

Llevando el Evangelio a través del Pan y la Tortilla

Bringing the Gospel by Bread & Tortilla
Chiapas Project Bulletin # 70, February 2024



Clergy of the Diocese of Southeast Mexico at the Synod meeting February 2-3, 2024

2-3 February: Synod held in Merida, Yucatan.

Fr. Florencio, Hermelinda and daughter Rubi traveled to the Synod meeting with Esteban Lopez Gomez who represented San Mateo in Yochib. Rubi was our correspondent and sent the following report: "I am sending you this message to inform you on the topics discussed at the synod. Before the synod there was a celebration of the Eucharist on Friday, February 2 at 8 p.m. After this, on Saturday, February 3, the diocesan synod was held. In addition to the delegates and the clergy, the synod included the Bishop of our diocese Julio Cesar Martin and Bishop John Organ of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland in Canada, along with some of his parishioners.



During the meeting, very important issues were discussed, including the transfer of diocesan offices to Merida, Yucatan, which involves the sale of the land that belongs to the Diocese of the Southeast, including the Episcopal House at Xalapa, Veracruz. With the proceeds of these sales, funds will be raised to purchase new diocesan offices. Offices in the city of Merida, Yucatan will be much safer, according to statistics, and the cost of land there is reasonable. Other topics they talked about included the signing of a five-year agreement between our diocese with our Bishop Julius Caesar and the Diocese of Western Newfoundland with its Bishop John Organ. This helps us

to build more bonds of friendship with other dioceses. People who belong to the LGBT group were also discussed, and there was a discussion about whether these people could get married or confirmed in our churches.

2 February Candelmas celebrated at San Benito

The annual Candelmas celebration of Jesus' presentation in the temple was celebrated after Fr. Florencio's return from Synod.



4th February Mass at San Benito on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



3 February Report from Carlos' visit to San Mateo: I found a small group of children on the road who told me that most of them had gone home, and others would not be coming because of the problem of very strong winds that have been buffeting the highlands. I sent the few who were there home to avoid an accident with the strong winds; only Lupita remained with us. Fany and I went up to the church to work on their files, that were waiting for the children. Soon after arriving at the church we heard a loud crack: the wind had knocked down a large tree a few meters from the door of the church. We thank God it did not fall on any of us, neither did it fall on the church. We filled the files with Lupita's help and soon left the church; the wind was threatening to rip off more branches and down trees. I sent a video to John Craib-Cox in case you want to see it. As I write this in San



Cristobal the winds continue to blow, and I imagine this weather is threatening communities throughout the region.

Here is a picture of one of the trees near the church that was stripped of its branches, and some of the self-portraits the children have done for their files.



9 February Food Pantry at San Benito



The Chiapas Project Food Pantry is a joint venture between the Church of St. Benito de Nursia in San Cristobal and four Chicago Episcopal churches, St. Chrysostom, Church of Our Saviour, Church of the Atonement and Holy Comforter Church; biweekly groceries of beans, rice, oil, and sugar have been given to families facing food insecurity in the barrio of the church since November 2020. Families remove themselves from the pantry list when they are able and new families are added.



10 February Report from Carlos' visit to San Mateo: We found Padre Florencio with some children cutting the branches of the trees that are next to the church that were broken due to the strong winds last week that cracked them from the trunks. There was a great loss of trees due to the windstorm that also destroyed corn fields and coffee trees. We began with our usual entrance song and offered a prayer for the people who suffered damage by the wind. Later we separated the group into two, those who had completed their file folder

and those who were missing parts. We gave them a talk about the importance of understanding ecology and about what is happening due to climate change (of which they were aware due to the very strong winds in Yochib and why it happened). Here, the damage is tied to the unregulated logging in Yochib. Meanwhile, the other group caught up with their folders about their



biographies. The purpose of these files is to be able to track the work of each child so that we can show visitors what individual kids have accomplished. At the end, they enjoyed sweet bread, gelatin, and juice, and afterwards we carried out our usual cleaning and disinfection of the church so it would be ready for Sunday's service, and we sent them home with blessings.



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17 February Report from Carlos' visit to San Mateo

I went up with Fany and when we arrived Padre Florencio was there with the children at recess. They went up to the church and did the entrance count and a prayer for the restoration of nature in Yochib where there was such destruction in the recent windstorms. When we saw that some children had arrived without their file folders, we decided to divide the group in two: one group to finish the record / file for each child who regularly comes to our classes (now a total of 32). Then we listened to a reading about the Lenten season we are about to enter, in preparation for Lent with the themes of prayer, faith, and hope. The children made a triptych according to what they understood by each of these: some wrote it and others drew it. The second group of children worked on their folders to complete their files and to catch up.



When they finished, we had cookies and played.



23 February Food Pantry at San Benito



Twenty-seven of the 43 families that collected groceries this past Friday.



24 February Report from Carlos' visit to San Mateo

When we arrived in Yochib we found the children in the church, and we began with the entrance song and the reading (for the second Friday of Lent, St. Mark 6:34-44): the multiplication of the bread and fishes. After the reading we set up the tables for the kids to capture in drawing what they understood from the reading, and we talked about a few examples of what we understood about charity. When we finished our own snack of bread and juice on the table, we distributed a loaf of extra bread wrapped in napkin. This was for them to take home to explain what we have learned, and to share the bread with someone who will need it, as an example of charity. Then we did the cleaning of the church for tomorrow's service. Blessings to you all.

