

Dear Friends of Saint Charles Caritas,

God thank you for Your Christmas! Thank you for Your mercy, love and joy!

December 3, Saturday, 5 volunteers visited the Sisters of Charity-Rosarito (Saint Teresa of Calcutta's Missionaries) and went to the canyon to be a part of the catechism ministry for the poor children. One of the volunteers were left behind because we do not have seats to accommodate every one. The volunteers were: Mrs. Natalia Favila (who drove us to Rosarito and back. Thank you!), Margie Benzie, Lydia Klaphake, Carlos Quiles and I.

In our way to the canyon, as we started on the canyon area where the poor families live, while on the SUV descending through the canyon, Sister Jacinta rang the hand carry bell, announcing to everyone that we are coming. I joined in and shouted *catechisimo*, 45 attended. As we settled in, the sisters explained the meaning of Advent with 4 candles and the children read the meaning of the advent candles. After that the children went into the ladies house (outside her house, the sisters conducted the catechism. No chairs and some made a makeshift chairs for the girls seating on a hollow blocks) and watched the Nativity carton movie. This humble house at least had an electricity connecting from someone to another someone. Please understand that these poor families are squatting on someone's land. We saw a Korean Christian Church in the middle of this canyon. The Sisters of Charity is the only Catholic religious who goes to this canyon. This place was hard to drive in because of the terrain. You need to have a heavy duty vehicle to do it so that you will not get stuck on the muddy road. Majority of the houses are made of scraped plywood, tires and etc.

After the catechism, the sisters served hot-dogs with ketchup and champorado. After they ate, we gave away fleece blankets, knitted hats, chocolate, grandma cookies and rice crispies. The taps will be distributed by the sisters on Dec 18 with other items.

We had a wonderful experience where we saw one of the actual work in action of the Sisters of Charity. It was fun!

Please see pictures below. *Picture 1*: Outside the chapel of the Sisters of Charity. *Picture 2*: At the canyon, the sister was explaining about the Advent to the children, *Picture 3*: The sister teaching the children about the Holy Candles in the Advent. *Picture 4*: The sister, Lydia Klaphake, Natalia Favila and Margie Benzi distributing the blankets, chocolate, knitted hats and other goodies to the children. Carlos Quiles was on guard.

We still need brand new blankets, socks and chocolate for the children. Thank you. Please drop off your donations at the church office and let them know that they are for the Caritas or see me on Sunday after 7am mass. I'll be in the choir or send me an email.



God is good indeed!

Sincerely yours,
Merlyn Baker

Saint Charles Caritas
Imperial Beach/South San Diego
990 Saturn Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92154
tel# (619) 428-0199

SaintFrancis2001@aol.com

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