

# Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage



*Building Hope for Boys Without Families and Families Without Homes*

## VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Thanks to Rotary International, we are expanding our educational program to include vocational training in animal husbandry, gardening, music and art.

This is just the start of an exciting time at Project Mexico. Now is a great time to get involved and join our Faithful Friends program and invest in the future of Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage! If all of our 13,000 volunteers each gave \$10 per month we would meet our operating goals.

## HELP US BUILD HOPE!



### Brighten a Future

Sponsor the costs of educating one of our boys by becoming a School Buddy for 2017-2018.



### Fill Our Pantry

Coordinate a donation drive to collect food and supplies for our growing boys.



### Give a Gift

Become a sustaining member of our ministry by donating on a monthly basis.



### Plan a Fundraiser

Organize an event or campaign to help us meet some of our ongoing and top needs.



### Build a Home

Change the life of a needy family by volunteering on a home building trip in Mexico.



### Say a Prayer

Sign up to receive our quarterly emails to pray for all of the petitions of our ministry.

TO GET INVOLVED CONTACT (619) 426-4610 OR [INFO@PROJECTMEXICO.ORG](mailto:INFO@PROJECTMEXICO.ORG)

## TOGETHER, WE GROW: WELCOME!

Greetings during this joyous Paschal period: Cristo ha resucitado!

I am thrilled about our continued growth as we build 25 houses for the poor in Mexico and continue to expand our services to the orphans in our care as well as provide new and exciting volunteer opportunities.

St. Innocent of Alaska is an Isapostle or Equal-to-the-Apostles—one of the few saints whose works have been equated to that of the Apostles. The work of Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage is truly an Apostolic mission with roots in the original diaconal service of caring for the poor and orphans of Jerusalem. As the Apostles spread their mission, making disciples of all nations, they not only preached, but also extended this diaconal outreach to the poor and orphaned. Project Mexico has the profound honor to carry out this labor of service and love for our fellow brothers and sisters just south of our border in Mexico.

However, being geographically south, we should not relegate our neighbor to that position in our heart, but bring them to the forefront of our thoughts through prayers and service.

As Executive Director, I invite you to *come and see* the inspiring work, devotion of the staff, experience firsthand the heartfelt labor of raising the boys, and to join us in building houses for our poor neighbors and bear witness to our Orthodox humanitarian service. I invite you to get involved by donating, volunteering, and supporting our mission.

Your sustained financial support for our various programs like *Pantry Partners*, *School Buddies* and our new *Ranch Beautification* are critical.

A seminary graduate recently related that while on a home building trip with Project Mexico ten years ago, he was inspired towards a life of service and to attend seminary. Reconnect and rediscover Project Mexico and share your story with us at [MyStory@ProjectMexico.org](mailto:MyStory@ProjectMexico.org).

As our ambassadors, friends and supporters we look to you to help tell our story and grow our ability to minister. In the spirit of community and charitable spirit, we can't do this without you. St. Innocent of Alaska titled his book written in Aleut, "The Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven" and as we embrace the way as we embark upon this new build season we will strive to produce more good fruit in service of our neighbor.

With the love of Christ,

James P. Andrews, *Executive Director, Project Mexico*

## OUR MISSION

Project Mexico performs works of mercy and helps others do works of mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, transcending cultural barriers by building homes for the poor in Mexico and by providing a home for orphaned boys through St. Innocent Orphanage.

## OUR VALUES

Acts of Mercy  
Excellence  
Education  
Love & Compassion  
Mission Work  
Strategic Partnerships  
Witness

## OUR THANKS

Thank you to all who answered our call during our Annual Matching Grant Campaign! We successfully met and exceeded our Goals! Glory to God!



[info@projectmexico.org](mailto:info@projectmexico.org)



## THE CHANGE IS COMING

During these springtime months we have witnessed a change. We leave the darkness of the disobedient child who was banished from paradise and become children of light. Here, twenty minutes south of the border the rain has come. Because of the more than 17 inches of precipitation during this rainy season, the hills around the orphanage have turned into a picturesque landscape that you would expect to see in the hills of Ireland, not in the suburbs of Tijuana, Mexico. This annual spring transformation has been paralleled with the Lenten transformation of the boys, the staff and the missionaries. Miracles are occurring and changes are flourishing. In this brief reflection, I would like to give you a glimpse of God's mysteries working within Project Mexico and the St. Innocent Orphanage.

During Great Lent we prepare to receive the resurrected Christ. At the orphanage we spiritually and physically cleanse ourselves through prayer, fasting, repentance, and struggle. The end result is to grow closer to God and imitate His love. As an active Orthodox community, we challenge one another to embrace this growth, which often comes with significant pain. As an athlete struggles to become stronger in preparation for competition, so the boys are encouraged to abandon the skeletons of their past so they do not make the same mistakes their parents made. Many of the young boys do not have any living relatives so they have truly been orphaned, but some of the boys do have family members still alive, but unfortunately, they are often intertwined in the world of debauchery and crime. Recently we made the tough decision to prohibit one of the children from interacting with one of his few living relatives. This was very difficult for our young boy but obviously his contact with this family member was unhealthy and a very poor influence. The result has been a transformation in the boy becoming more loving, trusting and peaceful. Additionally, his academic performance has improved significantly. Christ's springtime has come and the Lord is working through us all.

God's power to cultivate change is exemplified by the generous interns and staff who serve the boys and facilitate the building of homes. They have left the comforts and the standard of living that so many Americans take for granted. Learning to cope with unreliable infrastructure, systemic corruption, economic instability and social misfortunes, allow these missionaries to put life into perspective and find peace in the storm.

The key element in this process is the central role the Church plays in everything we do. Christ guides our decisions through the Holy Bible, leads us to have hope through intimate prayer, encourages self-control through fasting, and challenges us all to grow by participating in the sacrament of confession. For this reason, people sell their homes and leave their professions to make an impact here through Christ's Church. This was articulated by one of our long-term college-aged missionaries, who said, "Despite all the difficulties, I find living in Mexico easier and more peaceful than the craziness of the United States. The life within the Church here at the orphanage changes us for the better."

May this Lenten and Paschal season be transformational for us all.

In Christ,

Priest Nicholas L. Andruchow M.DIV. '02

Chaplain and Associate Director of Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage

## GRATITUDE, JOY AND BLESSINGS!

What an incredible success this year's Santa's Helpers Program turned out to be! It would not have been possible without you. During the Great and Holy Week, we set a Paschal Challenge and were able to meet our goal! Your generous gift provided for a bountiful and memorable feast for the boys. Your faithful love and commitment has allowed our boys to enjoy such blessed and joyous occasions! With your sustained generosity, we can reach our goals to achieve both our Project Mexico Build and Project Mexico Fresco projects. Visit [projectmexico.org](http://projectmexico.org) to get involved or call us at (619) 426-4610



## PROJECT MEXICO: FRESCO

As part of our Ranch Beautification we have begun fresco paintings of St. Innocent and St. Herman of Alaska and will be hosting fresco workshops this summer to teach the traditional art of fresco painting as we beautify the Ranch and summer Pavilion to inspire our efforts during the summer Build Season! Come and paint!



## PROJECT MEXICO: BUILD

This Spring we hosted OCF and HCHC groups. They helped lay the foundation for new intern housing in preparation for our largest Homebuilding program ever. We've begun construction on two new intern houses for our summer and year-long interns, and a guesthouse and staff house



to accommodate all of the wonderful people who make this ministry possible during the summer build season and year. We are currently seeking seminarians to intern during the summer and as part of a year-long ministry practicum to develop our youth programs and work with the boys.

We have several openings in the homebuilding schedule and want to open up invitations to register for summer homebuilding through our waitlist. For more, please visit [projectmexico.org/homebuilding/](http://projectmexico.org/homebuilding/)

Or call us at (619) 426-4610

## SCHOOL BUDDIES

Our education program has a great variety of expenses as we strive to provide fundamental education to our boys that otherwise would not be possible outside of our care. You can help by sponsoring one of our boys on an annual basis! Sign up and we will send you more information on how to become a School Buddy to one of our boys for the school year of 2017-2018! [projectmexico.org/get-involved/](http://projectmexico.org/get-involved/)

## FDf

Over President's Day weekend, Project Mexico had the privilege to attend the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Faith



Dance Fellowship festival in San Diego, CA. Not only were we able to spread the good news about our organization, but we also passed out homemade cookies by our boys to the visitors who stopped at our booth. Thank you all for your continued support!

## ST. INNOCENT SCHOOL

Our newest boys are thriving and we have a new set of middle schoolers entering high school next fall. We are encouraged by the great strides our middle school teachers have done to prepare the boys for the next chapter in their education. We need your help to continue providing the best educational opportunities and resources through financial sponsorship of our *School Buddies* program.

## PANTRY PARTNERS

Help feed the growing boys of St. Innocent Orphanage by donating towards our pantries via our new virtual pantry partners! Help keep our pantries full with our most needed food items, toiletries, cleaning products, & office supplies! Just add an item to the virtual shopping cart and make a gift today. Please visit [projectmexico.org/get-involved/](http://projectmexico.org/get-involved/) Or call us at (619) 426-4610

## GET INVOLVED

**Intern Housing** – We are building 2 houses \$25,000 each, and a duplex for \$50,000

**School Recreation & Classroom Building** – \$25,000 each

**Vehicle Maintenance & Replacement Program** – \$30,000

**Ensenada Corner House Completion** – \$25,000

**Vocational Education Building** – Furnish Tools \$10,000

**Kitchen Equipment** – \$1,000

**Beautification Work Room** – \$5,000

Get Involved at

[www.projectmexico.org/donate/](http://www.projectmexico.org/donate/)

Or call us at (619) 426-4610