

Dear Friends of Saint Charles Caritas:

Thank you God for 16 years of this charity. Your blessings and graces sustained us to this day. This is your charity O' Lord!

I thank God for all the donors and volunteers throughout these years that you are with this charity. I'm asking God to bless you with peace, good health and lingering joy!

Fr. Emilio Magana, pastor blessed us (nuns and volunteers, other nuns are inside the church) for the 16th birthday of Saint Charles Caritas. Thank you, Fr. Emilio!



Jim+ & I started this charity in March 2001 with the blessings of Monsignor Dennis Mikulanis. It started with a thought 5 years prior when I was working for the maquiladora company (at Sanyo as Cost Accounting Manager) both side of the border. I do not think I will have these thoughts without seeing the poor workers going to work daily and watching them. The workers were poor and they look tired. I thanked God for giving me a chance to see it and dwell with these thoughts. I asked Jim about helping the poor and he was thinking the same. Finally, the time came to do it to help the poor in T.J. We found out that we cannot afford the numbers of people to feed, first charity we saw were 1300 destitute, homeless and very poor people served food by the nuns twice a day. We asked Monsignor Dennis to help us with the church community's support. Monsignor Dennis love the poor. After Monsignor Dennis went to another assignment in San Rafael, Fr. Fernando Ramirez was our new pastor. We had to changed the name of the charity because the previous name was owned by another charity in T.J. Jim took a half day from work and sat down with Fr. Fernando. Jim wanted that Saint Charles will be included in the new name of this charity. Fr. Fernando added in Caritas Now the name is Saint Charles Caritas. Many priests supported this charity including Fr. Peter Ruggere, Fr. Edwin Tutor, Fr. Arnold Tadena, Fr. Jim Bahash and now Fr. Emilio

Magana our new pastor and Fr. Bill Kernan and Fr. Burt Boudoin and deacons: Ken, David, Mick and their better halves and Sister Elizabeth Wekall.

Before Jim's passing, in November 2014, he asked me if I can bag food for the homeless in the South Bay. Without hesitation I said yes. I started with 25 grocery bags. Jim was so happy although he was bed ridden in so much pain with cancer. He wanted for me to continue bagging of food in December telling me to add toiletries, socks and T-Shirts. In the process of his thoughts and delightfulness of helping the homeless, in December 25, 2014, he passed away joining the angels and saints in heaven. The last week of his life he was still thinking about the homeless. Someone suggested to me to name the homeless help project to "Jim's Project Homeless Help" since Jim started it. The Saint Charles Caritas now distributed 37 times, and 100 bags each time plus toiletries and other items. This March we distributed these bags of food to 6 parks, 2 other locations and streets in the South Bay Palm/Saturn Blvd.

The Saint Charles Caritas is helping 6 charity institutions in TJ all run by nuns and 3 in San Diego. 100% of the donations are used to buy basic food and basic necessities to all charities.

On behalf of Saint Charles Caritas, I thank you once again for your compassion, kindness and love of the poor!

God loves you all!

Merlyn Baker

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