

Fr. Pat's Message



Greetings to all as we approach the Holiday Seasons of Thanksgiving and the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As you know, this year I decided to move to a part-time ministry. It was a good choice, as I have found that the few issues I have concerning my health are easier to deal with and I have the added energy it takes to continue with the Tijuana Mission and Mecca.

I want to thank the many people who helped me with the Parish appeals. Don and Lena Kho, Mike McKay, Mario and Paula Pinedo, Maribel Barrera, Paul and Susan Tracy, Jim Rudroff, Don and Donna Nolan, Thomas Nolan, Katie Nolan,

Ben Gabbard, Ross and Margaret Banks. Ross and Margaret also came all the way to Santa Barbara.

All the wheels are turning as we prepare for the Epiphany on January 19, 2020. I have been in conversation with the people in Tijuana as to the location of the Epiphany this year and making arrangements to purchase most of the items in Mexico. We will purchase the canned hams here in the United States, and hopefully, the La Habra Bakery will come through with the bread again. I just hope that we have enough vehicles to help transport all of it. St. Lucy's students are busy preparing the special "boxes" for teenage girls, Our Lady of the Assumption students are preparing the packages of toiletries and the students in preparation for their Confirmation at Holy Innocents are preparing First Aid Kits.

The children will be very excited as Holy Name Parish and Holy Innocents Knights of Columbus are giving us their left over toys from their annual Children's Christmas Parties, which are a much better quality than usual, as the parishioners who donate the games and toys to the parties give great thought to their purchase. Now, we can only pray that Mexican Customs will be understanding and let us get them delivered.



*Photo Credit—Father Travers
Fires destroyed numerous homes in TJ, 2019*

I've been concerned because the early returns from the parishes where we made the appeal this past summer are down, but, this is where my faith comes in as I remind myself that God always toys with me while providing us with a fruitful balance. I did make nine runs to Mecca with clothes, bed linens, furniture, rice and beans and two runs to Tijuana with rice, beans and bread. We were very fortunate to have enough to share it with the Aids' Clinic, Olga, Immaculada and the Convent in El Nino.

The fires raging in California did not discriminate and Tijuana suffered from the fires also. In an area close to our "mission" at least 100 homes were burned. The fires in Tijuana are tragic as they don't have the resources available to them that Americans do, most importantly, property insurance, no government to offer FEMA, or just plain money. When they lose, they can't recover, which is why we have been asked to help. The only good news is that none of the homes we built were involved.

I thank God that we have been able to continue with our work and to all of you who have made it possible through your donations. I pray for God's blessings on all of you and that you will be able to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving and very peaceful Christmas with your families.

God bless.

Mecca

You have read what I write about “Mecca” and probably ask, “What’s is Mecca?” When I was forced to stop taking clothes to Tijuana by the Mexican Customs, I was referred to “Mecca” by an old friend with whom I had not had contact with for years; I believe God sent him back my way.

Mecca is in the heart of the migrant workers in the Coachella Valley. My contact there is Galilee Center. Two beautiful women, Gloria Gomez and Claudia Castorena, have been running Galilee Center for years and years. Operating out of an old vegetable processing center, they have a large “Boutique” where they sell, for a small price, the clothes that have been donated. What does not sell, they try to give away. What they can’t give away, they ship to Africa. They also have furniture for sale, where I actually purchased some for my “cottage.”

Photo– Mecca line for provisions 2019 Photo Credit– Father Travers



Every Thursday they give out a nice package of food to hundreds of families. They have a “comfort center” where the workers, coming in out of the fields after being fried to a crisp, can take a shower, wash their clothes and have a light meal before going home. I am so amazed at what they are able to do. I take what I can to them, and with the clothes, kitchen utensils and small furniture I can accumulate, I also take them rice, beans and bread. When I take 700 loaves of bread I feel great, but then the realization comes that a loaf will probably only last a family for two weeks, that’s it, then the need to provide more for the destitute grows. I am planning to give them 400 blankets and four hundred soccer balls for their Christmas party. It sounds like a lot until you see the numbers that show up and are in so much need.

-Pat Travers

Epiphany and Summer Building Trips

This year's annual Epiphany Trip will take place on Sunday, January 19, 2020. In order for this trip to be a success, we are in need of volunteers to distribute the goods as well as donations. As usual, we look to distribute provisions to over 250 families. In addition, the 2020 Summer Building Trip is in the works. The dates for this trip will be from June 13-18, 2020. If you are interested in attending either of these very rewarding trips or would like to donate provisions, please contact us at tijuanamission@yahoo.com.

Photo Bottom– Photo Credit- Eugene Community Crèche Exhibit

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors!

The Tijuana has many donors who make all of the work that is done possible. However, our corporate sponsors continually provide construction material donations that allow us to build homes and churches for those who need them. The Tijuana Mission Outreach Foundation would like to specially thank these sponsors for their ongoing support.

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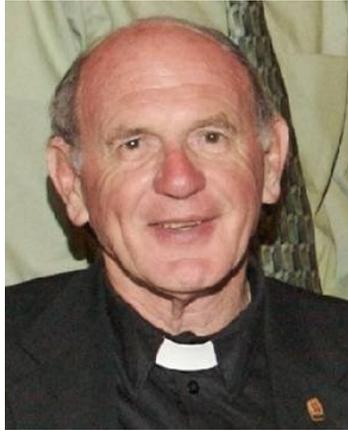
Father Travers' Special Request

AS I MENTIONED IN MY REMARKS, OVER 100 'HOMES' WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT NONE OF THE HOMES WE BUILT WERE STRUCK. NOT MUCH CONSOLATION WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO INSURANCE, NO FEMA AND NO RESOURCES OF THEIR OWN. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO HELP. WE WANT TO HELP. AT THE SAME TIME WE DON'T WANT TO CUT BACK ON WHAT WE ARE DOING. SO I ASK A HUGE FAVOR OF THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS WILL GIVE A LITTLE EXTRA THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE NOT GIVEN FOR A WHILE WILL BE INSPIRED TO GIVE IN THIS EXTRAORDINARY NEED. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.





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**Visit Our Website at www.tijuanamission.org
Questions? Email us at tijuanamission@yahoo.com**

The Tijuana Mission Outreach Foundation is looking for individuals who feel the need to respond to the poverty of our neighbors. Whether you would like to participate in a single day food run, clothes run, the Epiphany Trip, or the weeklong Summer Building Trip, we need you! Please visit our website at www.tijuanamission.org and click the “join us” tab to learn more about these volunteer opportunities. This is a great way to earn community service hours. We hope to see you at the next mission trip!



Above— Current living conditions in La Morita. Photo Credit— 2018-Michael McKay

We understand that work, family, or limited physical capabilities may prevent some from traveling down to Tijuana. Volunteers are not the only necessity in helping the impoverished of Mexico. It takes a lot of funding to supply the poor with the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. If you feel inclined to help financially, we ask that you send a donation in the envelope provided to you or visit our website at www.tijuanamission.org and click the “online store” tab where you can choose the denomination you would like to donate. Thank you and we hope that you are able to make a difference for someone’s life today!

Please visit our website at www.tijuanamission.org