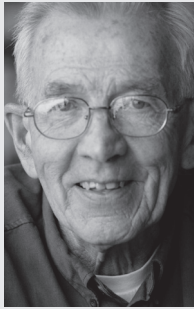


THE SHOESHINE SPECIAL

NEWS FROM THE WORKING BOYS CENTER • QUITO, ECUADOR • SUMMER 2011

Padre's Message



DEAR FOLKS,

The Lord's peace be with you.

We must not give in to a misguided fear of this coming generation's impatience with us. We may not understand them.

But they understand us. So much so, that our kindergarten graduates have decided to "protagonize." That last is a new word they learned and they like to scare with the "agonize" sound. But if you read the pious proclamations

on their breastplates pictured in this issue, you'll see that they are trying to help us. They intend nothing more than to improve the conduct of us older folks.

Anyway, they got me on my feet to trot off and visit the new family in the centerfold about getting with it on the values we should all be practicing. They are good kids. But we had better pay attention to the changes they want to see.

Have a blessed summertime.

John J. Halligan, S.J.

VALUES REVOLUTION STARTS EARLY

The Working Boys' Center kindergarten is on the cutting edge of preparation for the battle of good against evil. You can hear the marching music of onward Christian Soldiers when you look at their pictures. In one picture their brave red shields proclaim they are an elite corps ready for action in the face of challenges on all sides. From the looks of it, one woman for every two men is the new take on what it takes. She takes center stage and says: "Show your stuff. Practice the values you learned in pre-school." The stalwart guy on the left says: "Stomp! Don't step through the obstacles." The round-shouldered power plug on the other side of her says: "Friends united build all of it right." In the other picture, the whole graduating class gathers for one last picture of their whole force.



30 kindergarten students proudly display their graduation gowns at the latest Working Boys' Center graduation.



Kindergarten students, Adolfo, Jessica and Tomas, demonstrate their love of good values at this year's graduation ceremony.

YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO LOVE AS GOD LOVES

The Burbano-Rosendo Family

It was an engineered “chance” encounter with a new family reported to be on the verge of quitting the Center because of its heavy obligations. As expected, on the corner of 12th of October Street and Columbus Avenue in midtown Quito, I spotted Xavier Burbano and Marlene Rosendo with their five kids, Erik 10, Paola 8, Matthew 6, Nicole 3, and Camile 9 months. Except for the tiniest, they were all hard at work, selling newspapers and five cent candies, washing and minding parked cars, dodging other cars and watching out for the two youngest.



Alex, Mateo Camila, Paola and family friend, Jenny, share hugs with their father Xavier.



Father John Halligan meets with the Burbano-Rosendo family on the street corner where the family sells newspapers.

I decided the family’s miniature business center was a sad scene. The traffic was heavy and threatening their lives. Even the cold rain was unkind. Rivulets of water, trying to wet the newspapers

were snaking under the piece of plastic covering. In my clouded view, the burden of all of this on a daily basis is too much for any poor soul to handle. But the meeting and greeting blew away my self-serving sorrow and helped me share, once again, our Creator’s joy and laughter in making salvation history connections between the Working Boys’ Center and a family like this. When I said I had come to visit with them, their happiness was so effusive, I felt as welcome as a huge pitcher of hot cocoa with cups and delicious sandwiches.



They were overcome with the realization that we want them in our lives.

Paola spends time with a couple of good WBC friends.

They all talk in shouts, greeting, selling, joking, accusing and defending, all at once, each one not listening to what the others are saying. They miraculously keep each other alive alongside speeding traffic while nobody obeys anybody. The kids swipe, chase, tackle, pound and keep laughing to show they don’t mean any of it. There’s not the slightest doubt about how intense is their instinctive love for each other. But their exaggerated enjoyment of each other’s wild antics and their transparent lack of self-esteem shows their desperation and their wordless cry for help, caught in the trap of a whole family without a clue about God



Nicole is ready to give her carrot to the Easter Bunny.

and why they are here on the corner. It turns out that they were never thinking of leaving the Center. They had only expressed worry about being rejected for not wanting to do any of the things we insist on to better their life style. So the visit turned into a street corner pact of love that will never reject and will keep helping them accept the need for changes. Each day in

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the Working Boys' Center with a lot of other families they'll do a little dying and burying bad habits and rising to Christ's values, making His day.

There are stones that have to be rolled away for them to come out of their slow death. The biggest one of all is their own history of survival without order of any kind. They know they can get along like vagrants,

without any of us, if that's the way we want it. But we can't, for all that vision of God's providence over them so far, just leave them out there alone in the world. The devil's wandering around out there devouring such unprepared parents and hard working kids.



Camila enjoys a joy ride on one of the WBC toys.

REMEMBERING SISTER KATHERINE ANN

Long-time WBC supporter passes away in April

The Working Boys' Center - A Family of Families has a special place in every heart for Sister Katherine Ann. She entertained us constantly with her concern for being able to raise money for us. She was famous for giving Padre Juan a check on Monday and needing money on Tuesday.

She loved the volunteers. She insisted that they wanted her to make regular visits to the casinos here in Quito although she wasn't all that interested in gambling herself. Nevertheless, she was gracious enough to accompany them and give them good counsel about how to spend their money wisely.

When Sister Katherine suffered a minor stroke and was taken to the hospital while at the Center, the volunteers went each day to visit her and entertain her with their antics. The doctors observed that the volunteers helped achieve her prompt recovery.

She loved the people, and they still miss Sister Katherine. They inquire about her regularly and wonder if she is ever coming back. She had an impact on their lives that no one else could match. That is interesting in view of the fact that, as she herself said, "I can't hear in either language!" She taught them to sew, to be careful of how they did it, and not to waste

time or materials!

Sister Katherine loved the Center with her whole heart and would do anything she could to help keep it afloat. And she loved us. She helped us enjoy life in so many ways that we would never have been able to do without her. What a beloved sister! Go with God, Sister Katherine Ann. We all hope to see you in paradise putting in the good word for us with God.



Long-time WBC teacher and BVM Sister Katherine Ann Beckman, BVM, 86, died April 13, 2011, in Dubuque, Iowa. Visit the WBC's website at www.workingboyscenter.org/news for more on Sister Katherine Ann's life of service.

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Help us transform lives from poverty to prosperity by making a donation today.

www.workingboyscenter.org/make-a-donation



Help ensure the future of the Working Boys' Center

Visit Our New Estate and Planned Gifts Website

The Working Boys' Center is proud to unveil its new planned giving website. This comprehensive site will allow you to learn the advantages of creating a will; discover gifts that will pay you income for life, and read stories about creative planned giving options. Visit us at:

www.workingboyscenter.org/giving

This dynamic new site also includes:

- New articles posted each month on how to make the most of your charitable giving.
- A personal calculator for running sample gift illustrations which determines your benefits and the best gift scenario for you.
- Accessible, timely information on how and what you might give based on your stage in life.
- A glossary of planned giving terms for a better understanding of unfamiliar materials.



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