

DESERT BLOOMS

July 2011

July has been a month for sacraments and sacramental moments. On Saturday, July 9, our precious little 2 and a half year old, Reyna, celebrated her baptism at a church in Mexico. Reyna has Down syndrome. You may remember reading about her mother Tania, a young mother and one of the cooks at our clinic, in a previous issue of Desert Blooms. Sister Carol is Reyna's godmother, and so she arrived early in the afternoon to Tania's home to get her little angel ready for the big day. In Mexico, it is the godmother's duty to dress the child. First, Reyna tried to crawl away, but eventually she let Carol pull her beautiful white dress over her head. She looked radiant. Then, she sat patiently in Carol's lap while Tania curled and pinned up her hair. Pretty soon, both Carol and Reyna were covered in the glitter from Reyna's gown.

Once at the church, Carol, Tania, and Reyna took their seats in the second pew, surrounded by other little ones and their godparents. The priest walked around to anoint all of the children, and he gave a special loving smile to Reyna. When it came time to bring her to the baptismal font, Reyna cried only a little as she laid back in Carol's arms and felt the waters of baptism splash over her. What a happy moment!

After the ceremony, we all went back to Tania's house where she had prepared an amazing fiesta! The yard was filled with plastic tables and chairs and a large inflatable jumper. Some of the other clinic mothers, Lucy and Lupe, had spent the afternoon cooking up a LOT of food for all of the guests, and Cristina had helped making bags of candy for the kids. Two of our other special kids, Monse and Nena, were guests at the party as well and had a great time! Before the party was over, a huge piñata had been busted and a lot of delicious cake had been eaten! The sacrament began in the church and truly permeated throughout the day in the joy of community.

This joyful community is one that touches hearts and inspires. Fr. Bill Morton, a Columban missionary priest who lived in

Anapra and is actually who first invited the Sisters of Charity over to Mexico, has been unable to cross the border to see his beloved friends. Five years ago, he stood by the side of poor families in a land struggle and as a result was told to leave Mexico. He has stayed involved from the United States side but has only been able to see our families through the fence. He decided last week that it was time to come back to Mexico.

The surprise and delight on the faces of our women and children were priceless when Fr. Bill stepped through the door unannounced. The love in the smiles, embraces, and tears was real. It was moving to watch Bill with the people, how easily he is able to be present among them and how obviously and truly he loves them and they love him. He smiled and laughed observing how the kids had grown and developed since he last saw them. He marveled at how the clinic, which is actually on the site of his old house, has changed. It is run almost completely by the people that it serves, even down to the food preparation! He savored the delicious lunch and soaked in the interactions among our little family.

There was a light in Bill's face as he left the clinic that day. He later told Sister Janet that it was inspiring and so good for him to return. Sometimes, the situation of the world seems so desolate, filled with injustice and suffering. But in the clinic, Fr. Bill was reminded of the hope and love that God pours over His people daily. These are sacramental moments in our everyday life. What are the sacramental moments that God has blessed you with today?



Photos

- Top right: Bill and Isidra talk during his surprise return to the clinic!
- Center: Sr. Carol and Reyna before the baptism.