

Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor

Sharon Henthorn-Iwane

Benefactors

To. St. Mary Magdalen Church and community

August 30, 2021

Dear Sister Parish.

The pandemic caused by the COVID -19 has painfully struck the whole world. The one thing that we may have learned is to care for one another. The distancing, mask, washing hands and vaccinations among other things are to protect one and to protect others.

We in Mexicali were in RED for a long time. No we are in green, but many of our people still cannot cross the border to the United States, even though they have visas. The pandemic has affected both sides of the border. Calexico, which is on the other side of the border in California looks like a ghost town in some of the streets, because stores had to close, because so many of our people cannot cross the border. Many people are still out of jobs and the on-line schooling has had a negative effect on so many things here. Also, due to the loss of jobs, many people are in need of basic human needs such as food, articles for their home such as food, medicine and other health supplies.

In our parish and in many of the parishes of the Diocese, many building or maintenance projects have come to a halt, from lack of monies and the fact that so many people are out of jobs.

I give this introduction and comment on the pandemic, because I think it is important to speak of new priorities and pastoral plans for our parish.

The Dominican friars of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Western Dominican Province) took this parish of Santa Maria de Guadalupe, Poblado Compuertas, because it is a poorer area of the city of Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. It responded to our desire to be foreign missionaries and to serve the poor.

The Sunday collections have always been small. With the pandemic, it is even less.

Regarding monies, we have a small group of parishioners and friends who monthly donate for our community expenses, such as electricity, water, and other needs.

Concretely, we are really very appreciative of your contribution of \$2,500.00 dollars. It is of great help to us.

First of all and to repeat again, I mentioned the effect of the pandemic upon us in our parish and Mexicali, because it might make clearer my use of some of the monies.

A great need presented itself to us in a person whose father had passed away in another state of Mexico. The son is without a job and lives with his mother who is ill. He asked for us to help him and his mother to go down to the wake and burial of his father. He was helped to accomplish this filial task. Unfortunately, while down there at the wake and burial, the mother suffered a stroke and passed away. Recognizing the situation and need, we helped him to bring his mother's body back here to Mexicali for the funeral and the burial.

Also, money is used for the purchase of food stuffs for the poor such as sacks of beans, rice, canned foods, pastas, cleaning items among other items. Also, the need to help individuals, especially the elderly to obtain medicine and medical consults is important. Since on-line communication and the printed word is so important, I would like to use some of the money for a new computer, laptops and printer. Also, of need are screens to transmit workshops and talks in the parish and the chapels.

There are still projects of maintenance and upkeep which are pending. There are many needs materially, but our priority must be in the preaching and evangelization. Also, the priority is to help the poor, especially the elderly.

My dear friends, so much of what we do does rest upon financial support, but it also rests upon human efforts and charity to care for our needy brothers and sisters. I am so much aware of your own great needs in St. Mary Magdalen Parish and the effect of the pandemic upon your resources and everyday life. Thus I am so grateful and appreciative of your goodness.

We continue to remember you, as our sister parish, every month in our Masses and prayers. God bless you for your goodness. Your brothers and sisters here send you're their prayers and good wishes.

In St. Mary Magdalen, 'the APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES,'

fr. David Bello, O.P.
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