

Mercy Seekers

“... Go and find out the meaning of mercy.” Mt. 9:13

October 2018 • Volume 263



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
FATHER MICHAEL BARRY, SS.CC.

There is a beautiful scripture in Matthew 6,24. It is about stress. "consider the birds of the air , they neither sow nor reap, and your heavenly Father takes care of them'. It goes on to say "Do not worry about clothes, consider the lilies of the field. Not even Solomon in all his glory is arrayed as on of these" These scriptures come to mind especially when talking about the Poor and less Fortunate. I often wonder how many of the Poor and less Fortunate die from stress. At Mary's Table we have the answer. They come and are fed and are welcome. They have formed a camaraderie or a community. They talk to one another. There are no strangers at Mary's table. The Father is here taking care of them. Despite horrific conditions and experiences of life, life has surprises for them and they too reflect the glory of god. It is our eyes that have to be pried open to see the wonders and the glory of god shining brightly in the hardened and leprous faces of God's Poor. They teach us about God if only we would listen and see. "Come to Me all you who labor and find life burdened and I will refresh you' Where do they go? Mary's Mercy Center. God clothes them and feeds them and most of all gives them hope.

Just recently a man called Jose Luis came to me for prayer. He was homeless and by his clothes and it was easy to see. He was a beautiful soul and God's love emanated from him. He said he wanted prayer for his lifetime friend Marcellus. I prayed for Marcellus and finished. Then Jose Luis started to pray. He prayed, "God help my friend Marcellus, the doctors say that he won't make it. God he is my only friend. Both of us are homeless. We walked the streets of San Bernardino together. We knew where we could get food and undisturbed sleep. Please God make my friend Marcellus better. Let him get better please God and God, God take care of yourself" It was that last sentence that got me. God take care of yourself, that touched me. Here was a homeless man with a serious problem and didn't forget about God. I feel privileged in serving the Poor. God is always in the mix.

- Father Mike

Mary's Mercy Center, Inc.

Mary's Table • Veronica's Home of Mercy
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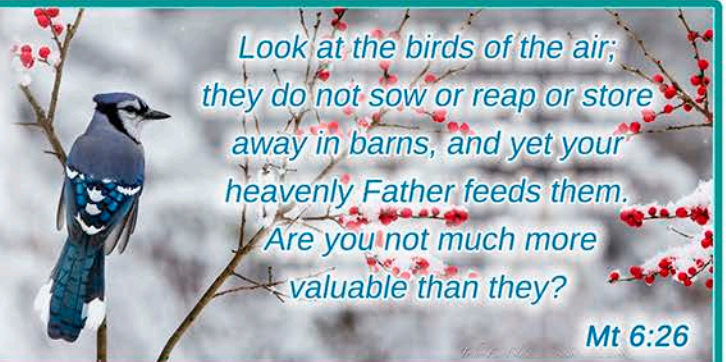
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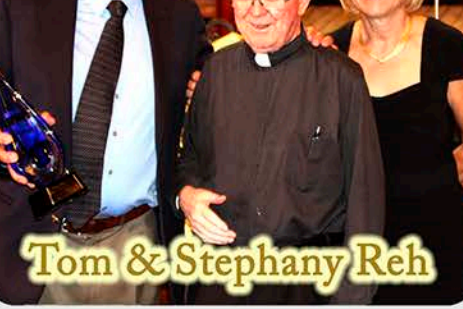
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*Are you not much
more valuable
than they?*



Mt 6:26

"Together We Make A Difference."



31st Anniversary Gala Celebration

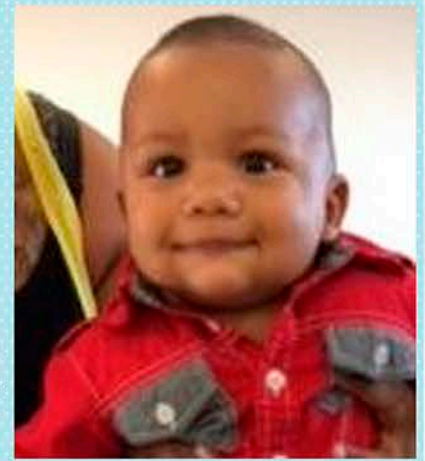
Succeeding while having fun - that in a nutshell describes our Gala Fundraiser. It was a very enjoyable evening; from the patio reception, to the dinner, to the entertainment, AND it was a success, thanks to all of you. We appreciate everyone who participated whether you attended, bought tickets, organized, sponsored and or held us up in prayer. This is a vital part of our meeting the financial needs of the center and we cannot thank you enough for it is "Together We Make A Difference."

FUN DAY



Our thanks to the San Bernardino School District Homeless Education Department, in particular Brenda Dowdy, for having sponsored families from Veronica's Home Of Mercy to attend a special event at Knott's Berry Farm. The mom's and the children had a great time.

WELCOME



Veronica's Home of Mercy welcomes two new residents; baby girl Isla, born in August and Elijah age seven months.

Answering the Call

St. Peter and St. Paul's parishioners and their Charity in Action ministry answered our call to help meet the need, featured in our August newsletter. This community of believers has a knack for coming through when most needed. The shelves were all but bare and now there is a good supply of ready to eat items for the homeless emergency food bags. On behalf of our homeless guests we send you a very sincere

'Thank You!'



Something to think about ...

“We find that one in three households in California, over 3.3 million families - including those with income well above the Federal Poverty Level - struggle every month to meet basic needs.”

D. Rowland, United Way

Mary's Mercy Center

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We are a non-profit public benefit corporation and organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Veronica's Home of Mercy is funded in part by Arrowhead United Way



Did You KNOW



In August 2018 Mary's Mercy Center through its Mary's Table and Mary's Children provided the following services;

Meals served: **6,388** (includes lunches for parolees)

Food Bags: **590 bags**

Showers (including a change of clothes): **397**

Hygiene kits: **368 plus 165 shaving kits**

Hair Cuts: **22**

Clothing (2-4 outfits and shoes): **155 of which 139 were for extreme emergencies.**

Thursday Giveaway: **245 individuals & families**

Children's Program: **34 families' needs were met. In addition to diapers, wipes and formula, we gave 4 car seats, 2 strollers, 2 cribs, 15 new blankets and 150 pounds of clothes.**

Additionally we helped with a TV, a small bookshelf, and a dinette set (dining table with chairs), and 300 pounds of pet food.

THANK YOU - what we are able to do is possible because of you!



Congratulations to the winners of our raffle

1st Prize, \$2,500 - Donated to Mary's Mercy Center

2nd Prize, \$1,250 - Rebeca Chavez

3rd Prize, \$750 - Noelia Sousa

4th Prize, \$500 - Bernardette Gore

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in raffle and held our fundraiser in prayer, and a special thanks to the families that donated the prizes.