



St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

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

May 2016

www.missioncircle.com

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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.



Stylin' At The 2016 Casa Eudes Fashion Show

Little girls love to play dress up. And big girls love to play "designer-for-a-day" That's why the Casa Eudes Fashion Show in June is such a happy time for everyone involved. Thanks to all the gently used clothes and accessories donated by our parish, the girls can create their own original outfits and model them on the "runway" in the social room. The big dining room becomes a make-shift dressing area and it's a frenzy of activity before the show. The "designers" madly sort through piles of dresses, tops, skirts, pants, hats, shoes, purses, and jewelry - mixing and

matching until their "looks" are fashion right. (After the show, the clothes go to the thrift shop that helps support the home.) Mission Circle ladies help behind the scenes with hair styling, nails, make-up, and clothes selection. We love dressing up, too, so we have as good a time as the kids! Some of the outfits are whacky. Some are weird. Some are wonderful -- but they're all a lot of fun. A small but appreciative audience of nuns and volunteers cheer the "fashionistas" on and each girl gets a prize at the end of the show. It's make-believe - but it's still fashion magic!



Fun Fish Feast Helps Our Bottom Line

On Friday, February 12th, Mission Circle hosted the first Fish Feast of the Lenten season sponsored by The Knights of Columbus. And what a feast it was! The barbecued mahi mahi alone made us glad it was Lent. As usual, there was a wonderful spirit of support at the event. People mingled for an hour or so before the dinner -- visiting with old friends and making new ones. All of us Mission Circle members had a chance to express our appreciation to the many parishioners who help with our outreach programs. After dinner, the guests who paid attention in their Bible Study classes, had a chance to win bottles of wine by correctly identifying one of the "mystery saints". (Most of us just watched in admiration while sampling the desserts.) The proceeds from these dinners are divided between The Knights of Columbus and the group or groups who host each Fish Feast. We're very appreciative because the event gives us a bit of help with our budget.



Two More Casa Eudes Girls Apply For Life-Changing Scholarships

Our Futures Committee is beginning to review two new candidates for the college scholarships that Mission Circle gives to qualified students from Casa Eudes. These are high school seniors who have earned good grades in their college prep courses but have no family to support their efforts to get a higher education. By giving them these scholarships, we can help them train for good jobs and change the course of their lives. Presently we have three girls we are sending to colleges in the Tijuana area. We pay for the apartment they share and we also pay for their books and living expenses. All three of the girls are doing well in college and we look forward to helping the two new applicants. Won't you please consider contributing to the program or sponsoring one of the students? It would help our budget and also give a young girl a new lease on life. All five kids come from dysfunctional or very poor homes. We can't change their difficult past but we can



Youth Camp Combines Outdoor Fun With Leadership Skills

Kids from the poorer neighborhoods in North Country get a chance to enjoy the beauties of nature and learn valuable life skills at the same time. These are urban kids who rarely, if ever, have been to camp. And they're teens and pre-teens who are at a very vulnerable age when many of the decisions they make can have a huge impact on the rest of their lives. The youth camp helps them learn how to make good choices for their own future and that of the low-income areas where they live. They attend classes and lectures that emphasize good judgement, self-confidence, cooperation, and education. The idea is to give the kids the skills to lead productive lives and become leaders in their communities. But the camp is also a wonderful way to just get out in the great outdoors and have a terrific time! The fun-packed activities includes everything from swimming to s'mores -- even a zip line for those who are brave enough to try it. Mission Circle has helped support the camp since it was first started a few years ago. We believe in the dual purpose of the program and all of us think it is a wonderful investment in the future.



On The Road Again ... Picking Up Food For Catholic Charities

Our trusty box truck does all the hauling and heavy lifting for our outreach programs. In addition to picking up big, bulky items that parishioners donate to Mission Circle, we often partner with other charities to help with their activities that need a big truck -- like delivering items for the CRC Holiday Basket event at the fairgrounds in December. Just recently, Catholic Charities asked that our truck, with two volunteer drivers, start picking up items at two food banks and delivering them to their warehouse in Vista on Wednesdays. So we're on the road again, transporting food to help the poor. It's another good reason to keep on truckin'.





On-Going Programs Offer Many Ways To Help The Poor

Meals For The Homeless: Your family, club, or group of friends can schedule a day to cook a dinner in the parish kitchen and serve at the Bread of Life Mission in Oceanside. For more information, contact Pete McDervitt at petemcdervitt@roadrunner.com

Staffing The CRC Pantry: From 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays you can help the poor close to home at the CRC food pantry in Encinitas. You can stock the shelves and distribute food to our neighbors in need. If you'd like to help, contact Pierre Godefroy at Peteg8@pacbell.net

Food Packaging: Next fall, you can help pack non-perishable food for the hungry in the third world. Over the past few years, our parish has packed 250,000 meals for the poor in places like Kenya and the Dominican Republic. (For a story about a very special box of food, see page 5.) To sign up, contact Bob Giese at giesemail@san.rr.com

Sandwich Program: On Thursdays at 11 a.m., join the crew in the kitchen at St. Leo's making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the prisoners and homeless in Tijuana. For more information, contact Pierre Godefroy at Peteg8@pacbell.net

Casa Eudes Sewing Program Teaches A Practical Skill

Sewing is somewhat of a lost art in this country but it is a very useful craft to master in Mexico. Many of the clothes, sheets, towels, and pillows are still made by hand there to save money. Of course very few of the girls at Casa Eudes have family members who can show them the basics -- let alone have access to the sewing machines, fabric, thread, and other materials that are needed. That's why we support a class held on the second Saturday of every month that teaches the girls how to sew. All the sewing materials are supplied and new techniques are taught every week. The class is very popular with the girls who love the idea of making their own clothes and other household items. It gives them a practical skill that they can take with them when they are old enough to leave the home.



Events Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
May		
During May	MC Quarterly Newsletter	US Mail & Website
4:00-5:50pm.all Mons & Weds	After School Tutoring	St, Leo Mission
11 am, all Thursdays	Make PB&J Sandwiches	St. Leo Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7:00 p.m. Tues. 10th	MC Monthly Meeting	St.James Gathering Room
2:00 to 7 p.m., Fri. 13th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Hall & Oceanside
7:30 am Sat. 14th	MC/SBYA*Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
June		
During June	MC Donation Letter	US Mail & Website
11 am, all Thursdays	Make PB&J Sandwiches	St. Leo Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
2:00 to 7 p.m., Fri.,10th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Hall & Oceanside
7:30 am Sat. 11th	Casa Eudes Fashion Show	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:30 am Sat 25th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
July		
During July	MC Donation Letter	US Mail & Website
11 am, all Thursdays	Make PB&J Sandwiches	St. Leo Mission
10 am to noon, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7:30 am Sat 9th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
Sun., 10th - Thurs. 14th	Leadership Youth Camp	Whispering Winds
7:30 am Sat 12th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 23rd	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ

*St. Brigid's Young Adults

A Box Of Food ... Given And Received with Love

During the last food packaging event, this little girl, Julia Castellanos, made a beautiful box to hold some non-perishable food to be distributed to the poor in Haiti. Julia was so proud of the box and it was so pretty, it made a great impression on one of the event organizers, Tina Socha, It seemed to represent everything the event stood for. By coincidence, when Tina arrived in Haiti to help distribute the food, the box was one of the hundreds she unpacked! She put it aside so she could give it to someone who would appreciate the love that went into it. That someone turned out to be a woman who had just lost her husband and told Tina with tears in her eyes that she had 4 young children to care for. In addition to trying to help the woman find work, Tina gave her the box. As you can see, it was received with



Many Thanks



To Mary Larkin who started the sewing program and does all the instruction. She also supplies the machines, work tables and many of the materials. Thanks to Mary, the girls are learning a very useful skill.



To Chef Jeff Sturgis who served such a spectacular meal at the Fish Feast we hosted in February. Thanks as well to his many helpers as well as the Knights of Columbus. All involved made the evening a great success.



To all the members on The Futures Committee who administer the college scholarships for deserving Casa Eudes students, help the girls adjust to college life, and help raise funds to pay for their tuition and their living expenses.

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

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You're Invited To One Of Our Meetings:

This is an open invitation to all our supporters to come to one of our monthly meetings.

They're held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room of St. James Church (formerly the church library). You're welcome to come and learn about our charity as we plan events and discuss the many ways we help the poor.

If you are interested, please contact Jeff Sturgis at pres@missioncircle.com.

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
Jeff Sturgis, President - pres@missioncircle.com

Mission Circle Contacts:

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