



August 23, 2022 Weekly Report from Oblate Youth Ministry in Tijuana.

“The Oblate Family Was the First to Help”



A few months ago, we reported the sad news about our friend Maria Sanchez whose house burned. It was a total loss. A small group of our parish went to help clean the burnt debris. Maria and her children were thankful but at the same time sad as we uncovered pieces of photos, pottery, and other memorabilia.

An Oblate priest helped this family and the previous article drew some offers to help. Maria and her children’s stress and sadness were relieved, and they knew God was not going to leave them alone.

Thanks to a donation made by Charles Abajian and friends, Maria Case and Lucrecia Gonzales, a new house was built and is ready for the family to move in. However, there were hurdles. Maria said that she and the workers had to sleep on the floor at the construction site to prevent local gangs from stealing tools and construction materials. That situation made the whole process even more disheartening, but she said that again it was her faith and knowing it was only temporary that helped her get through the cold nights.

Maria said she never had a house so big. It has three bedrooms, one bath, and a kitchen/living room. She mentions that she is excited about going back to the parish to keep helping the mission especially now saying “The Oblate family was the first one to help.”



We had previously reported that Maria’s 18-year-old son, Max, was especially traumatized because all his work to prepare materials for the next SEARCH retreat also went up in smoke. But we are happy report he is now in college and feels like he can once again focus on his future.

Scholarship Program Graduates 2022

We had our annual celebration for graduates with the blessing of having twelve graduates.

Eliza Avalos- Medicine
Karla González- Medicine
Isabel Bahena- Medicine
Paola Arista- Administration
Mario Gómez- Marketing
Juan Alfredo Pérez- Nursing
Yessica Mendoza – Education
Brandon Gabriel- Physical Therapy
Diana Rodríguez- Nursing
Janet Maldonado- Nursing
Rosy Cruz- Engineering
Michel González- International Business
Andrea Soto- high school
Marco Vilchis- high school
Mia Ruvalcaba- high school



After a beautiful mass with Fr. Jesse Esqueda OMI presiding, we had a ceremony with two special guests (graduates from previous years) offered a few words: “You are great for having accomplished this, but don’t forget the people who helped you. Always take time to thank the people who stand with you.” “If you ever went to your parents saying that you get a great grade and they disparaged you, I apologize. You worked hard to get that (grade) so its okay to be proud of your work. Thanks to that hard work today you have accomplished your

dream”.

One of our graduates Isabel Bahena was one of the founders of the Oblate Medical Program. When we ask her about her experience on the Scholarship Program she said “This program is a great support to our community because it is the best way to improve a community. I feel blessed because my major (Medicine) is expensive. Thanks to the Scholarship Program I was able to better focus on learning and becoming a professional.”

“The service to my community through the Medical Program has been one of the best things in my life; getting close to people and helping them gave me tools I thought I had but now realize how much I needed to learn. Visiting families taught me things not taught in school such as empathy, responsibility, and compassion”.

