

DECEMBER 2009

How about an outline of what happened at the Hogar last December? So much happened and the children were super joyful, thanks to all of you! The photographs will tell you more than these words.



Pittsburgh Team arrived for one week, Father John Chakos was the leader and celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Saint Nicholas. The baptism of Mattia Nikolai was celebrated (his mom is Serbian and his dad works for the UN in the country). The team visited the Monastery and went to Antigua. So many donations were brought by them, THEOS students send beautiful clothes for the teenagers. Jenny gave two workshops on face cleaning. The Divine Liturgy was also celebrated for Saint Anne. Another highlight was a trip to the Pacific Ocean, where the team invited some of the teenagers to enjoy!



Luces Campero, magnificent firelights were observed from uncle Ricky's apartment, his friends treated the children to pizza and coke! The girls were excited using their new cameras, another treat from Mr. Russell.



We celebrated Tere's 50th birthday! She is the boss at the kitchen. A delicious cake was made at the Hogar to celebrate with her. May God grant her many blessed years!





Vine International, through Dennis and Cindy McCutcheon were very kind to donate us some wheel chairs, walkers, and crutches, and many medicines for children and adults.



A Christmas parade was seen by the children on the nice streets of the city, on Sunday 13th. Many bands performed.



Our young men from Rio Dulce (AkTenamit) arrived to stay at the Monastery for the month. They participated in most of the events at the Hogar.



Fiesta Tefel! Magnificent as always. Santa Claus brought presents to each child and a nice lunch. We missed Maria Eugenia who was taking care of her sick mother, who later on departed to our Lord. Memory eternal! And many thanks for the Tefel Foundation being so special to us here.



Fr. Nicholas Solak from Pennsylvania arrived for a few days and celebrated the Liturgy for the Sunday before Nativity.



The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, Maryland, through Archimandrite Dean Moralis donated a beautiful playground for the children. Initially it was taken to the Monastery, but since we are still going to be in downtown for many months, it was installed in front of the comedor at the Hogar. The children are delighted with it. We thank everyone who made this donation possible.



The traditional Posadas started on the 16th and went through until the 23rd. The procession was carried throughout the Hogar and a snack was served each day!



Fiesta Fonseca and Guatevision (television) took place on the 17th. They filmed all the party. There were piñatas, candies, and Dr. Demo (a dear friend, Julián Amorín who is a great chemist gave a show where everyone was delighted and learned a whole lot about Chemistry and Physics!). Snack with lots of food and lots of donations (beans, rice, etc.). They gave presents to all of the children. We deeply thank them.



Seño Mirna retired from work in our school after eight years, and she wanted everyone to enjoy the evening with a beautiful string concert. Our music teacher, Seño Rosa, played the piano and sung. It was so beautiful. Vanessa, who was adopted by a Guatemalan family, came that day. We wished the best to Seño

The González Family came and gave beautiful presents to the children.

The Montano Family also came to give beautiful presents to the children.



Annie Hope from Australia came to be among us for two weeks. She brought beautiful presentations from her country and nice tshirts and candies for all the children. It was great to have both Annie and Jody Adams from Minnesota, sharing all these events!



Father Matthias Moriak arrived on time to participate of the party given to the staff. The children presented their yolka (Nativity presentation), played their instruments, and served a typical Guatemalan brunch to the staff. Mother Ines gave them some words about the meaning of Nativity and liberty, and they all received some presents for their families. Many years to all of the people in our staff!



Uncle Ricky Sommerkamp gave a nice breakfast party with some of his friends at work like Juan Pablo Valenzuela, who is one of our great supporters, and the Arenales family. They brought McDonalds happy meals for everyone.



Father Matthias celebrated the Royal Hours and the Vespers Liturgy of Saint Basil, later on we celebrated Great Compline with Lytia and Matins. This special midnight was full of joy with many firelights in all the streets of the city. Everyone was hugging Father, the nuns, and each other! A typical Guatemalan breakfast was served at 1 am.



The Akathist to Emmanuel was prayed on Nativity, followed by the Divine Liturgy. A great lunch was served afterwards. Many family members of the nuns and friends came to the Liturgy and to the lunch. Afterwards, Santa Claus came to town to give a bag of presents to each child. Saul Martínez took the beautiful photographs of the children receiving their presents. We thank all the missionaries who brought donations in 2009, since these were the presents contained in each bag!



On the Sunday after the Nativity, Father Matthias celebrated the Divine Liturgy. We humbly thank the parish of Saint Gregory for allowing their priest to come and serve all of us here at the Hogar. He

Jody invited the teenagers to the movies (Alvin and the Chipmunks) and to lunch. Thank you!

- December 31st. Believe it or not! A quiet day at the Hogar. At 8 pm we celebrated our Gala Dinner, we thank George ... from Holy Trinity in Wisconsin for supporting us! They all watched a movie and waited until midnight to see the firelights and hug each other.

May 2010 be a blessed and peaceful year, full of the Holy Spirit to all of our beloved friends, donors, volunteers, and missionaries. Without you, 2009 would have not been as special and blessed as it was. Many years to all of you!!!