

Family Unity International, Inc.
12605 W. North Ave. #130
Brookfield, WI 53005-4629

Center U.S. Development Office
Patricia Jessup, Executive Director
Phone: 414-534-8285
Email: patricia.jessup@workingboyscenter.org

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www.workingboyscenter.org



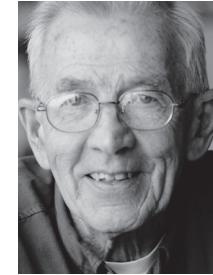
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THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS' CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • Fall 2013

Padre's Message



DEAR FOLKS,

May God's enfolding love keep you confident in all the coming glory and laughing at all the small stuff we have to look beyond.

A new breeze of friendship is mixing all of us up more with each other. Pope Francis reminds us that God doesn't need a quiet sanctuary or more wide open empty space to come live with us. God needs access to people so He can work the crowd, everybody, not any high class few. The Pope seems to want us all to become more wide open to newcomers like a huge welcoming committee discovering more room in our lives as we need it at each encounter. That's what growing "up" means. It's a message worth spreading around.

We had a conference on that with distinguished representatives from all hidden corners in the Working Boys' Center. Delegates had to be

twelve years old or younger. We asked for their own personal nitty gritty plans for when they are grown up, no pious drivel, to make our world even more comfortable for all of us with God enjoying our company. The big get together itself took a lot of effort to arrange. Poor people don't ordinarily dream of or think about future options in life. Survival is the primary concern. But we picked up some ideas and have them in the centerfold. Right below is our biggest international news.

Before that, just a word about a sure fire way to give Lucifer a hot-foot, heartburn, a headache and reason to keep his thugs away from you: send a donation to our address on the back of this Shoeshine Special.

We all talk to God about you at Mass every day.

John J. Halligan, S.J.

John J. Halligan, S.J.

The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round

It didn't take long after Pat Costigan and her team collected and sent the money for our new bus to get the project going. We discovered a couple of new regulations in the course of the adventure but we worked our way through them. Considering the danger of accidents on the road in Ecuador, we were grateful that the chassis had special inspection and approval before the construction of the bus began - even though the news surprised us. Neither were we ready to hear that we couldn't take the bus out of the factory if we didn't register it first. So we were especially happy to know that a "reserve fund" existed to pay those costs.

Now we have our bus and our gratitude goes to all who have participated in this project. Our students now have guaranteed daily transportation after nighttime classes; and the bus will help in the frequent emergencies when public transportation fails us.

Thanks to all of you!



Our "flamante" new Bus

International News Flash:

The Truth Delights and Never Hurts

Father General of the Jesuits dropped in and said there's no shortage of vocations; we all have the same one. August 19th was a day to remember for all of us Jesuits and our friends. Jesuit General, Adolfo Nicolas, came and spent a day with us in Quito. A first class welcome and show of solid support and mutual love was planned and carried off at the Catholic University campus here in Quito. Everybody else outdid everybody else celebrating the event. But he stole the whole show with a half hour chat encouraging us to get the focus off the lamentations and onto the good news that ticks the clock of all Jesuits and friends of Jesuits. He helped us face calmly the solid and happy truth that Jesuit works are only as good as they are, when done by the vastly more numerous non-Jesuits with Ignatian inspiration. Anyway, without discouraging the old idea of promoting Jesuit vocations, he helped everybody rejoice in Ignatius's call to the ladies and gentlemen who energetically run the Jesuit part of the greatest show on earth under God's tent top with so many good numbers like the Working Boys' Center.



Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, S.J. and Father Halligan, S.J.

Growing “Up” with Christ



Arriving for the high level meeting with Padre Juan.

It was more fun than I expected because our youngest kids already have experience of living poor along with their own ideas about it and they were not buying mine. My idea, as I suggested to them, was to create awareness of the options God offers them to help save the world. For our kids who have already lived in various shacks in various neighborhoods because of changes in their parents’ work sites or because of rent costs or payment and non payment of those rent costs, planning a future career of service is a brand new thought process. If they think about life at all, it’s about making it through; not about helping anybody else. Their freedom to think as they want is a great happiness that deserves sharing with you. As far as considering “living life for others” as an option for life, I might just as well have asked them if they plan to live on Venus or Mars or just make a quick shot to the Moon. But they were big hearted about humoring me and trying to contribute ideas. Since the Center has technical training shops for the older kids in various professions right here on the property, they had some clue about how to start thinking about a career.

Diana was surprisingly clear about planning to be a policewoman and a lawyer. Her favorite cousin didn’t steal the stuff; but his own brother who did steal it blamed it on him. The cops had her favorite cousin in jail already; but the family got a good lawyer who dealt with the police who were fair and did justice. So, she knows that with the right preparation one can do a lot of justice as a lawyer or policewoman, at least to her cousin.

Byron Vega got a score of two over ten (“scarcely believable self-centeredness”) on living life for others as Jesus taught. He wants to sell motorcycles and fix them. He’s not just interested in making money for himself. He wants to have a few bikes to call his own and go places fast and give rides to some of his friends. I tried going into his door of selfish ambition to come out with Christian charity to his friends with thrilling fast rides. But when I asked if he would still be a bike peddler if his friends don’t want rides, his yes was loud and clear.



Padre tries to get his point across



Wellington wants to be a fireman? Looks like he’s more interested in soccer!

Wellington Rodriguez wants to be a fireman to put out fires in the neighborhoods and on the mountainsides. I jumped at the inspiration that he wants to risk his life saving others; and I asked if that’s what he’s thinking. He actually said no, he just wants to put out fires; he doesn’t like fires.

Josue Suarez could tell I was desperately seeking some healthy, heroic self-sacrifice in the answers to our survey on ways to save the world with God. So he announced he wants to be a soldier so he can save cities. I know for a fact that he has only seen soldiers shooting canisters of tear gas at rioters. So I didn’t pursue the issue and made a note not to

give him a machine gun for Christmas.

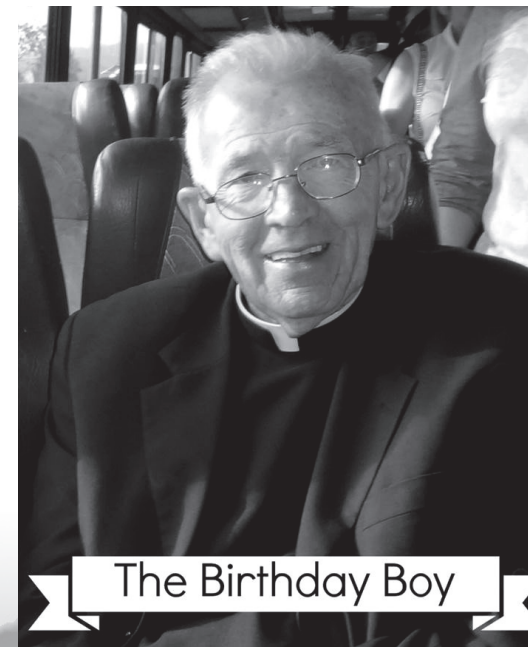
We got back up on the holiness of life scale with Ella Verdesoto who wants to be a nurse because she wants to take care of sick people and cure them. Her parents get sick very often when the nights are cold. They get colds and can’t get out to work and this makes them very sad. Ella knows she could cure them if she became a nurse. Only problem is, I know Ella’s parents are hardly ever sick.

Obviously our kids have shed any mentality of oppressed poor and each of them plans to live a life of his or her own. They are just the crowd Christ will reward you for introducing to Him.



Lollipops are the reward for a work well done.

Happy 83rd Birthday, Padre!



The Birthday Boy

As we celebrate Padre’s 83rd birthday this September, we’d like you to help us recognize Padre’s unceasing dedication to the Center by sending him a birthday present. If you are wondering what to send to him, we can assure you that he would be most grateful for an extra donation to the Center in his honor. He will be sure to put your hard-earned money to work on all of the Center’s family programs!

Thanks in advance for the gifts. We truly appreciate your significant part in this work. May God bless you for your support!