provide food and shelter and pay for their education. This year, we updated all the computers as well as the internet connection to help the kids keep up in school.

Casa Eudes Crafts, Parties & Fun Events We love to plan fun times for these girls who have had so few of them in their lives. Once or twice a month our volunteers go down to the home to do craft projects with the kids. Last year we started a sewing program to teach the girls this useful skill. In December, we host a big Christmas party with a visit from Santa. We also plan day trips for the girls and help them stage a fashion show with donated clothes from the parish in the Spring. To help with these activities, you'll need a special Passport Card to speed up reentry into the United States. **For details, contact Vreni Crimmins at vrenicrim@aol.com.**

Casa Eudes Maintenance A small crew goes down to Tijuana two Saturdays a month to keep the girls' home in good working order and make improvements. If you're handy with tools, you might enjoy going down to help on these weekends. Don't worry about your skill level. Many jobs don't take a lot of experience and we can always use another pair of hands. To join us, you'll need a special Passport Card to speed up reentry to the US. **For more information, contact Jeff Sturgis at jeffsturgis@me.com.**

The Epiphany Celebration is an annual event that's held to provide useful gifts to a poor community. Parishioners donate the items we supply. Once again this year the Celebration was held at the Galilee Center in Coachella where many migrant families live. The average income for these needy families is only about \$10,000 a year. Mission Circle supporters, the Youth Group, and Just Faith members went to this area on Sunday, January 5th, to give new shoes to hundreds of kids and warm blankets to their families. The Galilee Center contributed non-perishable food and gently used clothing. You're welcome to join us next year in early January. We'll be traveling to Coachella by bus and the event will take a full day. **To join us, please get in touch with Katie Hodsdon at katie@stjames-stleo.com.**



More Ways To Participate Right Here In Our Parish:

Peanut butter sandwiches for inmates in the TJ jail: For some time a small crew of ladies from St. Leo's has been making hundreds of sandwiches for a volunteer to take to the hungry prisoners in the Tijuana jail. Recently, two young Mormon men saw the ladies bringing in the bread and offered to help. They stayed to make sandwiches and they've been coming ever since with several others from their mission program. We're proud to help supply the peanut butter and jelly for this unusual ministry. If you would like to donate some jars of peanut butter and strawberry jam, just leave them in the back of the church -- or make a small cash donation. **For more information, contact Peter Godefrey at Peteg8@pacbell.net.**

Sheltering the homeless: Working together with 115 faith communities in San Diego, we open our parish hall doors to homeless individuals and families for two weeks each year. Since 1986, our parish has hosted over 300 persons who temporarily had "no place to lay their head". Many of these people are families with children. We invite you to participate in this wonderful program. Volunteers provide a meal, offer encouragement, and stay one night at the parish hall with these people who so desperately need our support. **To be of help, contact Deacon Joe Santen at gon2mass@att.net.**

The Youth Group Activities - The young people in the parish are some of our biggest supporters. Whether it's helping construct the new donation shed, handing out shoes to the needy kids in Coachella, or packaging food for the starving people in the third world, the young people in the parish are right there pitching in. Their help is so important, we have a special program set up to coordinate their participation. **For details, contact Linh Nguyen at linh.ngyn@gmail.com**

Reaching out to prisoners: We offer ways for parishioners to minister to the men and women in detention facilities in San Diego County. We organize the annual collection of home-baked cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry at Donovan State Prison. We also visit prisons and offer resources and support for the families of the inmates. **To participate, contact Deacon Peter Hodsdon at dcpeterh@yahoo.com.**

Events Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
August		
During August	MC Quarterly Newsletter	US Mail
7:30 am Sat 9th	MC/SBYA* Maint. & Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:00 pm Tues 12th	MC Board Meeting	Church Gathering Room
2:00 p.m. Fri 22nd	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Kitchen & Oceanside
Sat 23rd & Sun 24th	Mission Circle Sunday	St. James Church
7:30 am Sat 23rd	MC/SBYA* Maint. & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
September		
7:00 pm Tues 8th	MC Board Meeting	Church Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 6th	MC/SBYA* Maint. & Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
2:00 p.m. Fri 19th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Kitchen & Oceanside
7:30 am Sat 20th	MC/SBYA* Maint. & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
October		
7:30 am Sat 4th	MC/SBYA* Maint. & Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
Sat 12th	Food Packaging Event	St. James Parish Hall
7:00 pm Tues 14th	MC Board Meeting	Church Gathering Room
TBD	Outing for Casa Eudes girls	Park near Rosarito Beach
Sat 18th & Sun 19th	Prison Ministry Cookie Drive	St. James Church
7:30 am Sat 18th	MC/SBYA* Maint. & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
2:00 p.m. Fri 31st	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Kitchen & Oceanside

*St. Brigid's Young Adults

Happenings Worth Noting:

2nd Annual Youth Leadership camp for kids from Eden Gardens and other local communities was in held in July at Whispering Winds in Julian. We helped underwrite this great program for kids 12 to 15 -- most of whom had never gone to a summer camp. In addition to lots of outdoor fun, the activities taught team work, leadership skills, community involvement, the value of education, and making healthy life style choices.

Outing planned for Casa Eudes girls in the Fall. We're planning to take them to a small amusement park near Rosarito Beach. This will be an all-day event where the kids will get to a chance to swim and enjoy the playground equipment.

Many Thanks



To the donation shed workers who have spent Saturdays assembling the shed given to us by Habitat for Humanity. We'll use it for storage as we gather food, used clothing, and household goods to send to the poor.



To the food packaging team headed by Bob Geise who make these big parish-wide events. so successful. Don't miss the next one on Sunday, October 12th.



To all our volunteers who show up for work parties, events, dinners for the homeless, day trips, and countless other jobs to help the poor.

And our generous supporters. We could not do any of these outreach activities without you. Many thanks and, please, continue to help fund our work.

We Have Virtually No Overhead So All Your Donation Dollars Go To Help The Poor

Our "office" is the Gathering Room in St. James Church and our "staff" is a group of volunteers who give their time freely to help the poor. We aren't paid in money but, when you reach out to others, you always get back much more than you give.

We invite you to join us -- you're welcome to attend one of our monthly meetings or help at one of our scheduled events. And please give as generously as you can so we can continue our programs. We'll put virtually 100% of your dollars to work to help the poor. That's our bottom line.

Please Send Donations To:

Mission Circle, P.O. Box 1376, Solana Beach, CA 92075

Want to donate on line? It's very easy. Just go to our website and follow the simple directions.

**Visit Our Facebook page
at www.facebook.com/sjmissioncircle**

We post all of our upcoming events on this site. If you are already a member of Facebook, just register as a "fan" and refer the site to others. If you are not a member, visit the website to check on our activities.

**Go To Our Website
at www.missioncircle.com**

You can get more details on our activities and ways you can help at this website.

**For volunteer opportunities, contact
Tom Ferris, President - tferris@cox.net**

Mission Circle Contacts:

Tom Ferris, President - pres@missioncircle.com
Jan Nelte, Newsletter Editor - info@missioncircle.com
Tien Nguyen, Webmaster - web@missioncircle.com

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