

Taste the

NEW WINE



HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A CARING COMMUNITY

WINTER 2014

News from Richard Flamer and the Chiapa Project

It has been a year since I managed to get out a general letter and I am ashamed since I have so much to be thankful for, especially after my cold four months of work in the U.S. I think it is the last time I will winter in the States. I had some electrical jobs for old friends in Newton, Des Moines, and Omaha. Between jobs, I stayed at the Catholic Worker in Des Moines and at the home of my old Buddy, Charley Kidder, who snuck away to California to visit his Granddaughter and her new child.

Gathering tools and money to buy a Ford Ranger, I must give thanks to many but especially Holy Family Catholic Church, The Omaha Diocese, Sheila Hatfield and Greg Fath, Forrest Corson, Tony Curiel, Brent Blom, Eddie, Gil, and the Veterans for Peace, along with St. Theresa's Catholic Church and the Woodsmith Store of Des Moines.

Sheila Hatfield gathered materials and built us a web site. Due to a typing error it is thechiapasproject.com. Sheila did a marvelous job with the building of it all. I still have things to add to it but I figure we can keep it going little by little. Mostly I would like to get the blog radio broadcasts from Chiapas from Mike P. and Chuck's site, **The New American Dream**.

The work with Chuck and Mike Polacek keeps me active in my writing. I have been doing a 15 minute interview each month for over a year now. Chuck calls me from Florida and we record the live interviews on subjects relating to Chiapas. It has been a blast, for me.

Araceli was very busy while I was gone and managed to get a government grant for the development of her group Siempre Vida. It requires a sort of matching, so she needs to raise 10 thousand dollars over the next three years to match the 30 thousand dollars the group will be getting to develop the business of organic products.

Since my return, I have been working with my photos of the last 20 years. With the new computer donated by Forrest Corson I have been able to get many of the digital photos catalogued. I have also been sending short groups of photos to Marquette (who now have my archives of negatives and prints) to get more identified and catalogued. I seem to work slower these days. I suppose part of it is age but I just cannot summon the will to work more than eight hours. I continue to rise early, make coffee and read for several hours before Araceli gets up.

The reading is wonderful, always making my days start much better. I managed to reread the *New Testament* as a whole while I recently got started on the entire *Old Testament*. William Blake is finally becoming clear to me these days (since I have reread the entire works three or four times now). There are always the mysteries and thrillers I can find used in San Cristobal as well.

My work in the woodshop brings me a certain calm. I feel like I have the ghosts of my father, grandfather, and old friends behind me. The tools include pieces from my father, grandfather, cousins, and friends.

Within two weeks I will be writing another general letter which will be discussing my recent trips to Yalambajoch in Guatemala and the beginnings of our work there.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the disappearance of the 43 [Normalistas]. The state teachers college students were "disappeared" while gathering to join a march commemorating the killing of students in Mexico City of 1968.

Evidence suggests that the Mayor of the town of Iguala in [the state of] Guerrero and his wife ordered the disappearance of the group who were gathered by the municipal police, then turned over to a Cartel group called Guerreros Unidos, who have been involved with the mayor and the police for a number of years—that is, the Mayor has been paying the extortion group \$20,000 a month using police funds.

Other evidence suggests the students were taken to a trash dump, killed, and incinerated. The Mayor and his wife have been arrested, as well as the head of Guerreros Unidos and a number of people involved in the actual killings.

The buck does not stop there. Fourteen heads of municipalities in the area have been arrested, the police in Iguala have been arrested, and the Governor of the State has resigned. Marches and protests across the country are an everyday occurrence. The graft and corruption is being opened for all to see. This time, maybe something will happen.

Thanks to all for their support and our continuing existence. Saludos and blessings from Chiapas.

From the Deacon's Desk

by Al Aulner

Here we are at the beginning of a new liturgical year: Happy New Year! For well over a thousand years Advent has announced the beginning of each new Church year.

I think for most people the beginning of a new year brings with it the hope for things to work out well during the upcoming year. It makes perfect sense, then, that the Church in her wisdom places Advent at the beginning of the year because Advent is the season of hope.

Every year is a journey unto itself that adds to the journey of life each one of us are on. We are pilgrims on the move through time, moving towards a destination that we hope for and an existence that rests in the eternity of God. The one thing a pilgrim needs on a journey is hope and we find a message of hope in Advent.

Advent is about looking ahead in hope, expecting and preparing for the coming of Christ. It is a season that has us reflect on our faith in Jesus and on the hope we have in the promises he made to his followers.

As pilgrims, we follow "The Way." We do not follow one of many ways but we follow "The Way": Jesus, the Christ.

As we journey we walk by "The Light." We do not walk by one of many lights but by "The Light": Jesus, the Christ.

As Christians on a journey, we move toward something; we move towards a destination that offers the eternal life that Jesus promised. The season of Advent tells us to place our hope in the promises of Jesus. The hope we find in the Advent season will sustain us on our way.

As this past year ends and a new year begins, please take time this Advent season to recall that you are on a journey. You are on a pilgrimage that leads to the fulfillment of the promises of Christ. As you continue your pilgrimage, take with you the hope in the promises of Christ that are found in this season of Advent.

Finance at Holy Family

by Bob Gronstal, Finance Chair

Consider becoming a benefactor not only of our ministries but also of our Community. Holy Family is rich in the tradition of serving the poor and those in need. Our Community has been blessed with many donors from Omaha area and beyond who have supported our ministries. Our Parish Community is aging and over time has been consistently growing smaller. This has made it difficult to maintain our Parish operations. We are in need of financial support.

The operation of the Parish makes the pursuit of our ministry activities possible. We invite our supporters to continue support of our ministries, but we also invite our supporters to support Holy Family. We need your help! When donating, indicate on your check (or in a note attached) the use of your Donation: specific ministry (Door Ministry, Jail Ministry, or Lunch Program), undesignated ministry, community support. We need your prayers and support.

Follow Up On Holy Family Sock and Underwear Program

by Barb Sawatski

The numbers are in, the bills are paid, evaluations are sorted, and plans are stored in computer files for next year's back to school program.

Thanks to Goodfellows, Target, many volunteers, and God's grace, we were able to provide new socks and underwear for 956 children. We are also in the process of providing new socks and underwear for 400 children coming back to school after the Christmas holidays, thanks to a grant from the Oliver and Ferrol Barklage Foundation.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m.

Why Holy Family is My Parish Community

by Bob Gronstal

Why is Holy Family my Parish Community? Let me count my Blessings.

Holy Family is a small Parish with intimate personal Eucharistic services that warm my heart and fill my soul. Holy Family welcomes.

Holy Family is filled with prayer friends some of whom I have known for 40 years.

Holy Family ministers to those in need - this too, fills my heart and soul.

Offertory prayers at Holy Family are personal and reflect caring for each other.

I first came to Holy Family in pursuit of a pretty young girl to whom I have now been married for 41 years.

My children were raised within the Holy Family Community. And the funeral for my second child, Ricky, was at Holy Family.

Holy Family is an essential part of my life journey.



I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped Holy Family Church carry on its mission of helping the poor and those struggling to meet their basic needs. Over the years countless hours have been given by faithful volunteers; tons of clothes have been donated, and many nickels, dimes and dollars collected. None of the ministries could be carried out without the help of our friends and supporters.

Another key to making all of the ministries possible is the parishioners at Holy Family who have also given so much in time, talent, and treasure. Because of their generosity, a holy place exists where work on behalf of and for the poor can take place. Holy Family Church was built in 1883, which makes the building 131 years old. It has served the parish and surrounding community well, but it is no small feat to keep everything in safe working order. With the population center of the city moving west, there are now areas within our parish boundaries which were once filled with homes and families that are now industrial, commercial, or abandoned properties. As a result, the number of parishioners carrying the financial burden to keep the parish viable and the building safe and sound has greatly decreased. At the present time this old faithful building is in need of several repairs and some renovation. I am sorry to say, the expenses facing the parish now may be beyond what this giving community can shoulder, so again we are looking to our friends and supporters to assist us so we can continue to assist others, especially the poor.

This Christmas season please consider making a gift to the Holy Family Parish general fund. Your donation, no matter the amount, will be placed with our operating funds and will be used to help with the overall operation of the parish including making the repairs and renovations that are sorely needed to keep this space available to the ministries operating within it.

Once again I want to thank you for your past support and we pray that this Advent season fills you with the hope and peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May God Bless you and keep you.

Deacon Al Aulner



Holy Family's Door Minister, Pattie Fidone, is asking for gift certificates to give to folks in need seeking help during advent. She suggests \$25 gift cards from Baker's, No Frills, or Aldi's. Bring them to the Door Ministry, 1715 IZARD St. 68102, Mondays - Thursdays, 9 AM - 1 PM, to the door facing north or mail them to that address. Her phone number is 402-341-6461. Thanks!

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