

## Llevando el Evangelio a través del Pan y la Tortilla

### Chiapas Project Bulletin # 18, July 2, 2021

For those of you who counted the numbers represented in the last bulletin's photos you would have come up short of the 42 families still receiving alternate week food pantry groceries. A day later, six more families' photos arrived (below), and groceries delivered to several folks at



home who are unable to come collect them all add up to the 42 recipients.

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During visits to Chiapas during the past five years one of the highlights for our Chicago travelers has been dance performances by the youth of the San Benito congregation. The dance group was the inspiration of Lucy and Hermelinda in 2016, initially created to perform for their Chicago visitors. The photo (right) dates from about that time. Since then, they have gone on to perform folkloric dance at numerous community venues.

In 2017 the dancers were invited to the Synod/Diocesan Convention to join in the Eucharistic celebration at the closing of synod. Our Chiapas Project chipped in to provide



transportation for their 12-hour bus ride from San Cristobal.

Equally important to the big impression that they made at the synod in Tuxtepec, was the first opportunity for such large numbers from the San Benito and San Mateo

congregations to physically connect with their brothers and sisters at the heart of their diocese. (In subsequent Synods, dance groups from other churches in the Diocese have also performed, but I think the idea was begun by San Benito.) Their last major performance was at the 2019 Synod where this biased observer felt they clearly set a standard for the other churches' performers (bottom, previous page and below).



Marlene, who has been instrumental in keeping the dance group alive writes that “this was a way to keep kids and teens feel comfortable in the church and to show them that their church is a place they can enjoy, learn and love.” Since COVID hit, the group has not been meeting; the kids have had lots of pressures keeping up with school and on-line classes, but Marlene and the dancers want to revive the group when the pandemic

pressures abate. Many of the youth are now involved in helping with the bi-weekly food pantry, and some have joined the recently created choir. More on the choir and the English classes that have been meeting since March in a later bulletin.

Food pantry deliveries this week began this afternoon (seven of the 28 families, below) in a rainstorm and will continue Sunday when things dry out.



The bi-weekly San Benito food pantry for families facing food insecurity in the barrio of San Juan de Dios in San Cristobal, Chiapas is supported by Church of Our Saviour, St. Chrysostom's Church, Church of the Atonement, and friends of the Chiapas Project in the Diocese of Chicago.