

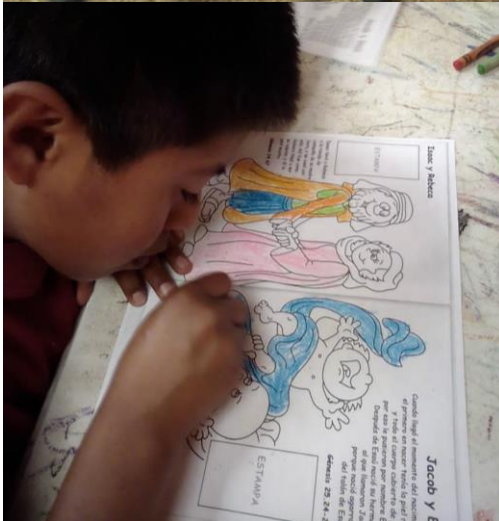
## Llevando el Evangelio a través del Pan y la Tortilla

Bringing the Gospel by Bread & Tortilla

Chiapas Project Bulletin # 63, July 2023



Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, Carlos met with the children in the church and began with the entrance song. "We then we composed the booklets, and we provided coloring pages to those who have not been present in recent weeks, and time to complete their booklets. The children were divided into two groups to later spend time on the readings that focused on Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, and Esau. They colored the pages and helped Abram to get to Canaan.



At the end they enjoyed bread with juices and raffle bags of bread to take home.







Mass at San Benito July 9<sup>th</sup> (above)



Left, Carlos' church school at San Mateo July 8<sup>th</sup>



Mass at San Mateo July 9<sup>th</sup> (below)





## July 14<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry Distribution of staples

The Food Pantry at the Church of San Benito de Nursia distributes staples to 45 families facing food insecurity in the neighborhood of the church alternate Fridays, providing roughly five days' supply of beans, rice, oil, and sugar. Above are the food packets prepared for distribution July 14<sup>th</sup>, and pictured below are twenty-two families who received groceries on the 14th.







Catechism classes at San Mateo (above) and San Benito (below) July 15<sup>th</sup>

CATECISMO 15/07/23

Me levantara e iré a mi padre,  
y le diré "Padre he pecado contra  
el cielo y contra tí". Ya no soy digno  
de ser llamado to hijo

San Lucas 15: 18, 19





**Mass at San Benito (above) and San Marcos (below) July 16th**





## July 28<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry Distribution of staples

The San Benito Food Pantry is subsidized by four Episcopal churches in Chicago that call themselves 'The Chiapas Project': Church of Our Saviour, St. Chrysostom's Church, Church of the Atonement, and Church of the Holy Comforter. Parishioners at San Benito purchase bulk items and then break them down into family supplies. Depending upon family size, four-to-six days of staples are provided for each family. Father Florencio faithfully sends us photos biweekly of each of the 45 families when they collect their groceries. The food pantry began in the wake of Hurricane Eta in November 2020 and allows one of the least advantaged churches in the Diocese to help feed their neighbors. Nearly one-half of the recipients of staples now worship weekly at San Benito de Nursia. Here are eighteen families who collected groceries last Friday.



## July 29: Carlos' report on last Saturday's 'Sunday School' at San Mateo

"We arrived a little late due to weather conditions – there's been a lot of rain in Yochib, and the playing field alongside the church hall was a pool of water."

"When we arrived at we found Father Florencio with the children of the class in the church (20 in total between girls and boys)."



"We read the story about David and Goliath and did a bit of play-acting, with me as Goliath and Oscar as David that was a lot of fun, and in the end we did coloring and drawings. Here is Alex's portrayal."

"Next week two barbers from town will come to the church to give free haircuts to the kids who want them – and who have their parents' permission. Father Florencio will announce it at Mass on Sunday. With all the rain, all I could find for treats for the kids was bread rolls and juice; nothing in the Yochib market."

As usual, we cleaned the church for Sunday's service before we left."





**Mass at San Benito July 30**



**Catechism class at San Benito July 29th**



**Mass at San Mateo July 30th**





## Scholarship preparations (and giving) for AY 23/24

This is the time of year we prepare for the scholarships to be awarded this year to 30 students in each church. This program began ten years ago and has been continued at San Benito and San Mateo after being discontinued at the Diocesan level, thanks to support from the Chiapas Project churches. The amounts given are modest: 700 pesos/\$41US for primary students; 1300 pesos/\$64US for secondary students; baccalaureates (the last years of high school) receive 1800 pesos/\$106US; and university students are awarded 2500 pesos/\$122US. Those levels of support have not changed in several years, despite inflation, and if we can raise additional funds this year the scholarships will be bumped 10%.

Students apply in August, writing an essay to explain how the *beca* (scholarship) will help their families, and they submit a record of their last semester grades. Father Florencio convenes a committee to review applications and the first half of the awards are distributed in mid-September. Students are expected to collectively work on an ecology project, and the second half of the *becas* are awarded in January when photos of the ecology project are presented. Photos of recipients appear twice annually in our monthly newsletter (as do their ecology projects). Recognition in the newsletter is a matter of great pride for the families of scholarship recipients and the sums they receive, modest as they are, sometimes make a difference in a family's finances that allow a child to stay in school.

For the 2023/24 academic year, Father Florencio estimates that we will be supporting thirty students in each church: 25 primary school students in the two churches and 23 secondary students, 8 baccalaureates and 4 university students. Those distribution ratios have been consistent over the years, which speaks to the importance of the recognition of the value these scholarships place on education. This will come to a bit more than \$4,000 if we increase the *becas* by 10% this year. One of our Chiapas Project churches has already pledged one-quarter of that sum and we must double that amount for the first half of the awards to be given in September. Donations can be made directly to the Chiapas project account at St. Chrysostom's Church [<https://onrealm.org/SaintC/-/form/give/default>] and earmarked for the scholarship fund.