

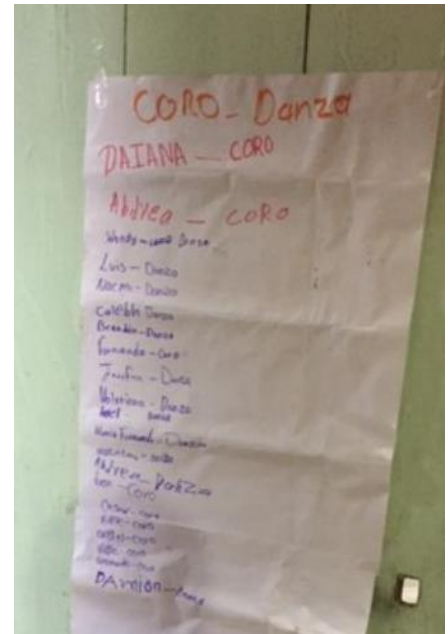


Llevando el Evangelio a través del Pan y la Tortilla

Bringing the Gospel by Bread & Tortilla
Chiapas Project Bulletin # 69, January, 2024

January 6th Epiphany at San Benito

Each year the Chiapas Project offers to subsidize a holiday event at each church; the Christmas Party at San Mateo was held December 23rd and reported in the last newsletter, with fifty kids in attendance. At San Benito a special Epiphany Party celebrating the arrival of the Three Kings was held January 6th. Here are the Three Kings, their gifts for the kids, the cakes celebrating the event, choir and dance assignments, and scenes from the attack on the piñata in the church garden.





January 6th at San Mateo

Epiphany was also observed in Yochib with special treats for the kids, recorded here in Fr. Florencio's photos:



January 12: 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. Chrysostomes, 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.

Many of the recipients during the past three years have swelled the size of the San Benito congregation. Here are twenty-three of the families who collected food January 12th. Many church attendees pick up their groceries on Sunday.



January 13th Carlos went to San Mateo in Yochib with Fanny and sent the following report; “We found Fr. Florencio in the church with his class of catachists, and we began with our usual entrance song and a prayer for the children of the community. We then set up the tables to begin an activity that will create a file on each of the children. Their first assignment is to draw a self-portrait for the cover of their folder. While this was underway, I performed an



oral and dental check-up, to check for any diseases. When the children finished their self-portrait and their data sheets we had a small lunch of juice, wafers of bread, and candy.

At the end of our session, we did the usual cleaning of the church for Sunday’s service. **Note:** We will be taking COVID control measures again since in Chiapas there has been an increase in the number of cases (gel, disinfectant, temperature check, and face masks for safety). We also gave small gifts to the younger children and raffled off three gifts (new clothes) we had left over from Christmas.” [Due to logistical problems Carlos was not able to get to Yochib on January 20th.]

January 14: the Mass at San Benito



and San Mateo



January 26 Food Pantry; thirty of the forty-five families who collected groceries last Friday.





On the 31st of January Fr. Florencio and delegates from Chiapas will travel to Yucatan for the Synod meeting, returning Sunday morning, so he will not be travelling to Yochib this week; photos from the synod will begin February's newsletter.

January 30: Tuesday, January 30, the 2023/24 Scholarship Recipients at San Benito received the second half of their scholarships (the children of San Mateo will receive theirs on Sunday, February 11). Here's the group of recipients; 11 more photos of recipients and parents follow.



Across the two congregations, a total of 60 scholarships were awarded: 25 primary students received 770 pesos each (\$45.00 US), 23 secondary students received *becas* of 1430 pesos (\$84.00 US), 9 *bachillerato* level awards were given at 2090 pesos (\$123 US), and 4 university students received 2750 pesos (\$161 US). This year the *becas* were increased by 10% to offset inflation (the first augmentation since 2018).

Fr. Florencio's conscientious recording of the precise number of pesos received by each student in these photos extends to the loose change seen displayed by some students and parents.



A los estudiantes y padres de los beneficiarios de las becas: por favor, sepan cuán extraordinariamente orgullosos estamos nosotros, sus hermanos y hermanas, y sus tías y tíos en Cristo en Chicago por sus logros en la escuela. Felicidades.

To the students and parents of *beca* recipients: please know how extraordinarily proud we, your brothers and sisters, and your aunts and uncles in Christ in Chicago are in your accomplishments in school. Congratulations.