

Llevando el Evangelio a través del Pan y la Tortilla

Bringing the Gospel by Bread & Tortilla

Chiapas Project Bulletin # 55, November 21, 2022

November 18th, 2022 began the third year for the Church of San Benito de Nursia Food Pantry for 45 families facing food insecurity in their barrio of the church, San Juan de Dios. This issue of the bi-weekly bulletin is also the last; beginning in December the newsletter will be sent monthly on activities at San Benito and its sister Church of San Mateo Apostol in the village of Yochib in the Mayan Highlands. The last bulletin highlighted the importance of the Food Pantry to the life and growth of the San Benito church; of equal importance is the weekly visit to Yochib by healthcare worker Carlos Ballinias. Carlos teams up with Father Florencio to provide Christian education for the children and keeps a watchful eye on their needs.

Food Pantry # 53: Friday November 18th

Food delivery by the Church of San Benito, involves four Episcopal churches in Chicago working together to fund the bi-weekly purchase of bulk commodities of beans, rice, sugar, and oil that is repackaged and delivered to 45 families in the neighborhood of the church. The Chicago churches' "Chiapas Project" includes Church of the Atonement, Holy Comforter, Church of Our Saviour, and Church of St. Chrysostom's Church.

A typical supply of groceries includes 3 kilos each of rice, beans and sugar, a liter of oil, and 6 bags of pasta soup (200 gm, each) that can feed a family of four for five days. In the two-year review of the program completed in November 2022, it was concluded that monthly subsidy of food



purchases needed to increase 5% to keep up with inflation. Our monthly support from Chicago will increase to \$725 effective December 30th. During the past 12 months the Pantry has fed about 4,300 individuals, more than 17,500 meals.



Five families collecting groceries Nov. 18th.



News from Yochib: November 19th was a banner day for the Church of San Mateo. Carlos reported that Father Florencio met him and his wife Fany with 40 kids and three mothers when they arrived at the church for the Saturday Sunday School. Following the usual health protocols, seven new children were welcomed to the group. “We talked about how we are like the seed of the church. Every time we arrive at the church we are watered by the word of God, that each person is our fellow that we must support, and we must take in hand to bring to the church. We provide support so that no one sits alone. Each child took his peer by the hand and the whole group formed a prayer circle to show we were all part of the church.”



“The weather has been very cold, recently, and we want to avoid respiratory infections, so we distributed 40 sweatshirts, sweaters, and T-shirts. We all had cookies and juice, and at the end the church was cleaned and disinfected, as usual, for the service tomorrow.”

[Right: a sweatshirt recipient]

The lesson for the day: John 31: 34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.



Father Florencio welcomed a new family to San Mateo on November 20th, Señora Irma and her two sons, Rugí and Wilfrido. Your brothers and sisters in Christ in Chicago welcome you, too.

