



St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

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

May 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.

Love Thy Neighbor By Helping Close To Home

If you want to help the poor without traveling far, we offer many ways to do that.



Cook a dinner in the Parish Hall and serve it to the homeless at the Bread of Life Mission in Oceanside.

Contact: Pete McDevitt at petemcdevitt@roadrunner.com



Stock the food bank at the Catholic Resource Center in Encinitas and help distribute it to local people who need help.

Contact: Pierre Godefroy at Peteg8@pac.bell.net



Tutor kids at St. Leo's who need a little help with their homework -- often because they come from Spanish speaking households.

Contact: Amanda Maytom at amanda.maytom@att.net



Pack non-perishable food for the hungry in the third world. This is a parish-wide event that is held in October. Please contact: Bob Giese at giesemail@san.rr.com



Make sandwiches in St. Leo's kitchen for the prisoners in the TJ jail and the homeless that live beside the TJ river.

Contact: Jerry Johnson at jerrymjohson1949@gmail.com



Collect bakery goods, used furniture, and household items and take them to the storage sheds for distribution.

Contact: Jeanne Hansen at tojeanne@yahoo.com



Donated Clothes Go In Style At The Fashion Show

Every seat is taken. The photographers are ready. The models are getting dressed and the crowd is buzzing with excitement. Is it a fashion show in Paris? New York? Rome? Nope. It's the fashion show at Casa Eudes Girls Home — not quite as famous but lots more fun! This year, on April 29, the kids outdid themselves with original outfits they created using clothes donated by the parish. Every girl became a designer for a day, putting together looks that ranged from great to goofy. After the show, the clothes went to the thrift shop that helps support the home. All the volunteers had as much fun as the kids. It was a wonderful chance for us to see the fashion world through the eyes of imaginative young girls.



The Things You Toss Are Treasures To Someone Else

When you have household goods or used furniture you don't need any more and you're ready to jettison them ... contact us! The things you can't use anymore can be lifesavers for some poor person or family. We partner with several other charities, assisting migrant families, the homeless, abused woman, unwed mothers, and families in crisis. Here are the items we can use:

Non-perishable food, diapers, unopened toiletries, used clothes for babies, kids, and adults, blankets, furniture, household items and some building supplies.

Please leave the donated items in the collection box in the "cry room" or take them to the donation shed in the lower parking lot. All donations should be clean, still usable, and in good condition. To have large items picked up, please contact Kathy Faller at faller.kathy@gmail.com or Jeanne Hansen at tojeanne@yahoo.com



Preparing Kids For A Brighter Future In A Beautiful Setting

In July, we help send teens and pre-teens from underprivileged areas to Whispering Winds Campground near Julian for four days. They enjoy outdoor activities in a lovely environment. This is a totally new experience for most of these kids. But the camp isn't all fun and games. Sponsored by La Colonia de Eden Gardens, Inc. it is designed to empower these young people, teach them to make good decisions, point them toward a successful future, and encourage them to eventually become leaders in their communities. This is done with a variety of activities like guest speakers, workshops, and team building activities. We're proud to help support this effort to give underprivileged kids the skills they need for a brighter future.

Our Small Crew Baked A Big Batch Of Cookies

Recently a little "Cookie Crew" got together in the parish kitchen to bake cookies for our Mission Circle prison ministry. The trickiest part was figuring out how to multiply the recipe 8 times. We were working in grams so the computers in our phones got quite a work out! We managed to turn out over 20 dozen chocolate chip cookies. Our crew was small ... but it got big results!

We were baking "Cookies for Kairos" -- homemade treats to be served at a religious retreat at the state prison. Our ministry volunteers were expecting over 100 prisoners from three prison yards at this retreat. The sweets are always so popular with the inmates, they draw a crowd. Prisoners come for the cookies and leave with Christ in their hearts!





The Fish Feast Lives Up To Its Name

Although a lot of us grew up eating tuna casseroles on Friday during Lent, the meatless meals served at the Fish Feasts are a very different dining experience. Thanks to gourmet chef Jeff Sturgis (who is also our Mission Circle President), the Fish Feasts are aptly named. These dinners are sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and hosted by different parish programs every week.

On March 3 this year, it was Mission Circle's turn to welcome the guests and it seemed like most of the parish came! We cooked and served a delicious red snapper dinner to a crowd that filled the parish hall. We are always glad to host these dinners because it gives us a chance to meet, greet, and thank the people in the parish who support us so generously during the year. The evenings also help our bottom line because Knights share the proceeds with us. The fact that we also get to eat a delicious fish dinner is an added plus. It sure beats canned tuna.

Don Brosnahan's Tree Is Blooming

Don Brosnahan was a beloved member of Mission Circle who devoted much of his life to helping the poor. Don was especially dedicated to helping at Casa Eudes, the girls' home we help support in Tijuana. For decades he spent most of his Saturdays at the home doing the maintenance work. He served several years as our president and supported all of our activities. Every Christmas, for instance, Don came down with us to Casa Eudes to help host a party for the girls – and he always remembered to bring big sacks of candy. At every Epiphany Celebration, Don was there to help make sure the event went smoothly. Before he passed away in 2016, he planted a little apple tree at the Casa Eudes Girls Home. It's branching out now and blooming, improving the girls' home, just as Don himself did for over 40 years. Recently we started planting other trees for people we want to remember, creating a Mission Circle "tree-dition", as our President calls it.



Events Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
May		
During May	MC Quarterly Newsletter	US Mail & Website
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 Resource Center
2 p.m to 7:00 p.m., Fri., 12th	Dinner for the homeless	Parish kitchen/BOL Mission
7 p.m. Tues. 9th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat. 13th	Maintenance/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 p.m to 7:00 p.m., Thur. 8th	Dinner for the homeless	Parish Kitchen/BOL Mission
7:30 am Sat 10th	Maintenance/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
7 p.m. Tues. 11th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 24th	Maintenance/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	Maintenance/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:30 am Tues. 11th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
Mon., 17th to Thurs., 20th	Leadership Camp	Whispering Winds/Julian
7:30 am Sat 22rd	Maintenance/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ

News Briefs:

Kevin O’Conner Will Be Our Next Mission Circle President

Kevin is a long-term member and has also served as President of the Knights of Columbus in 2015. He takes over from Jeff Sturgis, who has done such a spectacular job heading up our Mission Circle charity for the last two years. During that time, we have established several new programs to help the poor while actively supporting the older ones. Jeff has kept us on track and in the black.

Mission Circle Sunday Is Coming Up In late August –

our annual fundraiser will be held at the end of the summer. This is the one time of year we ask our supporters for donations to keep our programs going. Because Mission Circle Workers are all volunteers, virtually 100% of the funds we receive go to help the poor. We pray our generous parish will once again help us help those in need.

Many Thanks



To Jeff Sturgis who has served as our president for two years. Our outreach programs have thrived under his guidance. He has been especially effective managing our budget. Jeff will continue to run our maintenance program at the Casa Eudes Girls Home.



To Jeanne Hansen & Kathy Faller who run our donations program so efficiently, helping those in need.



To our Fashion Show helpers who helped sort the clothes and put on the event. It’s a day of fun the girls love.

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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:

Jeff Sturgis, President - pres@missioncircle.com
Jan Nelte, Communications - info@missioncircle.com
Tien Nguyen, Webmaster - web@missioncircle.com