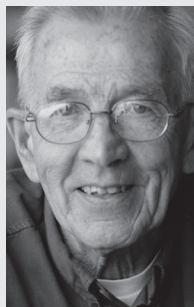


THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • WINTER 2010



Padre's Message



DEAR FOLKS,

Merry Christmas two thousand ten. Our Christmas season is half of November, all of December and half of January. No

stops from work. But a long buildup including the Center's 46th birthday celebration this year and our traditional "bundles party" before Christmas day and, afterwards a slow descent back to normal.

Our special happiness is that this year Jesus gets His best present in over two thousand years. He gets to enjoy the fact that we finally got it figured out, all on our own. Some of our professionals have come up with a new terminology to successfully implement His incarnation. They have made it possible for Him to convince us of:

HIS VISION: of spending all eternity with us opening all His gifts;

HIS MISSION: to get all of us worldwide to know ourselves and our need for each other in producing the planned family of families;

HIS STRATEGIC PLAN: of loving and getting us to fall into His love for everybody else; and,

HIS VERIFIABLE INDICATOR OF SUCCESS AND NO FAILURE: which is simply seeing us wanting everybody else to use every day in the friendship of Jesus.

This will be a great Christmas for Him. He won't forget our help.

John J. Halligan, S.J.

A celebration 46 years in the making



Ask any one of our kids, "What is your favorite thing about the Center?" and he or she will answer, "the December 5th Birthday Party," an annual celebration of the Working Boys' Center's opening 46 years ago.

A Breakfast to Remember

The Working Boys' Center anniversary celebration begins with an exotic breakfast of scrambled eggs, pancakes, syrup, fruits and coffee prepared by volunteers and staff. To the little kids at their first Center birthday, the pancakes and syrup are a mystery on the plate next to the scrambled eggs. Soon enough the evident ecstasy of the couple of thousand old hands at the dining tables draws even the youngest of them into a serious scrambled eggs and pancakes eating frenzy. Heaven has started right here in the Center.

The Winning Tickets

Nobody dawdles long over breakfast. All two thousand members of the four hundred families get started winning prize tickets at the carnival games managed by volunteers, parents and

teenagers. The prizes are a mix of new and used articles donated by visitors throughout the year. Whatever we don't use each Saturday during our BINGO games, we save for this birthday party. Each prize has a sign indicating its worth; one ticket or two or three or more. Everything is carefully sorted and laid out on tables or piled in cartons if they are bunches of teddy bears or dolls that prefer to be rescued from their dark prison boxes by lucky winners. Show one or more winning tickets to get in and shop around for the prize of your choice.

Dining and Dancing

At noon we join together for a song filled celebration of our daily Mass followed by a noontime chicken dinner and then, all afternoon the whole family dances until the day's end at 8:00 P.M. But the finale starts shortly before, at about 6:30 when we have the cake cutting ceremony. It's a very full day of everybody putting out to help everybody else enjoy our family of families.



A DECEMBER

The show must go on - in English

The month of Christmas festivities kicks off on December 1st and 2nd when English students and their volunteer teachers present skits performed in English. This friendly competition allows students to display their English knowledge in a fun and competitive environment. Students demonstrate their knowledge of prepositions through song and dance, of fruits and vegetables through a market-based play and of action verbs through a High School Musical rendition. English speaking judges, Father Halligan, Sister Miguel and Marco Polo, closely analyze each performance and determine the class which can hold bragging rights until the next competition. Each participant usually receives a lollipop and a warm smile.



The Working Boys Center celebrates

DECEMBER



5	6 Fiestas De Quito	7	
12	13	14	Christm an
19	20	21	
26		28	

The best Christmas pageant ever

On December 20th and 21st, the daycare students at both Centers display their talents at an annual Christmas program featuring dancing, singing and amazing costumes worn by adorable Center toddlers. Daycare students from each Center and Father Halligan's Guangopolo Parish each receive a special wrapped gift donated by members of a local Quito church.



Wherever and Whenever it's Christmas


Every year at Christmas time, baby Jesus has many demands on His time. The working kids and their families celebrate the birth in high style all Christmas Day. But the night before, it's a custom for the Working Boys' Center kindergarteners to recreate the Nativity scene in the chapel where the Quito English speaking Catholic community has Midnight Mass. It's always a new experience with new actors. After English Mass, the year-long volunteers and their guests join Sister Miguel and Father Halligan for midnight Mass in Guangopolo. When they return from Guangopolo, they enjoy a relaxed evening of Christmas cookies, sandwiches and socializing in the volunteer house.



TO REMEMBER

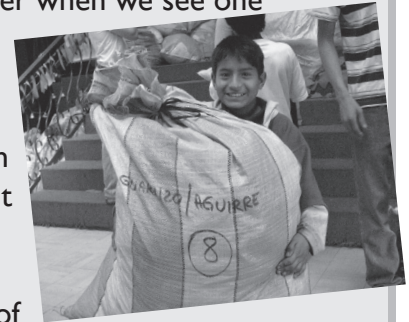
ates Christmas all month long.

BER 2010

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	WBC 46th Anniversary
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	WBC choir performs on TV
15	16	17	18
19	20	21	Staff Christmas Party
22	23	24	25
26	27	28	Christmas
29	30	31	

Christmas Bundles of Joy

The bundles party is easy only because a combined work gang of all the volunteers and some adult members do all the work to prepare it. On the sides of each of hundreds of sacks from flour, salt, sugar and beans someone has to write the names, ages and gender of all the members of an entire family. Others fill the sacks carefully with items chosen from piles of clothes, shoes, jewelry, cosmetics, wigs, house decorations and utensils. Enough workers are on the team of sack fillers to make sure somebody knows the size of each person whose name is on the sack so each one of the family receives something good and useful. It's tough work and they deserve to have a few laughs although we do wonder when we see one of our dads who is known as a respectable, hardworking bricklayer modeling an evening gown before it goes into the sack.



A full sack holds lots of things and is big enough to hide most of Tomas Guarnozo Aguirre from his ankles up to his shoulders. He is a strong lad about to carry home the family's sack; and all the family members are practically bowing and scraping their deep thanks from the floor up. But the bundles party is an all-nighter. Don't think they go home and simply pick out what each one gets. There'll be half the night running from house to house in the neighborhood having fun trading off what they wouldn't be seen dead in.

Putting Christ in Christmas

The birth of Jesus Christ is rejoiced throughout the Working Boys' Center on Christmas Day when WBC members and their families partake in Mass and first communions at each Center. After Mass, everyone enjoys a special fried chicken meal before returning to their homes throughout Quito. At 4:00 p.m. volunteers and their guests celebrate with Sister Cindy preparing a delicious meal for around 70 people. The highlight of the day are the gag gifts that Sister Miguel and her sister, Judy present to each volunteer. Many laughs are shared before volunteers head off to different parts of Ecuador for a much deserved break.



AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME! SPIRITUAL JOURNEY 2010

A truly unforgettable trip to The Working Boys' Center, a family mission since 1964 in Quito, Ecuador.

You'll see first hand...

- The natural beauty of the Andes
- Colorful small-town markets
- The bustling capital city of Quito
- The well-established family mission begun over 46 years ago by Fr. John Halligan S.J. offering education, job training, health care, meals and life skills to hundreds of poor families.



February 2-9, 2011

The trip costs under \$1,600 and includes cost of air fare, modern hotel accommodations, escorted side trips by bus, and most meals!

More info? Contact Pat Parks, 262-797-8988 or jparks@wi.rr.com

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www.workingboyscenter.org

Family Unity International, Inc. is the official 501(c)3 organization representing the Working Boys' Center. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by the law.

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