



TASH TIMES

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www.tashinc.org

■ GREETINGS

Dear Friends:

When I preached at my mother's funeral, I said: "If I didn't believe that I would see my mother again, I would be inconsolable." We will soon be celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the Resurrection that gives us hope. It allows us to cry Alleluia during dark times.



Capuchin Friars gathered in the Mixteca

Recently a young man came to see me at his father's urging. As we talked, it was obvious that he was brilliant. He was about to graduate from college with three majors. He was waiting to hear from one more prestigious university before deciding where to begin law school.

The reason why the father wanted his son to talk with me was that his son was an avowed atheist. The father told me that his son could be argumentative, but the young man treated me with great respect. He politely asked me questions about the Bible, the history of the world, and the Church. He asked me why I believed in God. He told me that he could not believe in a God who allowed human suffering

and natural disasters. He wanted to know why the God I call love would remain indifferent to suffering. I responded by talking about free will, Jesus' sacrificial love, His Resurrection, miracles, and heaven. I explained that these were the reasons why we believed in God's love.

He did not accept my answers. As he was leaving, I asked him if he was optimistic about the future. He smiled and said: "Yes, even though humans are so flawed." After he left, I thought about our conversation. He placed his reason for being optimistic on people acting in righteous ways. Knowing history as he did, he should have known better. His reason for being optimistic involved more "faith" than our reason for having faith. We believe we have a Father who loves us, a Brother who died and rose to save us, and the Spirit of God who dwells in us. We believe that God is active in the world. Faith, hope, and love are the foundations of our Christian life. In times of trouble, our hope rests in the Resurrection of Jesus, who is alive and active in our world. No pandemic, natural disaster, or terminal illness is the end of the story. Jesus' death and Resurrection teach us that life is not ended but changed. We are pilgrims on this earth, and we are just passing through. Christians believe there is more than right here, right now. We have a much broader vision.

I would recommend that during the Easter season, you often say: "Jesus, I believe in your Resurrection. Strengthen my faith." No matter what our vocation may be, we are called to witness our faith to people who are struggling. When they worry that our world is falling apart, we must tell them that our heavenly Father will take care of our world. Why? Because our Father loves what he has created and will never abandon us.

You are daily in my prayers.
God bless you!
Father Scott



A child at a doctor's appointment at La Clínica

■ SERVANT LEADERSHIP (by Pete Noll)

This past Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I listened to his February 4, 1968 sermon: “The Drum Major Instinct.” It caught my attention because of his sharing about servant leadership. I hadn’t realized Dr. King had spoken directly to the concept of servant leadership. Then, on February 14 of this year, his oldest son, Martin Luther King III, came to Oaxaca to be part of a ceremony to celebrate the 190th anniversary of the assassination of Afro-Mexican President Vicente Guerrero. The timing seemed right to highlight in this edition of “Servant Leadership.”



Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK III shared, “In addition to his great love for his country, President Guerrero was a giant of Mexico’s abolitionist movement who fought tirelessly to end slavery in the country he loved. As an Afro-Mexican, he experienced racial discrimination and racial injustice. Still, he provided an eloquent voice and a vision for freedom and dignity for all Mexican people regardless of their racial and ethnic heritage.” He continued, “I thank you, Mr. President [referring to the current President of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador], for keeping President Guerrero’s legacy alive and for carrying forward his struggle for equality and justice in the 21st century. Our societies in both Mexico and the United States are greatly enriched by the contributions of many different racial and ethnic groups.”

Now I segue to his father, Dr. King, and I am stirred to share his words on servant leadership in “The Drum Major Instinct” as he referred to the time when Jesus responded to James and John’s request to be given prominent seats in Heaven. He did not rebuke them for their ambition but taught them that greatness comes from humble servitude:

“But that isn’t what Jesus did; he did something altogether different. He said, in substance, ‘Oh, I see, you want to be first. You want to be great. You want to be important. You want to be significant. Well, you ought to be. If you’re going to be my disciple, you must be.’ But he reordered priorities. And he said, ‘Yes, don’t give up this instinct. It’s a good instinct if you use it right. [Yes,] it’s a good instinct if you don’t distort it and pervert it. Don’t give it up. Keep feeling the need for being important. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be first in love. (Amen) I want you to be first in moral excellence. I want you to be first in generosity. That is what I want you to do.’”

“And he transformed the situation by giving a new definition of greatness. And you know how he said it? He said, ‘Now Brethren, I can’t give you greatness. And really, I can’t make you first.’ This is what Jesus said to James and John. ‘You must earn it. True greatness comes not by favoritism, but by fitness. And the right hand and the left are not mine to give, they belong to those who are prepared.’ (Amen) And so Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness. If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. (Amen) That’s a new definition of greatness.”

I hope you are inspired as much as I am by these words on servant leadership and by the actions of Fr. Scott as he founded and has supported the Clínica del Pueblo, “Anna Seethaler” since 1998. We remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his example of servant leadership: “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Examples of servant leadership in Oaxaca, Mexico in Sercade’s medical and dental clinic as well as its public ministry work.

■ WITNESS TO OAXACA (by Pete Noll)

On February 18, together with La Clínica del Pueblo Medical Director and their social worker, I visited Ana and her newborn, Catalina. When we arrived, she was with her two-year-old, Tadeo, and her mother. Ana Cecilia Ortiz Gutiérrez was born in 1995, in Santa María Atzompa, on Oaxaca City's outskirts. She is the youngest of a single-parent family-- her mother, two brothers, and a sister. Her mother dedicated a lot of her energy to the brothers, as they did not have their father's presence or support. Ana says that she grew up in a family that, despite having economic obstacles, always tried to support each other, establishing close, affectionate bonds. Due to the family's financial situation, Ana only had the opportunity to study until high school before she started working to help with the family expenses. Ana is a hardworking person and has sought a way forward, taking on different minimum wage* jobs.

*For context, the minimum wage (2021) in Oaxaca is \$7/day.

She mentioned that she met the father of her two children, Tadeo and Catalina, six years ago. Unfortunately, the relationship turned abusive, and Ana had to escape from a dangerous situation. Her family stepped in and brought her back to their limited space (their home is pictured on the right). As the social worker spoke to her, it was clear from how her eyes teared up that she still was suffering the trauma and deception. I wanted to share this part of Ana's testimony because it is part of the many realities that the Clínica team and other TASH partner organizations face regularly. It reminds us of the complexity of the challenges that people face to get out of impoverished conditions.

At La Clínica, there is a psychologist and Ana will have had an appointment by the time you read this article. During the visit, I donated a baby bedspread and books that my son has outgrown. We shared words of encouragement and offered to accompany her with a human rights lawyer if she would like to take legal action to protect herself and her two children from any actions the father might take in the future.

One final note: As I was leaving, her aunt had gone out and brought over Valentín (pictured in the last picture to the right), the newborn boy we highlighted in the "starfish" testimony in the 2020 March/April edition. He looked healthy and happy. You can read all our past editions online at [tashinc.org/about/newsletter-archives/](https://www.tashinc.org/about/newsletter-archives/).

On behalf of TASH, we are so humbled by your support in prayers and donations so that La Clínica can provide much-needed affordable healthcare in cases like Ana's, who gave birth to Catalina at the clinic, and to support the clinic's social work staff as they carry out home visits to assure that patients are on the road to recovery.



FUTURE EVENTS & UPDATES



2021 Ole 5k Benefit Race: Early Bird special until March 30, 2021. Save \$5 when you register at www.ole5k.com. We have reserved the same venue for next year, Saturday, October 2, so please mark your calendars.

Also, to assure that the race raises the needed funds to send down to La Clínica and other partners organizations, we are calling on all our amazing and generous sponsors to return for the 13th edition of Ole 5k. You can find all the information on the Ole 5k website at www.tashinc.org/ole5k/.

Why become a Sponsor?

1. Promote your socially responsible business or company.
2. In the case of individuals and families, it is a unique way to pay tribute to them.
3. Support TASH and our mission to serve the economically poor in Oaxaca, Mexico.
4. Be an invaluable part of a fun and festive benefit race in Pittsburgh, PA, the 13th edition of the Ole 5k.
5. Receive publicity on our website, social media platforms, and t-shirts (500+ runners).



Photos: BAPhotography, 2020.

I am happy to share with you that TASH retained the highest level of transparency from Guidestar. GuideStar is the world’s largest source of information about nonprofit organizations. They also serve to verify that a recipient organization is established and that donated funds go where the donor intended. We will continue to do everything we can to assure that your donations go to serve those living in impoverished situations, primarily La Clínica del Pueblo, Anna Seethaler, located in Oaxaca, Mexico.



2021 Tax Letters: As you can also see in the Prayer Response letter, please note a change. We will be sending out 2021 donation acknowledgement letters in January 2022. If you need one beforehand or have questions, don’t hesitate to contact us: pete.noll@tashinc.org or kathleen.schurter@tashinc.org. If for any reason you didn’t get your 2020 letters, let us know. There have been some issues with the postal service recently.

Planned Giving: A gift to TASH improves lives. Behind every patient treated are loyal supporters, like you, who make their care possible. Every time an individual enters La Clínica, receives affordable and quality attention, or needs emergency care, your generosity is felt and remembered. In addition to supporting the mission of TASH, a planned gift can provide substantial tax advantages, especially on gifts of stocks and real estate. To learn more, you can visit the website: <https://tashinc.org/donate/planned-giving/> or contact us at 412-219-9099.

   Do you use social media? Follow @tashincorg for updates on our work.

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.