

Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage



Building Hope for Boys Without Families and Families Without Homes



30 Years in the making...

Message from the Chairwoman



“FOR THE WORK OF THIS MINISTRY IS NOT EASY - DAILY CHALLENGES FACE OUR DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN. THESE CHALLENGES ARE FINANCIAL, PHYSICAL, RELATIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Orthodox Christians we are taught that those striving to do good, those striving to further Christ's love and strengthen the Kingdom, will be challenged by forces of Evil. Our response must be a pushback, using God's divine energy, also known as God's armor, given to each of us at Baptism:

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age....” Ephesians 6:12

Caring for Orphans and providing homes for the poor – the mission and work of this ministry – certainly meets the definition of “doing good.” (James 1:27) And whether you are, or have been, a Project Mexico staff member, summer Intern, volunteer, or a work trip participant, you have most likely faced some of the obstacles described by Paul above during your involvement in Project Mexico. For the work of this Ministry is not easy – daily challenges face our dedicated men and women. These challenges are financial, physical, relational, and spiritual. And they can be quite overwhelming at times. Guarding against burnout must be a priority, especially in a ministry like ours. Even our donors have been and will be challenged by obstacles seeking to prevent this good work.

By God's grace, we are not without strength: we are encouraged to fight these obstacles, not by our own means, remembering that the obstacles are placed not by the earthly things:

“Therefore, take up the whole Armor of God, that you may be able to withstand the evil day, and having done all to stand.” Ephesians 6:13

We have been blessed by such faithful Christians in our Staff, Volunteers, Interns and Donors. Their spiritual strength amazes me. Their fortitude is incredible – most of us would not be able to leave the comforts of our American homes and choose to live in Mexico and care for orphans and the poor. It takes such self-sacrifice and spiritual maturity. Their dedication to our boys and the marginalized poor we serve gives me great encouragement and hope. Their example humbles me.

Please join me in supporting all who seek to do Good within this Ministry of Project Mexico and St Innocent Orphanage. Your prayers, time, talent and financial gifts sustain this amazing ministry, and allow us to continue to provide a home for orphaned boys and homes for those without.

May our Merciful Lord bless you and keep you!

Dr. Julie Papatheofanis, MD
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Message from our Executive Director

Two Ministries, Two Nations, One Hope

Thank you for your support during the Swim For Hope where we raised \$1,000 per mile we swam. I was joined in the swim by Fr. Simeon Corona and four other swimmers, along with a slew of kayakers, including Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of OCMC, Madi Franck and Noelle Robaidek, and Fr. Nicholas Andruchow in the towboat, sponsored by TowBoatUS and Captain Robert.

We left Point Loma at 9 am and entered the water. Once we broke against the 1.1 mph current pushing against us, we swam southward with the current, tacking and turning against the waves and swimming in a wide arc to reach the Coronado Island just north of the Ranch.

The 9 hours at sea provided a microcosm of the work we do. Stroke after stroke, only stopping to hydrate and eat every half hour, I began to see that the swimmers represented the boys who are in our care, the kayakers represented the staff giving directions, encouraging, feeding, watering, clothing, and towing as needed their assigned swimmers. The church, and the priest, was fittingly represented by the tow boat acting as a lifeline for each swimmer.

For an entire day, we swam through the waves, saw shark fins, sunfish, and heard orca's bellowing under water. Always in peril, yet always protected by the grace of God. Without our sponsors supporting each mile and our boys, our ministry would be incomplete. We need each of these to accomplish our worthy mission.

With humility, I ask that you support our worthy ministry by becoming an **Annual Matching Grant Sponsor or Supporter** this year as we launch our **Annual Matching Grant Campaign**. Donate today by selecting Sponsor or Supporter and help us raise the critical 60% of our annual income in the last quarter of the year to make next year's ministry programs a success.

In Christ,



Dn. Demetrios, (JP) Andrews
Executive Director



“WITHOUT OUR SPONSORS SUPPORTING EACH MILE AND OUR BOYS, OUR MINISTRY WOULD BE INCOMPLETE. WE NEED EACH OF THESE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR WORTHY MISSION.”



Swim For Hope, 2018



Your 2017 Donations at Work

NET ASSETS

beginning & end of 2017

Beginning:	\$1,739,856
End:	\$1,830,415

2017 EXPENSES

Project Mexico:	\$422,340
St. Innocent Orphanage:	\$810,976
General Admin:	\$213,236
Fundraising:	\$146,021

TOTAL: \$1,592,573

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATIONS

Program Expenses:	78%
General Administration:	13%
Fundraising:	9%

DONATIONS & REVENUE

General Contributions:	\$1,101,641
Homebuilding Work Trips:	\$334,615
In Kind Goods:	\$83,747
Other Income:	\$19,117
Investments Income/Sale Assets:	\$47,571

TOTAL: \$1,586,691

The People Who Made it Possible

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STAFF MEMBERS

Dn. Demetrios (JP)
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Lidia Moreno

Madi Franck

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Patricia Stephanie

Otañez Silva

Ramón Manuel Domínguez
Valenzuela

Rosalba Nayeli

Valencia Arce

Shane Roeschlein

Tina Cooper

OUR SUMMER INTERNS

Alexander Frigerio

Anastazie Jordanova

Anna Cunningham

Cormac Schuringa

Duncan Young

Elena Richardson

Ivy Tesfay

Jacob Goossen

Jesse Speier

John Touloupis

Justin Frigerio

Lidya Abraham

Luke Chernesky

Luke Speier

Olivia Neslusan

Samuel Duchow-Pressley

Shannon Todd

Theodora Veronis

Wyatt West

VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

Pres. Maria Margaritis

Pres. Merilynn Andruchow

Emilia Gimmaka

Faith Gundersen

Ginny Alex

Grace Cosby

Luke & Elias Andruchow

Michael & Jennifer Saur

Oliver Fahling

Thomas Ingram

*"I know that with all of our donors,
homebuilders, staff and the Trustees of Project
Mexico, we can continue to grow this ministry with
love as the Lord has entrusted us to do."*

Dennis Awad, *Board Member*





THE FUTURE IS THE LIGHT!

Living outside of the United States is truly enlightening. America is not perfect, but it has so much to offer. We see this with the surge of immigrants wanting to enter

CHRIST IS THE LIGHT AND AS ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS WE ARE CHALLENGED TO SHARE THAT LIGHT WITH THE WORLD PLAGUED BY TRAGEDY.

the “land of promise” at alarming numbers. These individuals and families cannot be blamed for seeking a stable and secure life. Would we do any different? The hardships and instability of existence in the third world is terrifying. Corruption is deep and pervasive. The cycle of poverty, crippling lack of infrastructure, and inherent crime are commonplace. But this is why the Church is here. This is why Christ came. This is why Project Mexico was formed. To bring the hope of Christ in the midst of darkness. Christ is the light and as Orthodox Christians we are challenged to share that Light with the world plagued by tragedy. We must focus on the Light in the midst of the fallen, broken world and transform the brokenness into a future of God’s goodness. As we draw toward the end of the year, may His great light shine through us whether in Mexico or in America and may this year end in true blessedness.

Community ✝ Highlights

- The orphanage chapel was remodel and expanded for the first time in 20 years. An adult baptismal font, a byzantine dome and seven new windows have transformed the orphanage space of worship.
- 17 clergy men and three priest’s wives participated in the summer homebuilding season from the Greek Orthodox, Antiochian Orthodox, OCA and Coptic Orthodox jurisdictions.

Fr. Nicholas Andruchow, Priest / Associate Director

- Fr. Nicholas posted seven classes in Spanish on the book *The Orthodox Church* by Bishop Kalistos Ware: www.capillasi.org/7-clases-de-cristianismo-ortodoxo/
- The Orphanage chapel community was augmented with the ordination of Alejandro Sosa Aguilar to the deaconate. Ordaining this faithful Mexican Orthodox man has truly blessed the local church.
- The ranch community was blessed with three pig roasts from our herd raised on the Orphanage farm.



- 2018 was truly fruitful by producing thousands of meals from our vegetable garden, baskets of fresh figs and also a humble cluster of bananas. We are especially excited about the newly planted olive orchard which will provide great flavor to all the orphanage meals.
- Before the end of the year the three newest boys are scheduled to be baptized, and seven believers from the local community hope to enter into the Church.
- Please keep the local Mexican community prayerfully in your thoughts as the Lord adds to the numbers who are being saved.



SEASONS OF CALMNESS

Madi Franck, Orphanage Director

Joy and happiness resonate at the orphanage as we find our stride in the new school year and ready ourselves for the holiday season. With the integration of new boys, an increase in programming, a stable foundation from the previous year, and a staff that is willing to give their heart and soul, 2018 has been a great year!

Orphanage ✝ Highlights

- Alejandro began his first semester at Hellenic College. He is doing well and thrilled to have the opportunity to study in the USA at an Orthodox university.
- Our high school boys and have been maintaining an 8.0 grade point average in some of most rigorous schools in the city.
- We are launching a new independent living program for our high school boys focused on strengthening them as young adults, mentorship, independent living skills and life orientation.
- The middle school age boys are excelling in their homeschool program, where they continue to be

challenged and guided by their two teachers, Leo and Noelle, through experiential learning.

- The youngest six boys are also excelling personally, academically, and emotionally. They have made huge strides in emotion regulation, interpersonal skills, and education.
- We had one of the best vacations ever, travelling south to Mulege, Loreto and La Paz where we snorkeled, camped, and spent quality time together as a family.

We are grateful that God continues to bless us and guide us under His loving care. As we watch our newest boys relax and form their identities in a supporting environment, we are filled with gladness that St. Innocent Orphanage exists as an oasis for them. We witness their conduct change and their hearts soften as they receive the love provided to them in this special place. We thank you for your continued prayers and support and wish that God blesses your family greatly this upcoming holiday season.



“The parish has matured and not only serves the orphanage, staff and volunteers, but also has undertaken formal parish ministering. This is an amazing opportunity for seminarians and their families to experience many different facets of life in the ministry.”

Mike Saur, Resident Seminarian



A YEAR OF CHANGE AND HOPE

Tina Cooper, Volunteer Coordinator

This year we celebrated 30 years of building hope in Mexico! We thank God that 2018 saw another successful year of our homebuilding program and the continuation of our new home building design with parishes and volunteers coming from all over the United States and Canada to dedicate one week building a brighter future for a family in need.

**WE INVITE
YOU TO JOIN
US TO BUILD
HOPE 365
DAYS A YEAR!**

who will now be involved in helping to train and support our interns and staff and enhance our vision for leadership development. Our objective is that each of our volunteers will be impacted by this collaboration so that in the span of one week, we build homes and leaders, who will return equipped and ready to build hope in their own community and church.

2018 also saw collaboration and partnership with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). On Week 6 of summer homebuilding we were joined by OCMC staff who shared their vast knowledge and experience from the mission field worldwide with our volunteers and staff. God willing, this is just the beginning of a continued partnership with OCMC

We launched projectmexico.360alumni.com an online community of Project Mexico volunteers and supporters who are empowered to do more as they become connected as one family. As our community grows, we hope it can become a springboard for those who desire to connect and collaborate with other active Orthodox Christians. With our interactive map, our members can seek out others who live in their geographical area and continue the work that they started in Mexico together in their home state. Hosting events, fundraising campaigns, creating shared interest groups and job opportunities are all features of this platform. Our volunteers will be able to launch their own vision to live out their faith as part of their everyday lives. We invite you to join us to *build hope* 365 days a year!

We thank God for the continued support of our homebuilding program through the volunteers, interns and donors who believe in our mission and carry it out with us, and for God's work in engaging people's heart as they come to seek Him through service, sacrifice and stillness of heart.



"It took seeing with my own eyes to learn happiness doesn't come with material things. Since returning home, I have been living in a totally different world. But just because I'm home doesn't mean my mission is over. I'm still learning the importance of our Orthodox faith to navigate these worlds."

John Touloupis, Marketing Intern



Homebuilding ✦ Highlights

- 776 total volunteers (48,736 volunteer hours)
- 624 volunteers participated in 8 weeks of summer homebuilding (34,944 volunteer hours)
- 27 homes built
- 20 Interns (11,920 volunteer hours)
- 20 day trip volunteers
- 32 Spring break volunteers (1792 volunteer hours)
- Successful panel building trips in preparation for summer builds
- OCMC collaboration in programming and training



Opportunities to BUILD HOPE 365 Days a Year

Join us for a homebuilding trip, a long weekend or a day trip. Register as an individual or as a parish group at: projectmexico.org/homebuilding

Join our online community and continue service learning year round. You can create your own project, invite others to join, sponsor other local projects in your area, or encourage friends and family to continue service in their community. Visit us at projectmexico.360alumni.com

2019 BUILD WEEKS

June 6 - 12

June 18 - 24

June 27 - July 3

July 9 - 15

July 18 - 24 (OCMC)

July 30 - August 5

August 8 - 14

What is Limewash Paint?

Traditional limewash is made from natural lime and natural pigments. Even some modern varieties that contain additional binding agents use mineral additives that keep the environmentally-friendly attributes intact.

Lime's high pH level means microorganisms can't survive, which adds a hypoallergenic quality. Proponents also argue that limewash has a chemical makeup that removes odors (and harmful CO₂), improving interior air quality.





EXPANDING OUR LOVE AT HOME AND ABROAD

Our new Agricultural Coordinator, Thomas Ingram spearheaded several projects this year which continue to develop. He planted 30 olive trees that we hope to use for both table olives and olive oil in the years to come. The trees will also provide aesthetic beauty to the property as well. The garden produced nicely this year. We were able to provide chard, cucumbers and zucchini to the kitchen staff to use in meals at Project Mexico and the orphanage throughout the summer.

Facilities ✝ Highlights

- 700 (with last year 1500) gallons of high-grade lime putty was produced for painting and plaster mixing.
- The dome to the chapel has been completed, including CCTV and audio system for service recordings.
- We introduced blue, red, orange and yellow colors to the paint using natural pigments, cost of pigment to tint paint for one family house is only \$5.
- The Vocational / Technical shop has been finished and is awaiting fundraising for the last bit of tools.
- Vocational training is underway for automotive, between 3 and 4.5 class hours per week is spent with the homeschool boys.
- New Electrical was run by the Irish Electricians!
- The Chapel has been expanded thanks to a generous donor who donated over \$65,000.
- A new Kitchen, Laundry, Bathroom renovation is underway: We have raised \$29,000 of \$65,000 required, donate today to our Project Mexico BUILD campaign at www.projectmexico.org/donate.
- Repairing and renewing septic disposal systems.

Outreach ✝ Highlights

- This year we re-launched our Faithful Friends program, increasing the critical monthly support needed.

Each member received a Komboskini prayer bracelet hand knotted in Mexico City, regular updates on the health of the boys and news from the ranch. Join Faithful Friends today for as little as \$3 dollars a month to make a difference in the lives our boys.

- Our Executive Director, JP Andrews, Fr. Nicholas Andruchow and his son Luke, and Presbytera Maria Margaritis helped man our booth at the 42nd annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival (FDF) in San Francisco. This was a huge opportunity to present Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage to a vast number of youths and we inspired many to participate.
- In September, Project Mexico and Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) teamed up for a 16-mile swim/kayak from Point Loma in San Diego, CA to the North Coronado Island: Two Nations. Two Ministries. ONE HOPE! Thank you to everyone for their prayers, support, and to our amazing swimmers and kayakers! Captain Robert and the TowBoatUS accompanied the team, and we raised \$1000 a mile!
- For St. Innocent Sunday, the St. Katherine Philoptochos from Chandler, AZ passed a tray and collected more than \$1,000. Children from St. Catherine's in Colorado raised \$1280 with a bake sale for St. Innocent's Day. We humbly thank the generosity of these communities.
- The Antiochian Women's group of Mexico City provided much needed clothes for the boys! The Philoptochos from St. Paul's Irvine, helped launch our Annual Matching Grant Sponsorship Program with a generous donation!
- Sgraffito classes have launched at the ranch! Sgraffito is an ancient artform where layers of plaster tinted in contrasting colors are applied to a moistened surface and then scratched to reveal parts of the underlying layer.

2018 HOMEBUILDING GROUPS

St. George, *Houston, TX*

HCHC, *Brookline, MA*

OCF REAL BREAK,
San Diego, CA

St. Matthews, *Torrance, CA*

San Diego young adults,
San Diego, CA

St. John of Damascus,
Poway, CA

St. Michael, *Louisville, KY*

Sts. Constantine & Elena,
Zionsville, IN

Benjamin Hodges,
Memphis, TN

Holy Trinity, *Little Rock, AR*

St. Ignatius, *Franklin, TN*

Annunciation, *Missoula, MT*

St Andrew, *Randolph, NJ*

St. Nicholas, *Bethlehem, PA*

St. Silouan, *Phoenix, AZ*

St. Justin the Martyr,
Jacksonville, FL

St. Sophia Cathedral, *Los Angeles, CA*

S.A.L.T., *South St. Paul, MN*

St. Peter and Paul,
Potomac, MD

St. Tikhon's Seminary,
Wayne County, PA

St. Paul, *Brier, WA*

Resurrection Church,
Castro Valley, CA

Church of our Saviour,
Rye, NY

Holy Trinity, *Nashville, TN*

Holy Trinity Holy Cross
Cathedral, *Birmingham, AL*

St. Stephen the First
Martyr, *Crawfordsville, IN*

Annunciation Church,
Lancaster, PA

Three Hierarchs,
Wenatchee, WA

St. John the Baptist,
Rochester, NY

St. John the Russian,
Ipswich, MA

St. Antony, *Tulsa, OK*

St. Nicholas, *Ann Arbor, MI*

St. Spyridon, *Loveland, CO*

St. Athanasius the Great,
Arlington, MA

Rebecca Beach, *Okotoks, AB*

St. Basil the Great,
Wilmington, NC

St Spyridon, *Worcester, MA*

St. Luke, *Erie, CO*

Holy Ascension, *Albion, MI*

St. Nicholas,
Virginia Beach, VA

Annunciation Church,
Memphis, TN

Holy Trinity, *Carmel, IN*

St John the Baptist,
Berkeley, CA

Sts. Constantine and
Helen, *Webster, MA*

St. George and St.
Mary, *Wichita, KS*

St. Mark, *Boca Raton, FL*

St. Katherine, *Falls Church, VA*

St. Vincent of Lerin,
Saskatoon, SK

St. Michael's, *Concord, CA*

Assumption Church,
Scottsdale, AZ

Left Hand Ministries,
North Tustin, CA

Michael Lekos,
St Augustine, FL

St. Athanasius,
Santa Barbara, CA

Michael Pak, *Fullerton, CA*

St. Anthony, *Edmonton, AB*

Anastasia, *Saskatoon, SK*

St. Catherine, *Greenwood, CO*

Cory Evans, *Oakland, CA*

St. Sophia, *Elgin, IL*

Anderson, *Montreal, QC*

Holy Trinity Cathedral,
Chicago, IL

Holy Resurrection,
Tucson, AZ

Team Godshall,
Philadelphia, PA

Holy Trinity & Holy Cross,
Stroudsburg, PA

St. Katherine, *Kirkland, WA*

Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of Pittsburgh,
Pittsburgh, PA

St. Sophia, *Bellingham, WA*

St. John the Baptist,
Beaverton, OR

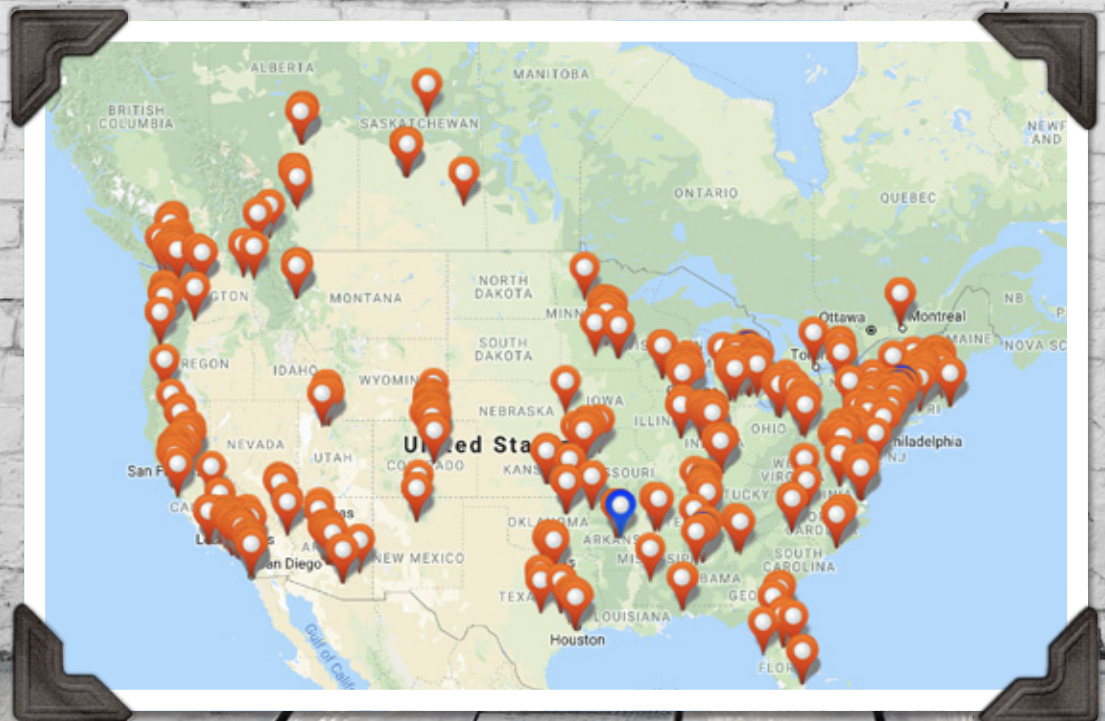
St. Ignatius, *Mesa, AZ*

Holy Resurrection,
Tucson, AZ

St George's, *Flint, MI*

St. Patrick Youth Group,
Midland, VA

Kurtz Lytle, *Hartford, CT*



Project Mexico of the Orthodox Church



Building Hope for Boys Without Families and Families Without Homes

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Help Build Hope:

Sustain Our Future Dollar-Per-Dollar
at projectmexico.org/donate



Panel by Panel & Brick by Brick

Support our ministry as we enter the end of year by becoming an **Annual Matching Grant Sponsor or Supporter**. This giving provides matching dollars to each donor. Sponsors provide a donation and match that given by our generous donors. Your contribution is critical for us to continue our mission this year and into the future as we are looking forward to Project Mexico 2020! Become a sponsor today at projectmexico.org/donate.

Mail your donation:

P.O. Box 120028, Chula Vista,
CA 91912

Donate Online:

www.projectmexico.org/donate

Donate by phone:

(619) 426-4610

*All mailed gifts must be postmarked by 12/31/18.
Online gifts must be charged on or before 12/31/18.

