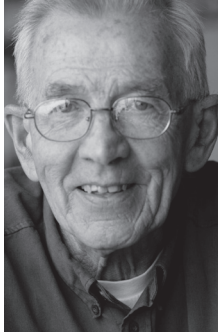


THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

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

Padre's Message



Dear folks,

The Lord's peace be with you. At this time of year, we'll be thanking God for your part in making it

possible to start another school year of our family of families in Quito this September 2010. God gives so many miracles to our Working Boys' Center - A Family Of Families, that we have to remind each other to celebrate this 47th round of everybody going to formal classes and getting smarter so as to love life more. Thanks to your generosity, all the kids, the parents and the staff are in with you on this love affair of many thousands over the years.

Over 500 people celebrated Padre Juan's 80th birthday in Milwaukee, WI.

A few people on earth missed my eightieth birthday party in Milwaukee. But I felt and deeply appreciated the affection for me and the Center coming in from all points of the compass. The party doubled also as a spectacular reunion of volunteers and benefactors. Of course, it made me reflect on what has been accomplished in that all important area of making cherished "neighbors" out of everybody God inspires us to help. Only God could dream up that way to get to Heaven; only Pat Parks could put it all together for us; and our mutual gratitude is simply forever.

This Shoeshine Special sports a new format under younger management. How about that as a proof that we are just beginning? There is a real need for Working Boys' Centers or something much like them all over the developing world. So the fun we have had is nothing compared to what's coming. As usual, I'll expect you'll be paying.

John J. Halligan, S.J.

A lifetime of achievement

Padre Juan Halligan famously said "the problem is not that the Working Boys' Center doesn't have enough money. The problem is that the money is in your wallet."

That certainly wasn't the case during Padre Juan Halligan's 80th birthday celebration August 13-15, 2010 in Milwaukee, WI. With over 500 people in attendance, the weekend festivities raised valuable funds for

the Working Boys' Center. The events kicked off the Year of the Padre fundraising campaign in support of day or partial day financial sponsorships to run the WBC. Information on the campaign is available on page 4.

To see photos and videos from the weekend, visit the Working Boys' Center website at www.working-boyscenter.org.

The Party



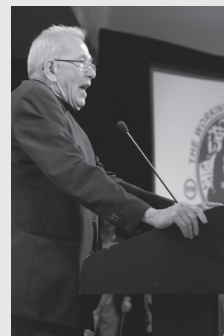
Madre Miguel Conway and former volunteers lead Mass goers in a final song.



Padre visits with WBC friends in attendance at Saturday's dinner at Marquette University.



Ten priests concelebrated Padre Juan's 80th Birthday Mass on August 14, 2010.



Padre Juan Halligan thanks attendees for their support of the Working Boys' Center.



Sister Business



- Lizette and Rubi Alvarez
- 20 and 21 years old
- Graduates of the WBC sewing program, entrepreneurs and university students.
- The sisters plan to grow their business while finishing university studies and serving as WBC volunteer leaders.
- Their parents met at the Working Boys' Center and were wed by Father John Halligan at Center #1 in the Marin.

The Alvarez sisters were born to sew.

Raised in a family of seamstresses, Rubi and Lizzette Alvarez learned early in life to stitch, embroider and sew from their grandmother. Their sewing training began at five years of age when they entered the Working Boys' Center's Girls' Program, an enrichment program training young women how to produce and sell products in a safe environment.

Along with their grandmother, long-time BVM volunteer Sister Katherine Ann Beckman was a key influence on their decision to enter the sewing program in the technical school.

While training at the WBC, both worked in small and large sewing shops during summer vacations, weekends and their capstone internship experience in the last year of their training.

Rubi began in a seven-person shop where she earned \$35 a week making school uniforms for local high schools. Lizzette worked weekends in a 20 person factory making school backpacks for \$10/day.

After graduation with their father's encouragement, Lizzette and Rubi began their own sewing shop in the family's home. Their father took out a micro-loan to purchase two sewing machines since they

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Sewing Program Fast Facts

- The Sewing Program educated 31 teenagers and 10 adults during the last school year.
- Two teachers provide all the sewing instruction. It costs around \$15,000 per year to run the sewing program.
- For just over \$1,000 over the course of three years, a student can earn a technical degree in sewing.

weren't old enough to apply for a line of credit.

They put signs up around their neighborhood and met with local factory owners to pick up surplus sewing business. Because of their solid reputation and consistent results, the clients now come to them. They produce all manner of products ranging from shirts to sheets.

The Alvarez sisters attribute much of their success to the

Working Boys' Center. "The Center is my family and a part of me," said Lizette. "It taught me how to work and support myself for life."

The sisters continue their studies at the university level while managing their business. Their long-term goals include growing the business and eventually employing WBC graduates.

Did You Know?

Career Training

Each June, soon-to-be graduates participate in a five-month trade internship. Currently, 124 students are completing this capstone work experience. Over half of them will stay on as employees at their respective firms after graduation.



Savings Program

In Ecuador working children contribute between 25% - 85% of the family income. Each grade school boy deposits a minimum of \$.75 per week in a savings account held at the WBC. Most earn money shining shoes or selling various items on the streets or buses.



Religious Formation

Spiritual formation is a critical component of the Working Boys' Center. This past academic year, 50 children in the WBC were confirmed in the Catholic faith, 104 children received their first communion, and over 30 baptisms were performed.



Year of the Padre Campaign

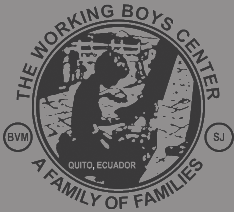


**\$5,000 runs
the WBC for
one day.**

When Padre Juan was asked what he wanted for his 80th birthday present, he stated simply, "I'd like to have every day sponsored for one year." In honor of Padre's birthday, we are kicking off a year-long fundraising campaign called the Year of the Padre. The goal is simple--to have every calendar day sponsored from Padre's birthday, September 23, 2010 to his following birthday September 23, 2011.

**Help us grant Padre's
birthday wish by sponsoring
a day or partial day for the
2010-11 fiscal year.**

As an important member of Padre's Family of Families, the WBC invites you to honor Padre Juan's 80th birthday by sponsoring a day or partial day. Padre has kindly included an envelope in this newsletter to assist you.



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Family Unity International, Inc. is the official 501c3 organization representing the Working Boys' Center. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by the law.

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