

DESERT BLOOMS

March 2014



We had a very special visitor at Santo Niño this month. Bishop Mark Seitz from the diocese of El Paso met us at the port of entry on a Tuesday morning and

spent several hours at the center in Anapra. Although he had crossed the border to meet with the bishop of Juarez on other occasions, it was his first experience of the margins of Juarez. We pointed out the place at the fence that separates the U.S. and Mexico where he had presided over the annual All Souls Day Mass from the New Mexico side. When we pulled up to the center he helped us carry in the baby food and supplies before getting the grand tour and meeting the moms and children.



We begin each session these days with a few minutes of Tai Chi exercise followed by a brief Lenten reflection, time to pray for special intentions and a song of praise. Bishop Mark joined in and gave a final blessing. Then everyone went to work! The bishop visited with the mothers, heard the stories of their children and took

time for photos. Reverence for life is a passionate concern for our bishop and he expressed sincere admiration and gratitude for the loving care provided by the mothers and staff.

Thanks to Steve Fox at Hoy-Fox Toyota and Gary Wilcox, pastor of Restoration Fellowship Church, we are soon going to have a mini-bus to transport our children! Steve has been on the lookout for a vehicle for us and became aware that the church was relinquishing the nineteen passenger van. After evaluating the vehicle and checking with us to see if it would meet our needs, Steve has his mechanics doing the necessary repairs so that we can take possession. God bless Steve, Gary and many benefactors whose donations will help cover the costs associated with importing a vehicle to Mexico!



Last Saturday Annie provided lunch and a nutrition lesson for the mothers. Using ingredients that are readily available in Anapra, she prepared healthy chicken tostadas, cabbage slaw with cilantro-lime dressing and fresh fruit with yogurt dessert. Before lunch Annie shared information about basic food groups and portion size. They were shocked to discover that two tortillas or one-half cup of cooked rice is a single portion. “My son and I share a kilo of tortillas every morning!” one mother lamented. Lots to learn and a great willingness to learn it. The delicious meal was also a tremendous incentive!



Midway through the season of Lent, the special children and mothers at Proyecto Santo Niño teach us so much about sacrifice and self-emptying love. They give us opportunities to accompany the suffering Christ while holding the hope of Easter in our hearts.