

Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage



Building Hope for Boys Without Families and Families Without Homes

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

What a blessed and fruitful year we have seen! With each moment that passes, I continue to learn more about the reasons that I chose to serve Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage. And while everyone's reasons for service are different, there is no mistaking the intense gravity generated by this ministry and the blessings that flow from its mission of love.



I am very proud to announce that over 450 volunteers are scheduled to build 19 homes this summer! While we are grateful for the overwhelming enthusiasm expressed for our home building program, we terribly regret that we could not accommodate all of the groups that asked to participate this year. Please know that we are working hard to increase our home building capacity and improve the way that we schedule home building groups.

As we continue to minister to our boys, we are truly able to see God at work in *all* of us. Perhaps the best measure of our success is the increasing number of moments where their smiles, laughter, courage and triumphs allow us to forget that they came from broken homes. In many ways, we are the ones being healed. Glory to God!

As the Executive Director, it is impossible to acknowledge the innumerable successes that we enjoy without recognizing those who labor tirelessly to make them manifest. As Christ is the cornerstone of this ministry, our employees and volunteer staff are surely the brick and mortar that make our holy temple. These special people bring their own unique talents and passions, submitting themselves to a mission of mercy, compassion and faith. Their light truly shines brightly and it is my absolute pleasure and privilege to work alongside them.

Likewise, it goes without saying, that your generosity and sacrifice is essential in ensuring that our ministry of hope continues to change lives for decades to come. Thank you all for your faithful prayers and continued financial support. May the light of our Risen Lord shine brightly in your hearts always!

Together in the Risen Christ,

Ben De La Riva, *Executive Director*

OUR MISSION

Project Mexico performs works of mercy and helps others do works of mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, transcending cultural barriers by building homes for the poor in Mexico and by providing a home for orphaned boys through St. Innocent Orphanage.

OUR VALUES

Acts of Mercy
Excellence
Education
Love & Compassion
Mission Work
Partnerships
Witness

WELCOME

We want to give a warm welcome to Lorena Alvillar, Naya Gonzales, and Hector Herrera who've joined our team as orphanage counselors, working with the boys.



t 619.426.4610 info@projectmexico.org

V. REV. THOMAS J. HOPKO

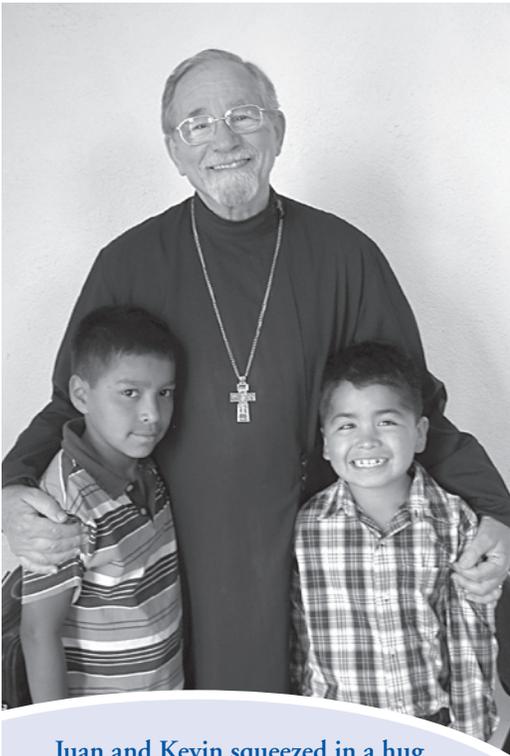
March 28, 1939 - March 18, 2015

MEMORY ETERNAL!

With joyful sorrow, we mourn the falling asleep of our spiritual father in Christ, Protoperbyter Thomas Hopko. Fr. Tom was a devoted, loving supporter of our ministry and he served on our Board of Directors for many years. He continually strengthened us with his warm words of encouragement and praise. He will be deeply missed by us all. We send our love and prayers to Matushka Anne and the entire family. May his memory be eternal!

With fondness, we remember some of Fr. Tom's inspiring words about our ministry...

"Project Mexico is a precious gift of God. It forces us to remember why God created us in His image, saved us in His Son, empowered us in His Spirit and called us to be members of His body, the Church. Those who participate in the Project's work receive incomparably more than they give."



Juan and Kevin squeezed in a hug during Fr. Tom's visit in May 2008.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CHANGES!

We are improving the way that we communicate with our supporters to ensure that every resource goes as far as possible. Here are some upcoming changes that will be implemented between now and January 2016. There will be more detailed information to follow in the coming months.

❖ Household Mailing Consolidation

We are now going to mail only one mailing piece per household. If you prefer to receive your own mailing, let us know. This does not apply to donation receipts.

❖ Donation Receipting

We're testing a new donation receipting process that will confirm donations more efficiently and cut down on overhead costs.



❖ New Website

A new website is coming with a fresh look and improved functionality. The address will remain www.projectmexico.org and we look forward to your feedback.

❖ New Home Building Sign-up

We are working on a new sign-up process that will give our volunteers more time to plan and fundraise, while streamlining the forms and payment process as well.



Pascha festivities included lively sumo wrestling, a 200-egg scavenger hunt, goodie baskets for everyone, and an unrelenting water gun fight.

PASCHA – THE HOPE THAT HEALS



“Cristo ha Resucitado!”

Here at St. Innocent Orphanage, we joyously celebrated the life that was given to Christ who rose from the dead. During Great Lent, we challenged ourselves to draw closer to God and be filled with peace. We fasted so our bodies could obey God and not earthly desires. We confessed our sins, naming the demons that attack us. We prayed communally to fill our mouths with messages of love and hope.

Throughout Holy Week, we came together for over a dozen services to taste the Lord’s Suffering and Resurrection.

The boys inspired me this Pascha when they stood diligently at midnight waiting for the Light to come out of the darkness. In death and in pain we realize God is victorious because He rises above it all. But, this act of resurrection is much more than a single moment; it rather is a holistic lifestyle that encompasses our entire existence, helping us overcome the worldly darkness in order to create paradise here on Earth.

At the orphanage, we strive to create a place of healing that transcends death in the world. I was encouraged when one of the boys expressed his gratitude to me, saying, “Here, it is different from where we came from. You give us a safe place to grow up and learn how to make mistakes; you teach us through love.” Christ brought hope for all of us and Pascha offers us many opportunities to teach the boys that Christ is Risen not just once a year, but every day of our lives. Please pray for us all, that this place might always be a home of hope and healing, founded on the fact that the Lord is Truly Risen.

In the Risen Christ,

Fr. Nicholas Andruchow
Chaplain & Associate Director



Top: Humberto, Fr. Nicholas, and Alejandro process the Epitaphios on Great & Holy Friday.

Middle: Fr. Nicholas shares the Holy Light with the altar boys.

Bottom: Oscar, Valentin, Guillermo, and Jose de Jesus proudly pose behind the roasted calf.

TOP NEEDS

- 1. Food for One Month \$2,500** – Help provide meats, dairy, fruits, vegetables, and of course, beans and tortillas for all the delicious meals served in our kitchen!
- 2. Gasoline for One Month \$1,700** – Keeping our vehicles fueled is crucial for getting our boys to and from school, counseling sessions and other activities, as well as supporting the daily operations of the orphanage.
- 3. Electric Bill for One Month \$1,000** – Your gift will support the continued use of our library, education center, kitchen, living areas and our water system.
- 4. Commercial Upright Freezer \$3,500** – We are very limited on freezer space and a 75 cubic foot, reach-in freezer would be a huge help to our kitchen staff when planning and preparing meals.

Project Mexico

of the Orthodox Church



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P.O. Box 120028 • Chula Vista, CA 91912-3128

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Our faithful chanters!

HELP US BUILD HOPE!



Brighten a Future

Sponsor the costs of educating one of our boys by becoming a School Buddy for 2015-2016.



Plan a Fundraiser

Organize an event or campaign to help us meet some of our ongoing and top needs.



Fill Our Pantry

Coordinate a donation drive to collect food and supplies for our growing boys.



Build a Home

Change the life of a needy family by volunteering on a home building trip in Mexico.



Give a Gift

Become a sustaining member of our ministry by donating on a monthly basis.



Say a Prayer

Sign up to receive our quarterly emails to pray for all of the petitions of our ministry.

TO GET INVOLVED CONTACT (619) 426-4610 OR INFO@PROJECTMEXICO.ORG