



TASH TIMES

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www.tashinc.org

■ GREETINGS

Dear TASH Community,

Greetings from Oaxaca, Mexico! In this newsletter, I will be sharing with you the incredible story of a 27-year-old woman who needed emergency brain surgery to save her eyesight, the final results of the Ole 5k, and a reflection on Servant Leadership from Fr. Scott.

One reflection I recently had was about the concept of “poverty”, or “pobreza” in Spanish. To give the context, I was at a meeting with some nonprofits and foundations in Mexico. I interpreted that they had good intentions and hoped that by working together, they could reduce poverty in their country. However, I thought it important that we preface the term “poverty” with “economic” poverty. I see economic poverty as not having the means to cover basic needs, such as food, clothing, healthcare, and housing. Oaxaca is considered the second poorest state in Mexico, so there is a lot of economic poverty. However, many of the people I have met with next-to-nothing to tuck away in a sock, have integrity, faith, generosity, and a sense of purpose, which are all priceless. On the other hand, what about those who have achieved material wealth, but live incomplete lives in other ways. Would we call that “moral poverty”? In the end, what is being “poor” and how should we talk about it?

After I raised my questions about our language, we had a compassionate discussion about how we can use our choice of wording to empower the people we serve. Using more precise language won't fix problems of economic poverty but it will provide greater insight for those of us trying to help. At the end of the meeting, I believe we all walked away having appreciated the opportunity to discuss the concepts and language that we use in charitable organizations. It is part of the concept of Servant Leadership that I have begun to share in the newsletter and Fr. Scott has expanded upon my reflections in this edition. Servant Leadership seeks to value integrity, community, and well-being. TASH strives to be a learning organization, so we invite your reflections on topics we share in the newsletters and work overall. Please feel free to send us your thoughts.

Changing gears, I wanted to update the TASH community on new developments. We have had our website up for several months, where you can find 20 of Fr. Scott's radio programs. A few of you have asked if we could upload more and we will plan to do that. But in the meantime, if you just send us an email or note requesting the rest of the radio shows, we can send them to your email. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to send CDs or DVDs.

Also on our website, we can process online donations. We recently added an option to include comments, whether it is a note to us, a designation in honor of a loved one, or any other suggestions. Again, we are here to serve you, so any feedback is welcome.

Finally, Fr. Scott is supporting two fundraisers and if you would like more information you can find that on Page 4 of the newsletter. Thank you for all your solidarity with us in advancing TASH's mission.

In gratitude,
Pete Noll, Board Member

SERVANT LEADERSHIP by Fr. Scott

Dear Friends,

Slowing down has allowed me to visit family and friends, take walks, and spend more time in prayer. I am still chaplain for the Franciscan Sisters, saying Mass for them six days a week. I am also spiritual director for many people. Praying over your prayer intentions still keeps me close to you.

The first two newsletters published this year spoke of Servant Leadership. There are many forms of leadership, but when you put the word servant in front of leadership, it takes on a distinctly Christian meaning. When Jesus washed the feet of the apostles on Holy Thursday, He taught them an important lesson. They had often argued about who was the most important. Washing their feet was the most dramatic way that Jesus could teach them Servant Leadership.

Servant Leadership is the foundation of a good, holy marriage. It is the best way a priest can serve his people. In ministering to the poor and marginalized, it is the only way that you can truly win their trust. Unfortunately, some leaders have not grasped the concept of Servant Leadership which has led to the abuse of power.



When I went to Oaxaca, Mexico in 1998, I knew God wanted me to be a servant leader. It involved learning Spanish and laughing at myself when I made simple mistakes. Although TASH was the principal benefactor of La Clínica del Pueblo, I never demanded special treatment when I was there.

At the time I was looking for people to be on the board of TASH, I wanted people who understood what it meant to be servant leaders. I was blessed to find some and I can tell you that the way they have accepted responsibility for TASH proves that I chose the right people.

Wishing you many blessings, Fr. Scott

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT and TRANSPARENCY

Ole 5 K results: Thanks to the efforts of Charley Gates, TASH Board Chair, the event brought together more than 450 runners and raised over \$18,000 to support our mission.

Long-sleeved shirts are still available for \$30. Email charleybgates@gmail.com for details.



TASH continues to send resources down to La Clínica and other nonprofit organizations to meet the most urgent needs of the people in Oaxaca. Thank you for your generous support! The work we support can be found on the TASH website, www.tashinc.org, on the Partners Page.

WITNESS to OAXACA

We're happy to share with you another life-changing moment that TASH was a part of.

After been forced to drop out of high school to care for her newborn son, Lizbeth Espinosa Diaz struggled to find work as a single mother beyond sporadic employment in house cleaning and odd jobs. Her mother fell sick from anemia and became depressed owing to an abusive alcoholic husband, so Liz invited her mother to move in with her. As the situation became increasingly complicated, Liz knew she needed to find additional work to support her family. At one of the organizations that TASH also supports, Puente a la Salud Comunitaria (Bridges to Community Health), Liz was invited to participate as a community promoter, which included a financial stipend and leadership training.

Let's skip forward four years. Liz was not only employed at Puente, but also started up a small business to promote and sell amaranth products in her community. Together with her stipend, Liz was now providing for her family on a modest \$400/month income, but then, all of a sudden, she started to lose her vision. Unfortunately, with limited access to professional health services, she went to an unqualified clinic, was given a wrong diagnosis that she had astigmatism and they prescribed her glasses. Obviously, the problem didn't go away and it was then that she approached, Pete, a TASH Board member and nonprofit worker in Oaxaca.



Fortunately, Pete was able to connect her to an ophthalmologist that he trusted and in the nick of time. It was discovered that she had a tumor which caused a blood clot that was putting pressure on her optic nerve. Her condition would require the work of a neurosurgeon. It was a very delicate operation, but at the moment that the surgeon took out the blood clot, her optic nerve was restored to order. Pete was in the recovery room when the doctor removed her bandage and Liz repeatedly said, "I can see everything, I have recovered my vision." Her mother was brought to tears.

As you can see from the photo, Liz immediately recovered her eyesight and is in full recovery. It is possible that she will need radiation to control the remaining tumor from growing back and putting pressure on the optic nerve, but she is incredibly high spirits and, as her mother said to me, "Dios es grande." "God is great."

Without medical intervention, in a matter of weeks, Liz would have gone blind. Being the sole caretaker of her mother and 10-year-old son, this would have had a devastating impact on their quality of life. While La Clínica del Pueblo does not perform such a sophisticated surgery, through Pete's work on the ground, he was able to identify a qualified specialist and TASH was able to cover the \$8,700 cost through La Clínica.

It is worth highlighting that the neurosurgeon reached out to Pete after the surgery, and shared that he had offers to work in Sweden or Denmark, but he returned home to Oaxaca to help his people.

Although TASH can't help everyone, we hope you're inspired to hear the impact we can have working together to support people in need in Oaxaca, Mexico.



HUMOR

While we have TASH Community in more than 40 states in the US, we have a majority in Pennsylvania and Florida. So I thought some summer vacation jokes might be in store...



Why did the robot go on vacation?
He needed to recharge his batteries.

Why don't mummies go on summer vacation?
They're afraid to relax and unwind!

Where did the sheep go on vacation?
The Baa-hamas!

UPCOMING EVENTS

On September 22, the annual fashion show and luncheon will again be held at the South Hills Country Club. The cost of a ticket continues to be just \$35.00. To reserve a ticket or a table, please contact Cheryl Graziano at 412-885-6563, or you can write her at 4844 Old Boston Rd, Pittsburgh, Pa 15227

Once again the Parish of St. Teresa of Avila will host a brunch after all the Masses on Sunday, Oct. 27. There is no charge for the brunch; however, free will donations will be thankfully accepted. Fr. Scott will preach at all of the Masses that weekend.

Save the Date: The 12th Annual Ole 5K will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at Harmar Pavillion in North Park. Please email Charley Gates at charleybgates@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

**If you would like to make a donation to support the mission in Oaxaca,
we would truly appreciate it.**

**Please make a check out to TASH, Inc. and use the donation envelope included
or you can make a secure donation online at www.tashinc.org.**