



Jan 21, 2020 Weekly Report from Oblate Youth Ministry in Tijuana.

This last week we met a new person to help. His name is Leonardo and he is 61 years old. He has diabetes, and one foot is in really bad condition. We were joined by one of our youth's mother, who is a nurse. She says he may lose his foot soon if it is not treated. He also has an injury in that foot from stepping on a nail 8 months ago. That wound has never healed. Our nurse treated the wound, but wants to return again. Such a visit to the doctor would cost Leonardo \$45 US, which is a lot for him, and that doesn't count any supplies that are needed. We had received a donation of medical supplies from our friends in Malibu, California, so we were able to give him several things for keeping his foot clean.



Leonardo has a wife and a 10 year old daughter. He mentioned that he used to belong to a Catholic youth group also and admires the work we are doing. His daughter says she is already thinking about becoming a nurse, so that she can help her family. Who knows, maybe we will be helping her with a scholarship one day.



We are blessed to have a resident psychologist working at the youth center. His name is Eduardo and he is 30 years old. He gives one-on-one sessions to troubled youth and adults. Sometimes Father Jesse, one of our Oblate priests, refers someone after confession to talk with Eduardo. Eduardo also gives talks to groups on subjects such as abuse, alcoholism, mental disorders, and parenting. He recently gave a talk to about 25 parents of special needs children. He started with the basic advise of telling the parents to order the child's day very consistently, not to give them too many options, to be firm, to emphasize the positive, to explain things, and to always control their emotions. After the parents broke into groups and discussed various questions about challenges and blessings, he further explained; be patient, obtain information about your child's condition, define your expectations, use rewards and consequences, use simple and clear instructions, establish a routine, believe in your child, and be confident in your capabilities. He mentioned that this advise is not much different than for raising any child, but these things need to be remembered day to day when raising a special needs child.



Eduardo's salary is modest and it is supported by donations from the US, including partially from a sister parish in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His wife, Adriana, and him are products of the youth group. She was a teacher until the youth center hired her to administrate the scholarship, immigrant, and the special needs school programs. They have two children. The oldest is 5 and is taking Taekwondo at the youth center.



Here Paulina and Erik are shown attending the talk mentioned. Paulina is also studying psychology, helped by a scholarship from her donors, Tony & Cindy Dorn. She is in her last year. Maybe we will have another psychologist working here next year.