



## January 18, 2022 Weekly Report from Oblate Youth Ministry in Tijuana.

We have written previously about Oscar, a very small for his age 14-year-old, who besides being mentally disabled, has several physical issues, such as limited mobility and cannot talk. We had lent assistance with transportation to therapy, medical, and dental appointments. Oscar made it through some tough times and after getting some teeth removed can now eat much better. That is when Oscar's mother decided to talk to us about herself.

Karla, Oscar's mom, disclosed that she has been in a lot of pain for a few months and asked if our medical students could pay her a visit. From that visit it was determined that she has uterine bleeding perhaps exasperated by carrying Oscar around. They arranged for



lab tests and helped the family with food, diapers, and other needs. Oscar, through therapy, had obtained the ability to walk a few meters, taking some pressure off Karla.

Surgery was scheduled for Karla but got canceled after the recent resurgence of COVID cases. This has happened 4 times over 2 months. We are still waiting for the surgery. Our medical student, Isabel, decided to team up with her mother and start selling tamales on the streets to raise money for associated costs of the pending surgery. Isabel is only 6 months from finishing the academic portion of her medical degree and exemplifies a do-whatever-you-can attitude and always with a smile.

On January 8, 2022, Mr. and Mrs. Tamayo and other parishioners from María Inmaculada Parish located in another area of Tijuana teamed up with Rodolfo Ortiz from La Sagrada Familia Parish in Los Angeles to bring and distribute food, clothing, shoes, blankets, toys, and personal hygiene items to our community.

The event was thought of as akin to the visit of the Magi. Mr. and Mrs. Tamayo's group gave the children some 300 toys and their families over 100 food baskets. Mr. Rodolfo brought items collected over a year and a half from over 1300 contributors, including children, young couples, and older adults. Even families had united to collect items and prepare them for distribution.

It was touching when a little boy asked if instead of a toy, he could have a bicycle so that he could help his father



sell bread in the streets. In another instance, seeing all the empty boxes, a young couple asked if they could have the cardboard to help seal their house from the cold and rain. As is said, one person's trash can be another person's treasure. They were given a tarp.

Mr. Rodolfo explained that his group has been coming here for the past six years, always seeing the need, and never expecting anything in return. His visiting group was comprised of some 80 people, representing several different nationalities. They did all the setup of tables, separating of clothes, packaging of food, and orderly distribution of toys to excited kids.

