

Llevando el Evangelio a través del Pan y la Tortilla

Bringing the Gospel by Bread & Tortilla

Sharing Together Moments of Faith, Friendship and Gratitude

Chiapas Project Bulletin # 88, May 2026

This month we received a gift from Chiapas like none other during the almost six years of writing monthly newsletters about our companionship with San Benito de Nursia and San Mateo Apostol. Let the accompanying message from our correspondent, Rubi González López, explain:

Good afternoon dear brothers and sisters of Chicago, we hope in Christ that you are all well. We fondly remember the moments we have spent together when you came to visit us here in San Cristóbal every year, where we physically spent time with all of you. Perhaps this year was not like that, but we continue to hold you in our hearts; for this reason, we decided to prepare a cultural event yesterday: Sunday, May 17, here in our congregation of "San Benito de Nursia" in your honor. We wanted to convey our love, affection, and our sincere thanks for all the support you have given us throughout these years of fellowship. Through this means, we share with you these links with videos of dances, poems, and a choir with our participation as a congregation.

We hope you like them very much, and we also hope that you will visit us very soon to gather again. We send many greetings and blessings to all of you. With love and affection, your brothers and sisters from the congregation of San Benito de Nursia.

Attached were Google clips that have been inserted below; a Welcome:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C9dVq27dzpCf3swt6Z8hN65yjf3qm0Xk/view?usp=drivesdk>

and clips to click on for the cultural events prepared for us:

1) Dance

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bNPDH_NwcCOkE95zuaB6sSY2b9zo9YSx/view?usp=drivesdk

2) Poems written and recited in our honor

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xERzGpnKkaeyflioVlrQcmioQSuhfgP/view?usp=drivesdk>

and

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12xz79kXKRpVjlyz5E7TBwWswXptYpD5G/view?usp=drivesdk>

3) plus another dance

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fU5209T38sey6abLpYO_Tryw_6x8xJsk/view?usp=drivesdk

4) Choir performance by the children

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e9I1RTuTmijYcBG60Oj6lnzKKE0PXX-K/view?usp=drivesdk>

5) A concluding dance performance

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O-UMcSSaq2Ny7AafSjSPXOzBlc9qvNBb/view?usp=drivesdk>

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The Chiapas Project involves three Chicago parishes, St. Chrysosomes, Atonement and Holy Comforter that together provide resources for the Church of San Benito de Nursia in San Cristobal to purchase alternate weeks, each month, beans, oil, rice and sugar for 45 families facing food insecurity. Here are the families at the food pick-up May 16th & 17th.





Since its inception in November 2020 after the Hurricane Eta touched the barrio of San Benito de Nursia and devastated many homes, the San Benito Food Pantry has delivered groceries bi-weekly to roughly 463 families



Of the over 2300 meals the Food Pantry has served since 2020 about one-third support members of the church and two-thirds go to other families in the barrio.



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2025/26 Scholarship recipients at San Mateo, Yocbib

A second Chiapas Project sponsored by the churches is a scholarship (*beca*) for



which students apply with an essay and submission of their school grades. Students are also required to work together on an ecology project as part of their *beca* award. The awards are modest, but they well convey the value we, their brothers and sisters in Chicago, place on education. This year, students received

Award Certificates with their becas. Last month's newsletter pictured the *beca* recipients from San Benito and their ecology project; this newsletter features fourteen *beca* awards that were presented May 14th in Yochib, along with a few of the student essays:

Primary level students received 800 pesos (approx. 46 dollars US)
Secondary students received 1,500 pesos (approx. 86 dollars US)
Bachillerato student received 2,200 pesos (approx. 126 dollars US)
University level students 3,000 pesos (approx. 172 dollars US)

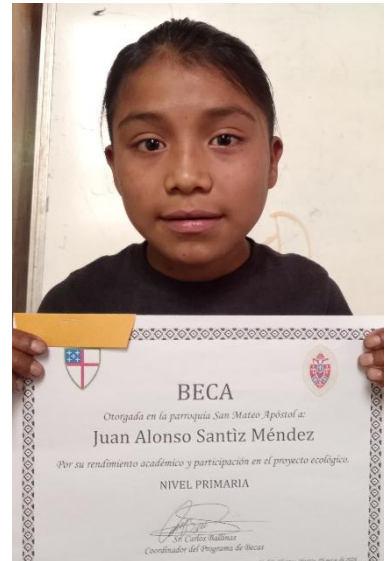


Hola, my name is Cesar Ivan (4th grade). I want to thank you for the support you have given me. My dream is to be a pilot.



[left] I am Dilan (1st grade) from the Anglican Mission Church of San Mateo. I would like to receive a scholarship to help my parents pay for my school and books and notebooks. I send many hugs and blessings, thank you for the scholarship and thank you brothers and sisters from Chicago, I will be very thankful. PS: Have a good day, thank you. [Drawing of church included in original letter.]

[right] I am Juan Alonso (3rd grade), member of the Anglican Mission Church San Mateo and I would like to receive a scholarship that would help me with my school supplies and buy my notebooks, pencils, school costs and to support my parents with the cost of school. I would be very thankful to feel recognized by you and Atonement Church. Thanks for your attention. Sincerely, Juan Alonso



I began the newsletter with a note that this month we received a gift like none other during the almost six years of this companionship newsletter. In fact, for your editor, there was another gift that came with the Yochib *beca* applications that needs a brief explanation.



Fifteen years ago, during our first visit to Yochib, I sat on a log that marked the perimeter of the church during the service. Next to me was one of the village kids, Julia, eight years old. She spoke only Tsetel and I was, of course, limited to English. I hesitate to make too much of the Holy Spirit on this Pentecost Day that I am writing this tale, or of the irrelevance of language to our communication. But 2011 began an annual rite, of sorts, each of us seeking out the other during our yearly visits. I tried to keep track of her family. Julia's older sister Gabriela followed local custom and was married as an early teen. Maria, their mother and stalwart of the church, passed

away a few years ago. Then, I didn't see Julia in Yochib two years ago and was told she was attending high school in San Christobal (post-secondary schooling is a rarity for Yochib girls). I lost track of her after that. This year, among the applications for *becas* from Yochib, one of the essays read:

"Brothers and Sisters in Chicago: Please receive this friendly greeting."

My name is Julia, I am 23 years old, and I belong to the Anglican Church San Mateo the Apostle [in Yochib]. Currently I am in my eighth semester in college pursuing a law degree. I write you with much respect and gratitude for past scholarship help.



For me, continuing with my studies means a lot, as it is a personal goal to complete my degree and advance through education. I am presently renting a place to stay in order to attend college, so your help means a lot since I mainly use it for public transportation to classes and schoolbooks. Your support is not only a significant economic help, it also motivates me to make

my best effort and finish my degree. I am close to concluding my studies and this support pushes me to keep moving forward and not give up until I become a professional. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support you give students like me who seek to get ahead through our education. Julia Gomez Ichin

Few of the many gifts I have received from our fifteen years of companionship with San Mateo has been more meaningful than this one scholarship application and what it represents. Thank you all for your faithful contributions to the *becas* over the years. This one award conveys what a difference you have made. Attached is a letter (written in English) by the students at San Benito reaffirming their gratitude for your help.

Dear brothers and sisters of the church in Chicago:

Receive a warm and heartfelt greeting from our community at San Benito de Nursia church in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Through this letter, we would like to express our most sincere gratitude for all the support you have given us. Thanks you for the food supplies, for your generosity, and for every kind of help that your lovingly send to our community. Everything you do has been a great blessing for many families.

Personally, I would especially like to thank you for the scholarships you have provided, because they have helped me greatly to continue my studies and keep preparing myself to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher. Your support not only helps financially, but also motivates us to keep moving forward and fighting for our goals.

It fills us with joy to know that we have such kind and supportive brothers and sisters. Your prayers, your love, and your help mean so much to all of us.

We hope to see you soon here at our San Benito de Nursia church. It will be a great joy to welcome you to San Cristobal de Las Casas Chiapas, Mexico, and to share together moments of faith, friendship, and gratitude.

May God greatly bless your life, your families, and every good work that you do.

With much love and gratitude.

Recipients of the Food Pantry groceries for May 30-31 will appear in next month newsletter.