



November 2018

St John's Mission, Peace, and Justice Society

Volume 1, Issue 3



### Upcoming Events:

- ~~Clothes Drive:~~  
~~Oct. 19th~~
- Adopt a Family:  
Dec 2018
- Blood Drive: Dec  
5th, 8-1 PM
- Talent Show &  
Auction: Mar 1,  
2019

### MPJ Team

- Enrique Piceno
- Emmanuel Delfin
- Brian Lazaro
- Jorge Tellez
- Simon Li
- Jorge Moncada  
Hernandez
- Christian  
Morquecho

### Almost Over

The semester is coming to an end, but this does not mean that we're done with events. Your class should be in the works getting gifts for the Adopt A Family Program. You MPJ Class Rep has all the details. Out semester Blood Drive is about two weeks away. If you have not signed up I urge you to do so. There is a shortage of blood locally due to the shooting in Thousand Oaks as well as the fires in the area (people unable to volunteer). Walk-In times will be available for those that want to do it last minute. For this month's article we turn to Brian Lazaro and his experience in ministry.

There will not be a December newsletter due to short time we are here. We'll pick up again in January 2019. ~Enrique Piceno, MPJ Lead~

### My Ministry Journey

By Brian Lazaro

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?" – Psalm 27:1*



During my internship year at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Downey, I've experienced many conversions in my life. I would like to share one of them. Back in January of this year, Msgr. Lorenzo Miranda and I drove to PIH Health in Downey to do a sick call. Sandra was in the intensive care unit that had a recent stroke. Family members surrounded her, weeping. I remember seeing Sandra "all wired up" from top to bottom, sleeping.

As we approached Sandra, her daughter said to Monsignor, "Ay muchas gracias por venir Monsignor. Tenemos miedo. Ayudanos"! Monsignor responded, "Okay hija. No pienses nada. Dios esta con nosotros especialmente con ella". Monsignor then began to anoint her on the forehead and her hands with the oil of the sick. As Monsignor prayed over Sandra after the anointing, I remember observing the patient monitor, which was attached to Sandra, beeping faster and faster as she was sleeping. Then I realized the Holy Spirit was there that very morning, causing me to shed tears not only for the family but for myself as well.

It's through our darkest moments when God's presence is there and will always be made present. If we want to see God more clearly aside from the sacraments, confront your own fears and he will be there. He is the only one that can give us peace. Ultimately we will be able to see our own lives as an additional "commentary" on the four Gospels.



“Man is himself the author, center, and goal of all economic and social life. The decisive point of the social question is that goods created by God for everyone should in fact reach everyone in accordance with justice and with the help of charity.” CCC 2459

### Ministry Journey Continued...



I was sent to be a chaplain for the Santa Barbara County Jail from Aug 2016 – Dec 2016, as part of my Field Ed here at St. John’s. I recall engaging in conversations with men and women who are in jail for various reasons, performing communion services, and leading Bible studies. My favorite moment during my time at Santa Barbara was my interaction with David.

It happened on the last day of Field Ed and we were talking about clothes in general. He complimented my dark blue cardigan and explained how he owned various cardigans while on the “outside”. For some reason, I felt the Holy Spirit telling me, “let him wear it”. Immediately, I took off my cardigan and asked him, “would you like to wear it?” He didn’t respond but he took it and

began putting it on. As he was wearing it, I remember him crying gently as other inmates observed him.

Keep in mind, inmates wear the same pattern of clothing. For David, wearing clothing outside the jail was something “refreshing”. As future priests on “mission”, we are called by Jesus to “make the first move” and meet people where they are at. We don’t wait for them. They are waiting for us. We as future priests need to go out and remind the people that God has clothed them with his Son, Jesus.



Lastly, my class and I gift wrapped here at the seminary for this year’s Adopt a Family at the Cathedral on the 1st of November. We were able to buy and gift wrap the gifts for the Martinez Family, who were living near the Downtown Los Angeles area. Reflecting on my experience, I was reminded of how much we have been blessed by God. We have room to stay, food to eat, water to clean, as well as each other to grow on becoming apostles. This family that we served reminded me and I’m sure for my class on the importance of justice in our priestly ministry. Justice as giving as a class, an impoverished family once again their dignity restored. That this one family despite their situation is to be treated fairly because they constitute the image of Jesus himself. We recognized their dignity by giving them things that will help them become disciples. Whether its new clothes, new baseball cleats, or new bed sheets, all of these will help them remember that God continues to be in their lives and that God never abandons his people. All we have to do is surrender and ask help from our brothers and sisters. When we help each other, we are able to see the pres-

ence of Jesus ever more clearly than before.