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*“The family was grateful and started volunteering”*

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Little Anuel is 4 years old now. When he was 2, the family reached to the church because he had leukemia, and they were struggling with money. Anuel’s father, Pedro, had gotten injured in a work-related when a refrigeration unit fell on his hands. He was unable to work for 6 months. It was also at this time they needed to incur the expenses of chemotherapy.



The Oblates were able to help by finding blood donors, which helps offset the treatment costs, and by providing medical and diapers. After 6 months, Anuel was in remission. The family was grateful to the church and started volunteering cleaning helping with events preparations.

The leukemia is back, and the family again needs help with expenses. Anuel’s grandmother asked if we could build a decent bathroom, explaining that the doctors encouraged them to try to keep their living environment cleaner. It will need to be a complete redo according to our resident engineer Luis.



Anuel’s mother, Jazmin, says Anuel has been a trouper and even has started school. Anuel’s teachers have been very understanding and accommodating given that he cannot make it to school every day.

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## “WORLD YOUTH DAY”

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World Youth Day (WYD) will be August 2023 in Lisbon Portugal. The Tijuana youth group at the Oblate parish has been able to send several youths to the last four WYDs since 2011 in Spain. Any youth desiring to go must work hard the year before to save for the trip. Damian de la Cruz has never been on a plane, but is really excited about going and has been trying to earn enough money.



We asked some of our previous attendees to share a few comments about their experience. Victor Izquierdo, currently a seminarian with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, went to WYD in Poland in 2016. He got to go to Vatican. He was selected from hundreds of youths to receive a special blessing. He said, “I felt the hand of God through that blessing.” He later decided to enter the seminary and now is in his third year. Having never been out of Mexico it was the experience of a lifetime.

Karla Gonzales went to WYD in 2013 to Brazil at age 17. She had been wondering what sort of career to pursue. She traveled with a nun and the nun told her she should be a doctor. Karla recalls she did not like

the advice at the time because she thought that, in reality, poor people cannot afford to go to doctors and receive health care. She later changed her mind and entered medical school. In only her second year, she began helping the poor in our parish with what she had learned, and soon our Medical Program was born and grew to several students.

Jose Lauro Salas and 21 other youth attended WYD in Panama in 2019. They had washed cars, sold tamales, did raffles, and saved whatever they could. When it came time to go, they found out that they were some of the hundreds of youths in Mexico who were scammed. All the money they had paid for airline tickets and fees was gone. There was anger, resentment, and depression. Fr. Jesse OMI, who had been so instrumental in the youth group’s venture, was able to get replacement funds from the Oblates, lined up last-minute transportation, and the trip was back on. Lauro, one of the youths, remembers that when he saw a guy in a wheelchair trying to get closer to the Pope, he helped him get to a place he could see. Lauro says that Fr. Jesse OMI had said “You give what you need.” Lauro says he needed love



and compassion so he could let go of the resentment about being scammed, so helping the guy see better was his way of giving love.



Next year's trip to Portugal will cost three times more than the prior one, since it is in another continent, and everything is more expensive in these post-covid times. But, several youths are busy selling burritos and tamales, baking cakes, selling raffle tickets, and praying a lot.

Please pray for our youth to not get discouraged, work hard, live with their focus on God, and realize their dream to go to WYD.

