



November 2, 2021 Report from Oblate Youth Ministry in Tijuana.

When you have the desire to get involved helping the poor, it seems there are always obstacles to overcome. But, with an attitude of goodwill, and a blessing of grace, God leads us where we can do good for others. Such an occasion came for us recently, when we made a trip to a senior center that is very poor an occupied by people who mostly have nowhere else to go. Our medical team was made up of 4 medical students and a nurse with a lot of experience treating skin conditions. Karla, a ninth semester medical student organized the event and invited some of her non-Christian classmates to join. This was a stretch for two of these students who have never done this sort of thing before. They were taken back by the appearance and lack of hygiene in the facility.



The day started with mass, and then with two drivers, we headed to the senior center. We had to find a substitute driver, as our intended main driver tested positive to Covid. It was a triage situation with so many people needing attention. We ended the day having treated 15 people over a period of 5 hours. There were cases of diabetes, hypertension, and one man who will need leg surgery. In two cases the situation was bad enough to warrant an IV for the administration of the medications. It was physically demanding, emotionally draining, and sad leaving some people untreated. We had done a reconnaissance mission a week earlier and sadly found that one man had died before our return.



Our trip was made possible by a couple of donors who helped pay for the medical supplies needed for the trip.

Here at the Oblate Mary Immaculate Parish, our new music program leader, Israel, organized a praise and worship night. Six different choirs from the different chapels provided the music and led worship for some 350 attendees. There was 3 hours of music and dancing and a 2-hour Eucharistic worship.



At first this was billed as a concert, but then realizing that people were thinking in secular terms, Israel renamed the event to a praise and worship event. For Israel, who is a product of our youth ministry, this is his first effort to coordinate an event. Figuring out how to get 6 different groups with different styles to not only perform but to interplay was quite a challenge. Israel suffered his first disappointment when the selected date was challenged because of it being too close to the celebration of the Mexican Independence Day. But the groups encouraged Israel to not to get discouraged and cancel but to rescheduled for a month later.

Israel discovered that being able to musically lead and perform, which he has done for years, is different than being the master of ceremonies. He says he got nervous right before the concert. He went to confession while the first group played and that really helped him. He did a great job the rest of the evening. By the end of the concert, Israel felt God's hand in the whole event when all the choirs were



spontaneously able to come together and sing and play harmoniously. Holy Hour was very powerful, and the participants truly were caught up in the Spirit. How interesting it was that the first raffle prize went to a man with no hands, the second to a young woman with only one leg, and the third to a blind person. There were tears of joy as they held up their prizes.