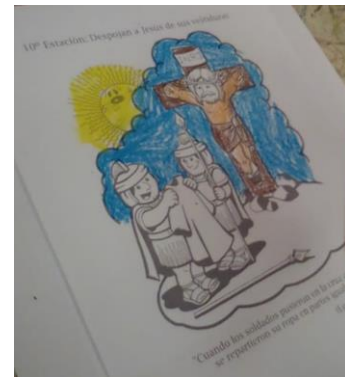


Llevando el Evangelio a través del Pan y la Tortilla

Bringing the Gospel by Bread & Tortilla
Chiapas Project Bulletin # 71, March 2024
EASTER 2024

2 March Report by Carlos Ballainis from San Mateo

Fany and I went up to the church and found Fr. Florencio with the catechesis children already in the church. We began with our entrance song and with the reading for the third Friday of Lent, and we talked about the reading and reflected on it. The children then colored a drawing about that Friday and captured what they understood about the reading for their collection of drawings.



We are compiling those drawings in folders so that visitors can see their work and the themes the children have been talking about when you come to Yochib next month. At the close of our session, we did our usual cleaning and disinfection of the church for services tomorrow.

8 March Food Pantry at San Benito



The Chiapas Project Food Pantry is a biweekly gift of staples (beans, rice, oil, and sugar) to families facing food insecurity in the barrio of the church. The program celebrated its third anniversary this past November. The Food Pantry is a joint venture between the Church of St. Benito de

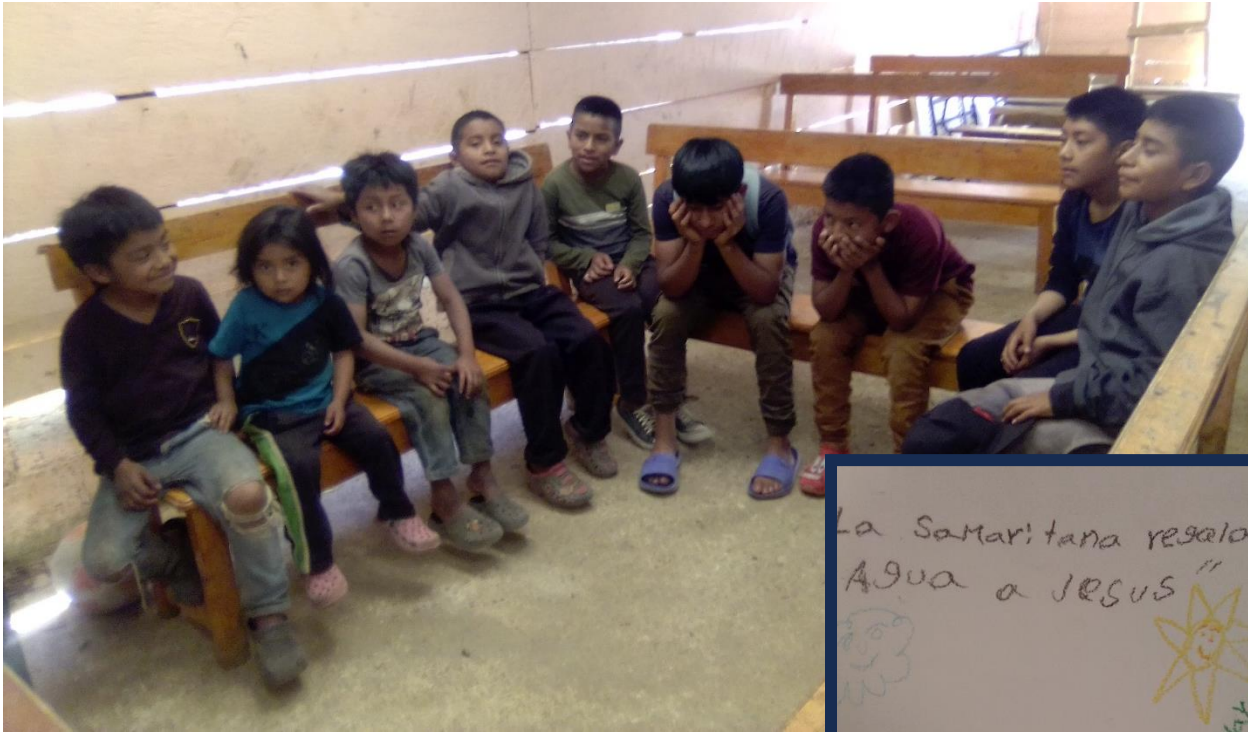


Nursia in San Cristobal and four Chicago Episcopal churches: St. Chrysostom, Church of Our Saviour, Church of the Atonement and Church of the Holy Comforter. The Food Pantry makes it possible for San Benito de Nursia to supplement groceries for forty-five families in their neighborhood. About ten families have removed themselves as pantry recipients as their circumstances have improved during the past three years, and new families have taken their place.

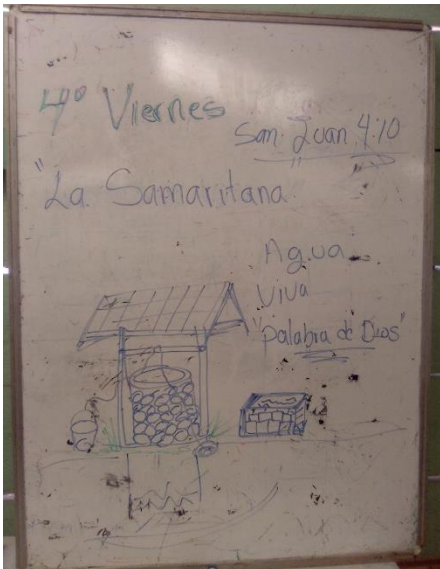


Nineteen of the families that collected groceries on March 8th are pictured here.

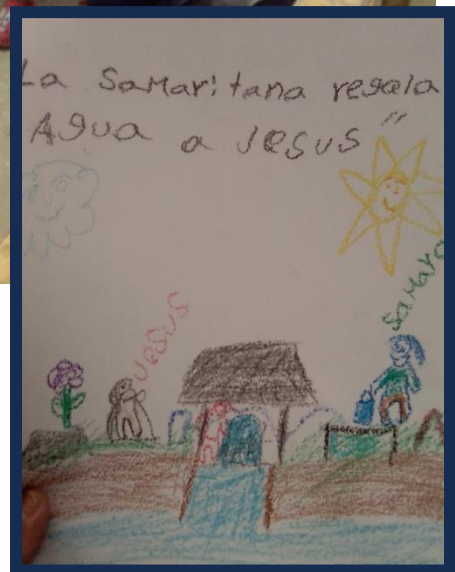
9 March Report by Carlos Ballinas from San Mateo



Fany accompanied me today to Yochib, and after our entrance song we had the Biblical reading about the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. After the reading we talked about what we understood from it. One of the children said he thought the water at the well in the story represents the word of God; he likened it to what happens when we come to church where we receive water in the form of God's word. Then they all made drawings according to what they understood in the reading, and finally we had a small lunch of cookies and juices. Note: Very few children came to church-school this week because this is a time of the year when they must work on their fathers' coffee plantations. As usual, at the end of our class, we swept the church, cleaned the benches, and prepared it for services tomorrow.



Very few children came to church-school this week because this is a time of the year when they must work on their fathers' coffee plantations. As usual, at the end of our class, we swept the church, cleaned the benches, and prepared it for services tomorrow.



22 March Food Pantry at San Benito Twenty-four families who collected groceries on Friday March 22nd are pictured below.



La Despensa de Alimentos del Proyecto Chiapas

es una donación quincenal de alimentos básicos (frijoles, arroz, aceite y azúcar) a las familias que enfrentan inseguridad alimentaria en el barrio de la iglesia. El programa celebró su tercer aniversario el pasado mes de noviembre. La Despensa de Alimentos es una empresa conjunta entre la Iglesia de San Benito de Nursia en San Cristóbal y cuatro iglesias episcopales de Chicago: San Crisóstomo, Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador, Iglesia de la Expiación e Iglesia del Santo Consolador. La Despensa de Alimentos alimenta a 45 familias del barrio San Benito de Nursia. Alrededor de diez familias se han retirado de los beneficiarios de la despensa a medida que sus circunstancias han mejorado durante los últimos tres años, y nuevas familias han ocupado su lugar.



23 March Report by Carlos Ballinas from San Mateo



When we arrived, we found Fr. Florencio with the children of the catechism class in the church, and we began with our entrance song and count, then the reading for the 5th Friday (the Friday of Lazarus), and the Friday of Sorrows, referring to Lent. After the readings we talked about their meanings and the children (19 in all) did some drawings of what they understood of the reading. They tell me they have started their vacations, and their time is occupied by other things. We gave them bread and juices to take home at the end, and the church was cleaned and disinfected for services tomorrow. We send our blessings and prayers to all of you, especially remembering Brother John Craib-Cox and praying for his speedy recovery.



31 March: An Easter message from Padre Florencio



“Easter reminds us that death has no power over our Lord Jesus Christ, and we as believers and heirs of the kingdom of God will also be victorious at the end of our earthly life. True worshippers of God are convinced of the promises and words of Jesus Christ our Lord: even after physical death, we will continue in our spiritual life; a life full of satisfaction where there are no longer tears or pain, but eternal life at the side of God the Father, Amen.”

“I send this message with our appreciation and gratitude at San Benito for the generosity and love of our sisters and brothers in Christ in Chicago who have been so important in helping us bring Jesus’ message in a very practical way to our neighbors here in the San

Cristobal barrio of San Juan de Dios. Bless you all.”

Upcoming visit from Chicago: April 3 – 7

For the past three months seven parishioners at Church of the Atonement have been meeting in preparation for the first visit by Atonement parishioners to our sister churches at San Benito de Nursia and San Mateo Apostól. (Margaret and Chuck Sullivan from Atonement visited Chiapas seven years ago, but this will be the first group to go.) St. Chrysostomes revived the annual visits to Chiapas from Chicago last year, visits that began in 2010 but were interrupted after 2020 by the pandemic. This April trip has been planned with the valuable input of the 2023 St. Chrys. travelers, and our April newsletter will provide a full report on the group’s activities.