

# SAN DIEGO CATHOLIC WORKER



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## Poli Sci students learn fundraising and donate food to people in need

*The following was adapted from a news report by Kristen Lowe that appeared on the SDSU Internet News Site.*

Never judge a congressman until you walk a mile in his shoes—a lesson learned well by San Diego State University political science students.

In political science Professor James T. Smith's course, The Legislative Process, students are required to walk more than just a mile; they walk an entire semester in a congressional representative's shoes. But, instead of raising funds, they collect food donations. Known as the "congressional simulation project," this assignment goes beyond the textbook and directly into the lives of members of the U.S. Congress.

### Fundraising like a pro

Choosing a member of the House of Representatives and portraying that member in floor speeches, committees and marking up legislation was the easy part, participants said. The true challenge was fundraising like a congressional representative, a task designed to correctly understand the pressures and responsibilities of holding an elected position. However, unlike political fundraising campaigns, the students would be collecting paper and food items to benefit a local soup kitchen.

"My first thought was, 'Wow! I don't think I can fundraise that fast,'" said political

*See SDSU, page 4*



## Future House of Hospitality

The Catholic Worker House of Hospitality in San Diego is getting closer to becoming a reality every day.

A house has been rented and workers, some paid and some volunteers, are putting it in order.

The house—2428 L Street—has one large kitchen, a good sized entrance and living room, and three bedrooms, two downstairs, and another large one upstairs, and two bathrooms. The kitchen and the bathrooms are being worked on.

A notice inviting people with Catholic Worker experience to come and live in the house was posted on the worldwide Internet list-serve that is serviced by the Des Moines, Iowa, Catholic Worker. The response has been slow, but we were given suggestions as to how we might go about advertising our needs via other contacts.

The decision to open a House of Hos-

pitality in San Diego was taken in August. The house will become the focal point of all Catholic Worker activities in the city. It will also provide opportunities for the regular stream of requests we get from people who want to serve the poor. Two or three people will live in the house as a core community working in conjunction with the larger San Diego Catholic Worker group.

Just as every one of the 188 Catholic Worker groups throughout the world is different from the others, so the San Diego House of Hospitality will reflect the unique spirit of San Diego and be a service to people in need. We will get to know our neighbors and assure them that we will be the very best of neighbors doing our best to be a genuine support of the neighborhood and the people living in it.

The house will be a place where hospitality is practiced. Everybody will feel welcomed and embraced. There is no set plan for the house; it will grow in response to the needs of the people in the area and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Whereas the house has been made possible by the owner giving us a generous break on the rent and the contribution of our benefactors, it will put a strain on our regular finances. Help will be greatly appreciated, most especially though in the form of prayers for the success of this venture.

## Mother in tears teaches message of Thanksgiving

By Fr. Gil Gentile

*Fr. Gil is spiritual director of the San Diego Catholic Worker*

On Thanksgiving I traveled across the border to the Casa de los Pobres as I do every Thursday for Mass. Of course in Mexico it was not Thanksgiving Day and in our bustling sister city of Tijuana it's more or less a case of business as usual except at the Casa, where, because of all of their connections to the United States, and through the generosity of so many north of the border, they were preparing a turkey dinner for their guests.

The Mass was rescheduled from 7 to 6:30 a.m., to accommodate a busy schedule that I had on Thanksgiving morning. I wondered as I arrived at the Casa if there would be very many people at the Mass due to the change in the Mass time. I should have remembered from previous years when we made a similar change that the chapel would be full. And so it was.

### Mass intention

As I entered the chapel to the singing of the hymn, "We come to your altar, O Lord, to sing to you and to praise you because you are the joy of our hearts," I noticed on the altar a scrap of paper that had written on it the following message in Spanish: "I offer this Mass as a thanksgiving for all of the blessings which God my Father has blessed me through all of the good people and very especially through Sister Magui, Sister Armida and Sister Maru, and for all of the other sisters. May God continue to bless them in abundance." It was signed, "Guadalupe Mendez." At that moment I didn't know who Guadalupe was but during the prayer of the faithful I made sure to mention her petition.

After Mass, I showed the slip of paper to Sister Armida who seemed very touched by the words of this woman Guadalupe Mendez. I realized why when she explained that "Lupita" was the mother of 2 profoundly handicapped children, a son and a daughter now in their forties, who could neither hear, nor see, nor speak nor walk. Her son, José, had died the previous week and his mother, "Lupita," as Sister Armida called her, was very sad and she had come to the Casa for consolation. Sister Armida said to me, "Imagine, Padre, taking care of those two children—all of their needs—for more than forty years. That is what she did and with such compassion and deep love."

### Mother in tears

A little while later, after exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, I was in the sacristy taking off my vestments when Sr. Armida appeared with a woman in tow whom I recognized as a woman that I had seen for many years at that early Thursday morning Mass. The woman was crying and I realized suddenly and quite clearly that I knew her name. It was Guadalupe Mendez. She thanked me for mentioning her petition and she asked me to pray for her because she had "such an emptiness in her heart" after José's death—or, "Josesito", her "little José" as she called him. She wept as only a mother who has sacrificed everything for her child weeps when

*See Thanksgiving, page 4*

## A Message for Christmas

*What we would like to do is change the world, make it a*

*little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter*

*themselves as God intended them to do.*

*And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out un-*

*ceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor,*

*of the destitute, the rights of the worthy and the unworthy*

*poor, we can, to a certain extent, change the world;*

*we can work for the oasis, the little cell*

*of joy and peace in a harried world.*

*We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident*

*that its ever widening circle will reach around the world.*

*We repeat, there is nothing we can do but love,*

*and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts*

*to love each other, to love our neighbor,*

*to love our enemy as our friend.*

*—Dorothy Day*

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## From the Writings of Dorothy Day

### *The Use of Atomic Bombs Condemned*



Mr. Truman was jubilant. President Truman. True man; what a strange name, come to think of it. We refer to Jesus Christ as true God and true Man. Truman is a true man of his time in that he was jubilant. He was not a son of God, brother of Christ, brother of the Japanese, jubilating as he did. He went from table to table on the cruiser which was bringing him home from the Big Three conference, telling the great news; "jubilant" the newspapers said. Jubilate Deo. We have killed 318,000 Japanese.

That is, we hope we have killed them, the Associated Press, on page one, column one of the Herald Tribune, says. The effect is hoped for, not known. It is to be hoped they are vaporized, our Japanese brothers—scattered, men, women and babies, to the four winds, over the seven seas. Perhaps we will breathe their dust into our nostrils, feel them in the fog of New York on our faces, feel them in the rain on the hills of Easton.

#### **President jubilant**

Jubilate Deo. President Truman was jubilant. We have created. We have created destruction. We have created a new element, called Pluto. Nature had nothing to do with it.

Created to Destroy "A cavern below Columbia was the bomb's cradle," born not that men might live, but that men might be killed. Brought into being in a cavern, and then tried in a desert place, in the midst of tempest and lightning, tried out, and then again on the eve of the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ, on a far-off island in the Eastern Hemisphere, tried out again, this "new weapon which conceivably might wipe out mankind, and perhaps the planet itself."

"Dropped on a town, one bomb would be equivalent to a severe earthquake and would utterly destroy the place. A scientific brain trust has solved the problem of how to confine and release almost unlimited energy. It is impossible yet to measure its effects."

"We have spent two billion on the greatest scientific gamble in history and won," said President Truman jubilantly.

The papers list the scientists (the murderers) who are credited with perfecting this new weapon. One outstanding authority "who earlier had developed a powerful electrical bombardment machine called the cyclotron, was Professor O. E. Lawrence, a Nobel Prize winner of the University of California. In the heat of the race to unlock the atom, he built the world's most powerful atom smashing gun, a machine whose electrical projectiles carried charges equivalent to 25,000,000 volts. But such machines were found in the end to be unnecessary. The atom of Uranium-235 was smashed with surprising ease. Science discovered that not sledgehammer blows, but subtle taps from slow traveling neutrons managed more on a tuning technique were all that were needed to disintegrate the Uranium-235 atom."

(Remember the tales we used to hear, that one note of a violin, if that note could be discovered, could collapse the Empire State Building. Remember too, that God's voice was heard not in the great and strong wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but "in the whistling of a gentle air.")

#### **Credit spread around**

Scientists, army officers, great universities (Notre Dame included), and captains of industry—all are given credit lines in the press for their work of preparing the bomb—and other bombs, the President assures us, are in production now.

Great Britain controls the supply of uranium ore, in Canada and Rhodesia. We are making the bombs.

**Continued in next column**

## How to start a Catholic Worker House and why you should contemplate doing so

*Extracts from a much longer meditation composed by Robert Waldrop from the Oscar Romero Catholic Worker house, Oklahoma City, May 15, 2003.*

We start small or we don't start at all.

Everyone reading this has something they are called to do to build the sustainable and just civilization of life and love which is our rightful inheritance. And I believe that there are many people out there with vocations to start Catholic Worker houses, hundreds certainly, maybe thousands. To them I say, Procrastination is a deadly demonic enemy. We are all wounded, we all have feet of clay, none of us are worthy. Our wisdom is really foolishness, but when one sees what the world accounts as wise, it is better to be a fool, and in such foolishness of the cross is true wisdom. "Only say the word, and we shall be healed."

There is no end to the possibilities of what can happen with God. Never think that you are alone, because you aren't. You are surrounded by the love and grace of God and the protection and intercession of the Communion of Saints. All of those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith are still here for us, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin and Ade Bethune and Ammon Hennacy, Stanley Rother and Oscar Romero, they all walk with us every day, through every valley and over every mountain. They do not forget us in this and any other hour of our great need.

#### **Keep an open mind**

If you don't know what work you should do, then open your eyes, ears, and heart and see what needs to be done that is at hand, and then begin to do it, whatever it may be. Invite others to help. Feed the hungry, visit the sick, start a Catholic Worker house, plant a garden, pick up trash in a public place, just get up out of your comfort and do something beautiful for God wherever it is you are. Often. As in habitually. If you don't know any poor people, don't worry, if you start a Catholic Worker house, the poor will find you, and you will find the poor. You don't have to live in a poor neighborhood to be a Catholic Worker house; Dorothy and Peter taught that the Catholic Worker charism is also to bring the poor and the non poor together; the rich are God's children too, they need salvation; often, they need help to help the poor.

Keep doing goodness, beauty, wisdom, joy, justice and love, and eventually you will get good at all of them, and in the meantime you'll be getting better all the time and that helps. And every time you do goodness, beauty, wisdom, joy, justice, and love, you plant, nurture, cultivate, and propagate the just and sustainable civilization of love with which we shall replace this imperial culture of death that afflicts the world so sorrowfully and is creating so many tragedies and so much evil.

#### **Be ready to learn from the poor**

Know from the very beginning that you are here to learn from the poor. The poor are not an other or stranger, the poor are companions in the journey, we are all in this together, drawn together by solidarity and love.

That's what Catholic Workers do. Every house is different and yet we are the same. We're all doing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, justice, and peace, creating new

structures of goodness, beauty, and wisdom in the midst of the collapsing ruins of the culture of death, living in solidarity, companionship, and accompaniment with and of the poor. We are frugal with our resources, just in our dealings with others, conscious of the need for people to joyfully model the civilization of life and love so that others can learn to do likewise. We are personalists, we believe in taking personal responsibility for these things. We are communities, that is to say, voluntary extended families, typically with a rather variegated tapestry.

#### **Don't worry about money**

Take no thought about how much money it is going to cost, and where the money and other resources will come from, or how much hassle it will be (the answer to that last is: "a lot" so just expect that from the beginning and you'll do fine.). It doesn't cost anything to begin doing good, and you should never hesitate from doing something good like opening a Catholic Worker house because you think you don't or won't have enough money. Evangelical poverty is a Catholic Worker virtue, and I think the experience of all the houses has generally been that God and St. Joseph and St. Therese the Little Flower and often St. Jude do provide, and sometimes in surprising and unexpected ways.

Don't think you have to do everything, and don't try. Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. If you have food for five people, give it to five people and thank God for the grace and blessing. If you have food for fifty people, give it to fifty people and thank God for the grace and blessing. If you have food for five, and fifty ask for food, feed the five, pray with the 45, and then work to create a situation where there will be food for fifty.

Be opportunists for God. Don't go around with blinders and earphones, be spiritually open to and aware of what is going on around you and willing to accept responsibility in the situations that God will certainly send your way. But don't spread yourself so thin that you aren't doing anybody any good. You can't do everything and you shouldn't try, but everybody can do something.

#### **Again, start small**

Start small or you won't start at all. By yourself, your household and family, or in community with several others in your area, whatever your situation is, select a name for your house and begin to pray and work and discern the path you should follow. If you don't have a plan other than, "We are the St. Augustine of God Catholic Worker House," that's a fine plan. Make a sign with your computer printer and put it on your front door, send a letter to your pastor and tell him that on such and such a day you opened the St. Augustine of God Catholic Worker House and see what happens. Dorothy and Peter started with a newspaper, their example is good for all of us. So if you right away start a newsletter or newspaper, which you could do very inexpensively using word processing/desktop publishing, then you have not only a Catholic Worker House, but also a Catholic Worker newspaper.

## The bomb condemned

This new great force will be used for good, the scientists assured us. And then they wiped out a city of 318,000. This was good. The President was jubilant.

Today's paper with its columns of description of the new era, the atomic era, which this colossal slaughter of the innocents has ushered in, is filled with stories covering every conceivable phase of the new discovery. Pictures of the towns and the industrial plants where the parts are made are spread across the pages. In the forefront of the town of Oak Ridge, Tennessee is a chapel, a large comfortable-looking chapel benignly settled beside the plant. And the scientists making the first tests in the desert prayed, one newspaper account said.

God, Our Creator Yes, God is still in the picture. God is not mocked. Today, the day of this so great news, God made a madman dance and talk, who had not spoken for twenty years. God sent a typhoon to damage the carrier Hornet. God permitted a fog to obscure vision and a bomber crashed into the Empire State Building. God permits these things. We have to remember it. We are held in God's hands, all of us, and President Truman too, and these scientists who have created death, but will use it for good. He, God, holds our life and our happiness, our sanity and our health; our lives are in His hands. He is our Creator. Creator.

And as I write, Pigsie, who works in Secaucus, New Jersey, feeding hogs, and cleaning out the excrement of the hogs, who comes in once a month to find beauty and sur-

cease and glamour and glory in the drink of the Bowery, trying to drive the hell and the smell out of his nostrils and his life, sleeps on our doorstep, in this best and most advanced and progressive of all possible worlds. And as I write, our cat, Rainbow, slinks by with a shrill rat in her jaws, out of the kitchen closet here at Mott Street. Here in this greatest of cities which covered the cavern where this stupendous discovery was made, which institutes an era of unbelievable richness and power and glory for man?

Everyone says, "I wonder what the Pope thinks of it?" How everyone turns to the Vatican for judgement, even though they do not seem to listen to the voice there! But our Lord Himself has already pronounced judgment on the atomic bomb. When James and John (John the beloved) wished to call down fire from heaven on their enemies, Jesus said:

"You know not of what spirit you are. The Son of Man came not to destroy souls but to save." He said also, "What you do unto the least of these my brethren, you do unto me."

*This statement written by Dorothy Day in the wake of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, was published in the December 1945 issue of the Catholic Worker. More Dorothy Day writings can be found at:*

<http://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/>

## Annual Dinner and Auction

# Not a record turnout but a great group renewed friendships, had fun and ate well

Not quite as many people as usual turned out for our Annual Gourmet Meatball and Spaghetti Dinner and Auction, but those who did come had as much good food and fun as ever.

The spaghetti and meatballs were delicious; the service was terrific; and fantastic bargains were to be had at the auction.

The auction and dinner, the main fund raiser for the San Diego Catholic Worker, was a huge success in terms of camaraderie and enjoyment.

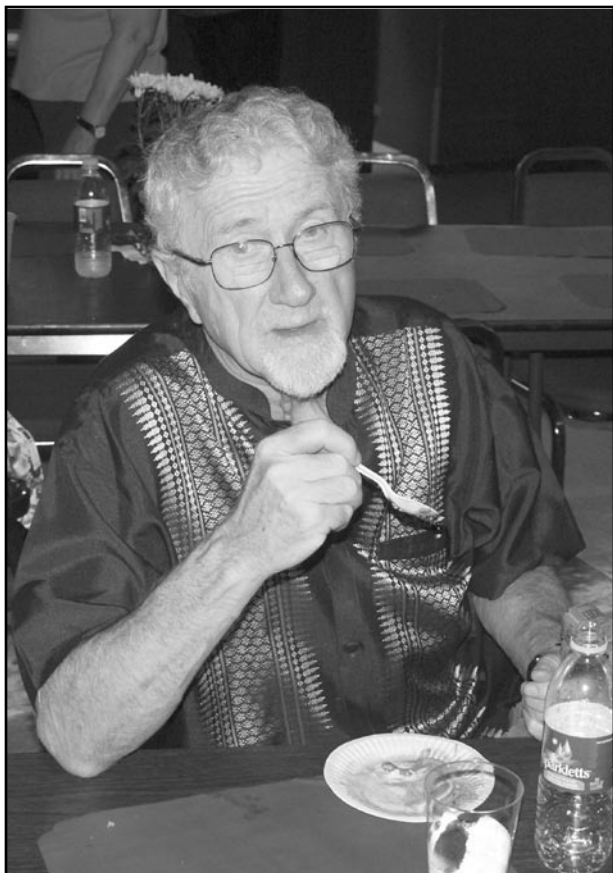
So many friends—young and old—take this as an annual opportunity to renew their friendships and bring each other up to date on the events of their lives.

The amount raised was not quite as much as usual, but that is a common complaint of most charities in these uncertain times, and we are genuinely grateful to all who came and spent money.

While it would not be possible to list the names of everybody who made the evening such a success, we list here the donors of items that were auctioned. We are grateful for their support and for the people who worked so hard in the kitchen, beginning Friday afternoon, those who prepared the hall, and those who cleaned up afterwards.

*Anthony's Grotto*  
*Bali Hai Restaurant.*  
*Anne Bethel*  
*Buick Golf Tournament*  
*Bully's Restaurant*  
*Barbara Cameron*  
*Clairemont Surf Shop*  
*Del Mar Race Track*  
*Disneyland*  
*Tina Di Stefano*  
*European Cake Gallery*  
*Gary Gilmore Jewelry*  
*H&M Landing*  
*Harper Hathaway*  
*Fr. Ronald Hebert*  
*Maria Heimpel*  
*In-N-Out Burgers*  
*Jack & Guilo's Italian Old Town*

*Mary Johnson*  
*A.K. Jones*  
*Mary Margaret Kissel*  
*Lamb's Players Theatre*  
*Diane Langworthy*  
*Dr. Marianne McDonald*  
*Al and Lillian Macy*  
*Magic Mountain*  
*Mingei International Museum*  
*Nati's Mexican Restaurant*  
*Karen O'Brien*  
*Old Town Trolley Tours*  
*Osinski's Jewelry*  
*Pepe's Italian Restaurant*  
*Barbara Perry*  
*Pizza Nova*  
*Point Loma Cafe*  
*Point Loma Squidco*  
*Patricia Robinson*  
*Prince Of Peace Abbey*  
*Rubio's Mexican Restaurant*  
*San Diego Aquatic Center*  
*Summer Camp*  
*San Diego Natural History Museum*  
*San Diego Zoo*  
*Sardina's Italian*  
*SeaWorld*  
*Sheraton Carlsbad*  
*Dr. Marianne and Richard Sipe*  
*Linda Spicer*  
*Spiritual Ministry Center, Ocean Beach*  
*Tarantino's Meat Company*  
*Tommy's Burgers*  
*Arnold Wasserman*  
*Terry Whitcomb*  
*World Famous Restaurant*  
*Theresa Zang*



Staunch Catholic Worker helper Brian McCarthy takes a break from fiddle playing at the Dinner Auction.

# Day . . . . by . . . Day

*A selection of thoughts that readers bring to the attention of the editor from time to time. To submit a thought of your own, please e-mail [denyshorgan@att.net](mailto:denyshorgan@att.net)*

## War is not the solution

“Once again I would repeat that military options are no solution and that violence, wherever it comes from and whatever form it takes, must be firmly condemned.”

—*Pope Benedict XVI*, in his annual address to the members of the diplomatic corps last January.

## Denying health insurance to immigrants is immoral

“To deny our immigrant brothers and sisters basic health care coverage is immoral. To allow people's basic health needs to be trumped by divisive politics violates American standards of decency and compassion. We should pass health care reform that provides access to all, in the interests of the common good. . . . Otherwise, in our country there will remain a permanent underclass left standing in the waiting room, asking for a doctor's visit that will never come.”

—*Cardinal Roger Mahony*, archbishop of Los Angeles.

## Stealing from the poor

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed.”

—*Dwight Eisenhower*, quoted by Bob Herbert in *New York Times*, Dec. 1.

## The Cost of Executing

During the current recession, revenue-starved states are looking closely at the cost of capital punishment. According to the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, D.C., death penalty cases typically require huge expenditures, partly because of re-trials to correct prior errors. California's Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, for example, has estimated that the state is spending \$138 million a year on the death penalty. For the 670 people on its death row, the state spends \$90,000 per inmate per year in addition to the \$34,000 annual cost of incarcerating a prisoner serving a life sentence. Death row inmates wait four years on average before being assigned an attorney for their first appeal, which amounts to an added expenditure of \$360,000 per inmate even before the appeal is under way. Lawmakers, forced by the budget crisis to make cuts in basic services like schools, law enforcement, health care and libraries, must rethink such outlays for capital punishment.

—from *America Magazine*, Oct. 26, 2009.

## Selling death

The United States signed weapons agreements valued at \$37.8 billion in 2008, or 68.4 percent of all business in the global arms bazaar, up significantly from American sales of \$25.4 billion the year before.

—from the annual report produced by the nonpartisan *Congressional Research Service*, a division of the Library of Congress.



**Students from St. Michael Academy whose entire student body collected food for Thanksgiving.**

The children of St. Michael Academy collected a whole truckload of Thanksgiving food for families that included complete meals complete with turkeys. All the food was distributed in conjunction with the Western Service Workers to needy families downtown in time for Thanksgiving Day.

The San Diego Catholic Worker is also grateful to the members of the Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community who collected 338 pairs of socks, 261 pairs of briefs, 30

T-shirts, and one pair of shoes—all brand new—which they donated to the San Diego Catholic Worker for distribution at the Friday lunch in Pacific Beach and our normal clothes distribution service downtown.

We are also particularly grateful to the associates and students of Clay Associates on Adams Avenue for the beautiful hand-crafted ceramic bowls that they made and they gave us and which we sold at our Friday Souper, Oct. 16.

## SDSU

*Continued from Page 1*

science major Mary Zhong, who plans to attend law school for research politics and constitutional law. “My first reactions were scared and nervous; I couldn’t complete the project ... but when people began responding, my hopes were high.”

Zhong, along with the rest of her classmates, was given about one month to meet a \$1 million goal—a goal she surpassed. Though raising \$1 million in four weeks is not far-fetched for a real congressman, Zhong and her classmates’ goals went far beyond a dollar value.

### Getting experience while doing good

The congressional simulation fundraiser directly benefits the San Diego Catholic Workers, an organization that feeds local homeless people in Mission Bay. Using a list of items needed by the organization, students drafted letters and made calls to family, friends and co-workers who would be willing to donate.

Each item desired by the Catholic Workers was given



a dollar amount based on its scarcity. For example, Zhong’s donated Styrofoam cups earned her \$36,000 in her congressional simulation campaign.

“It was for a good cause; a good way to get involved outside of the classroom,” said Austin Lambert, a political science major who also surpassed his goal. “It was somewhat difficult though, because asking for money is always awkward in itself ... but it was good experience.”

### Campaign success

Students hauled their donated food items into the political science department office, feeling accomplished as the office’s walls, shelves and seats were lined with tubs of condiments, bags of sugar and packages of pasta. It is estimated that the students raised \$7,000, give or take, worth of products for the San Diego Catholic Workers, a much-needed boost before the holidays, and a notch in these future campaigners’ belts.

## Thanksgiving

*Continued from Page 1*

she loses him. I expressed my condolences and assured her that I would pray for “Josesito,” for her daughter and for her. I said goodbye to her and she kissed my hand.

It wasn’t until later when I was waiting in line to cross the border that I began to appreciate the full import of the Thanksgiving tale that I had been a small part of: the sorrowful mother, named after the mother of Mexico and of all of the Americas, who bears her profound grief and the burdens of her life with such dignity and with such faith in God, AND, with a thankful spirit. Here is a woman who in the prayer that she placed upon God’s altar expressed such a profound sense of gratitude even in the midst of the deep pain of her loss. Here is a strong, brave woman who knows intuitively that real strength and courage come from carrying the burdens of daily life—like providing total care for a disabled son and a daughter and doing it with a cheerful and grateful heart.

During this holy season when we celebrate Thanksgiving, the feasts of Mary as the Immaculate Conception and as the indigenous mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and most certainly the feast of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Christ and the beginning of a new year, it is good to be reminded of what is essential and true. During these days of what many blandly call “the holidays”, it can be a real challenge to avoid the consumerism and materialism that are all around us. It seems to me that if we concentrate on the basic truths of Thanksgiving, of Mary, and of the birth of Jesus we will understand that it is all gift and gratitude—it is all grace. And if we open our eyes and our hearts to the truth of these holy days we will truly be refreshed and renewed.

There’s an old song called “Count Your Blessings” that says “When you’re worried and you can’t sleep, just count your blessings instead of sheep and you’ll fall asleep counting your blessings.”—simple advice in what we might call our “insomniac culture.” Some of the greatest blessings that I count in my life over the last 25 years have come from my association with the people of the Casa de los Pobres in Tijuana, Baja California. And as this year of 2009 comes to a close I praise God for the blessings that I received through the simple, poor, suffering mother, Guadalupe Mendez. May the story of her gratitude in the midst of deep sadness be a call to help us truly know the meaning of these holy days.

Rev. Howard Gray, S.J., a nationally recognized expert on Ignatian spirituality and a special assistant to the president of Georgetown University, will speak on the topic of “**Lay and Jesuit Colleagues: A Spirituality that Transforms the World,**” at 3 p.m., at the University of San Diego, Jan. 24. The talk is sponsored by the Ignatian Volunteer Corps and will address such topics as: How can I work together with others to bring about God’s dream of love and service for our world? Fr. Gray’s talk will be preceded by Mass in the Founder’s Chapel at 2 p.m. Inquiries can be addressed to Margie Carroll at mcarroll@ivcusa.org, telephone (619) 881-9509.

With “**Justice for Women and Children**” as its theme, the 4th biannual “Developing Hearts That Yearn 4 Justice” ecumenical conference to be held Jan. 18 to 21, in San Diego and Tijuana. Featured speakers include Matthew Fox, Frances Moore Lappe, Renita Weems, Megan McKenna, Elizabeth Tapia and Luran Bethel. The cost is \$250, which includes the program, meals, and lodging at Casa del Migrante in Tijuana. Register on line at <<http://www.hearts4justice.org/>> or request more info by e-mail from hearts2010@san.rr.com. Partial student scholarships are available.

### Send us your E-mail Address

The San Diego Catholic Worker is in the process of compiling a list of e-mail addresses so that we can disseminate information about Catholic Worker events in a more timely manner. If you send us your e-mail address, we will add you to the list. We promise that we will use this list only for Catholic Worker purposes and will never provide it to anybody else. Send the address to: [info@catholicworkersd.org](mailto:info@catholicworkersd.org)

### Catholic Worker Meetings

There has been a change in the format of the San Diego Catholic Worker montly meetings. For the foreseeable future we will celebrate a Eucharist with Fr. Gil at 7 p.m., immediately after our Board Meeting. Everybody is invited to this Mass. People are still invited, if they wish, to attend the Board Meetings, which begin at 6 p.m., when Catholic Worker business is being discussed. The meetings will be held and Mass will be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall on Sunset Cliffs Blvd., in Ocean Beach on the second Monday of every month beginning at 6 p.m. The next meetings will be held January 11, February 8, March 8, and April 12. All are welcome.

### Mission Statement

The San Diego Catholic Worker is committed to the following actions that imitate Christ: a call to service, a belief in the human dignity of all, and an interrelationship with a compassionate God and one another.

As Catholic Workers, we struggle to carry out our double mandate: to minister to the needs of society’s forgotten people, and to challenge and offer alternatives to the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and perpetuate suffering and violence.

Following Christ’s example, we also believe it is our duty to spread the word of our work and provide others with the opportunity to serve.

The San Diego Catholic Worker will achieve its goals by the grace of God and by working together to bring about a world of peace and justice as envisioned by our founders, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin.

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*The San Diego Catholic Worker welcomes everybody and provides services to all, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, handicap, sex, or sexual orientation.*

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