



St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

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

February 2017

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.



Head Over Heels With Happiness Thanks To You

Your support brought joy to hundreds at Christmas time! Your donations helped make the holidays happier for the kids at the Casa Eudes Girls Home and for poor migrant families in Coachella. Mission Circle is blessed with a very generous parish full of people like you who get behind our efforts to help the poor. Thank you so much.

We're off to a good start in 2017. At the moment we have about 15 programs that include help for the homeless, shelter for "at risk" little girls, new shoes for migrant kids, and food packaging for the hungry in the third world. With the continued support of parishioners like you, we are able to fund these programs and we look forward to starting new ones in 2017.



Oh, What Fun It Was

Joy filled every corner of the home and spilled out into the courtyard where we were unloading everything for the party. Little girls dashed up to us, gave us quick hugs, chattering and laughing with excitement. It was the day of the Casa Eudes Christmas Party. This is the home in Tijuana that our charity supports and, like kids everywhere, the girls were wired.

The day started with a posada. This is a procession that goes from door to door, symbolically representing Mary and Joseph's search for room in the inn. As the crowd wove through the grounds, everyone sang traditional Mexican Christmas carols (at least those of us who could sing in Spanish).

Then the fun began. There was music, dancing, and we served a wonderful Christmas feast prepared by one of our volunteers who is a superb cook. After dinner, the suspense kept building until we heard jingle bells in the courtyard and Santa came Ho-Ho-Hoing in. He brought over 50 big bags of presents for the girls, the sisters, the staff, and the staff's children. The kids each received a bag from Santa and tore into it. Before long, you could hardly see the happy little girls amidst the mounds of presents, paper, plastic wrappings, and cardboard. Santa did it again. Or, we should say, our generous parish did it again with all the donated presents.

Next year, if you want to truly experience the joy of Christmas, you don't have to look far. Just come with us to Casa Eudes.

The Christmas Market

Provided Funds For Three Programs

The Alternative Christmas Market in late November gave our bottom line a big boost. All the ministries in the parish sold "shares" of varying amounts to support their respective programs. The shares could be purchased by parishioners to give as Christmas gifts. Mission Circle was thrilled to receive \$1,650 to help buy meals for the homeless and cover tuition expenses for our college students from Casa Eudes. The funds also allowed us to donate \$550 for warm blankets to give to migrant families at the Epiphany Celebration. (See the story on the next page.) We thank all the shoppers as well as the parishioners who organized the event.





The Epiphany Celebration Gets Us Off On The Right Foot

We Give Away 1,300 Pairs Of New Shoes And Socks To Migrant Kids

The line stretched as far as the eye could see. Hundreds of migrant families were waiting for our Epiphany Celebration to begin at the Galilee Center on Sunday, January 9th. When the doors opened, the crowd surged in to get new shoes and socks for all the kids as well as warm blankets. Those of us who had travelled to the center in Coachella to help distribute the shoes happily helped each child select just the right pair -- usually checking to make sure mom and dad approved. There were a lot of heart-warming smiles as the kids took the blue shoe boxes and held on to them like they were never going to let go! While we didn't come by camel and none of us are kings ... our Gifts of the Magi were special to hundreds of kids.

\$550 Check Will Buy Warm Blankets For Migrant Families

At the Epiphany Celebration, Organizer Katie Hodsdon and her husband, Deacon Peter, took a moment to make an important presentation. They gave the two ladies who run the center, Gloria Gomez and Claudia Castorena a check to buy warm blankets for the migrant families. The funds came from the Christmas Market (see opposite page).

Time To Make And Bake Cookies For Karios Prisoners Again

These homemade treats are the way we attract the inmates to our ministry weekend at the prison. They are wildly popular! We'll be collecting the cookies after the 5 p.m. mass on March 18th and after all the morning masses on March 19th. So, start baking!





As Presents Piled Up, "Angels" Helped Us Sort Things Out

At Christmas time, scores of donated gifts piled up for the Christmas Party at the Casa Eudes Girls Home that we support. It would have been a monumental mess if it weren't for our volunteer "angels". They flew in and helped us sort and pack about 50 gift bags for the Casa Eudes kids, the sisters, the staff at the home, and the staff's family.

And then there were the heaps of new packaged socks that had to be sorted into single pairs for the Epiphany Celebration. (The new shoes we gave away were shipped directly to Galilee Center where the Celebration was held.) Helpful parishioners spent a Saturday morning sorting all the socks into individual pairs. We bless all of our "angel" organizers.

Two More Casa Eudes Girls Are Headed For College

There are two more high school graduates from Casa Eudes who have qualified to go to college in Tijuana next year. Parish donations and a grant from the Hilton Foundation will pay for their expenses. Evelyn will study accounting and Guadalupe will start a teaching course. The girls will live at Casa Eudes in the separate apartment we built for older students. We are also sending a marketing student and a medical student to college. This wonderful opportunity will change the lives of these girls who have no families to support them.

Our Sandwich Program Helps The Poorest Of The Poor In TJ

The prisoners in the Tijuana jail and the homeless people who live along the river are among the neediest among us. They are hungry for both food and a little kindness. With our peanut butter and jelly sandwiches we try to fill both needs as best we can. Every Thursday at 11 a.m. a handful of parishioners gather in St. Leo's kitchen to make hundreds of sandwiches for these destitute people. Then a good Samaritan, Bill Luke, takes them down to Tijuana to distribute them to the prisoners in the jail and the homeless who camp by the river or "canal". This is a compassionate program that's close and only takes an hour or so. If you'd like to help, contact Jerry Johnson at jerryjohnson1949@gmail.com.



Events Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
February		
During February	MC Quarterly Newsletter	US Mail
4:00-5:50 p.m. 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 in Encinitas
7:30 am Sat. 11th	Maintenance & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tues. 14th	Dinner for the Homeless	Parish Hall/BOL Mission
7:00 p.m. Tues. 14th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 25th	Maintenance & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
March		
4:00-5:50 p.m. 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 in Encinitas
7:30 am Sat., 4th	Maintenance & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:00 pm Tues., 14th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat., 18th	Maintenance & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
5 p.m. mass on Sat., 18th	Karios Cookie Drive	St, James Church
All morning masses, Sun., 19th	Karios Cookie Drive	St. James Church
April		
4:00-5:50 p.m. 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 in Encinitas
7:00 p.m., Tues., 11th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat., 15th	Maintenance & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:30 am Sat., 29th	Maintenance & Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ

News Briefs:

Snail Mail Is Good

But An E-Blast Is Faster

If you are receiving our newsletter in the regular mail but you'd like to get your Mission Circle news in an e-blast that is quicker to read, just let us know. Please e-mail Shirley Giese at sjmcnewsletter@gmail.com and ask her to put you on our list of parishioners who receive our e-blast once a month. Of course we'll send both the printed newsletter and the e-blast if you like-- or we can take your name off the mailing list. Whatever works for you is fine with us.

The e-blast does not cover our events and programs in as much detail but, if you like the idea of using a quicker, more modern form of communication, our e-blast is for you.

Many Thanks



To all Santa's "elves" who helped host the Christmas party at the Casa Eudes Girls Home. We also thank all the generous donors in the parish who filled Santa's bags.



To It's a six hour round trip to the Galilee Center in Coachella where the Epiphany Celebration was held. We want to thank everyone who made the long trip and helped distribute the donated shoes and socks to the migrant children this year.



To the committee members of our Futures Program (shown here hosting a Christmas party for our Casa Eudes college students). We also want to thank the sponsors and donors who support the program. Because of all these people, four qualified girls from Casa Eudes have an opportunity to go to the college of their choice in Tijuana.

St. James Mission Circle
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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 (formally 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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