



Oct 22, 2019 Weekly Report from Oblate Youth Ministry in Tijuana.



In another newsletter, we profiled the story of Emily, who died in January of this year. She was 12, and had Down Syndrome. This occurred at a time when Fr. Jesse and Richard (co-author) were both not here. So it fell on David (the other co-author), to try to help. We had been helping this family for several months with anything that could assist the family with medical and household needs for Emily. Then one day the mother contacted David informing him that Emily was in the hospital dying, and that they needed \$5000 pesos for the hospital to continue treatment. David was able to find a US donor, which he had never done before, and brought them the money. As she was treated further, there was some hope. Then we were contacted that they needed

blood donors. So several of the youth group rushed to donate blood. However, Emily died a few days later. We were able to help with funeral expenses. Fast forward to this last week, we revisited the family for the first time in months. We learned that on the day of the funeral, the lights that encircled the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe in their home that had not worked for many months, started working. The mother said their family was doing fine, but she wanted to take us to visit a man she has been helping and would like us to help. He is a neighbor that requires dialysis treatment three times a week. So we now have another person to visit. Upon returning, we asked about a new tattoo on the mother's arm that said "Emilia". She went to tears immediately, so we just hugged her and told her how much we loved Emily. Saul, Emily's older brother, has been recently coming to the youth group meetings, and is slowly becoming integrated.



Emily's mother is shown to the left holding her youngest daughter. To the right is the family tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Our roofing projects have started up again, thanks to a donation for that cause. So since we had some visitors from our sister parish in Minnesota, we put them to work. The family receiving the roof told us their story of coming to Tijuana some years ago, in response to what turned out to be a scam. With the promise of a job, they arrived. The perpetrator of the scam, locked them in a house, and in exchange for the father working, a small portion of food and a few diapers was given daily to the mother and baby. One day, the door was left unlocked, and they were able to escape. Eventually, they made their own way, went on to

have two more daughters (shown above), and bought a piece of land, where they built their own home, from make-shift materials.



Memo, Antonio, and Alan, all from our youth group, are our main roof-builders. To the right, Fr Jesse, OMI youth group leader, lends a hand.



The group from Minnesota helped us hand out the final group of scholarships for the fall semester this week. Shown here is Luis Herrera receiving his scholarship, which was made possible by his donors, John and Anne Payne. Luis is studying psychology, is one of the youth group leaders, and directs the SEARCH retreats.