



GREETINGS

Dear Friends:



*Fr. Scott celebrating Mass at the Clinic in the early years.
Photo credit: TASH archives*

Many of you know about Our Lady of Guadalupe. However, there are some facts that you might not know. I would like to share some of these facts in this article.

1. The day of her first appearance was December 12th. The Aztecs celebrated the equinox on this day when the days begin to grow longer. So Mary appears when they will begin to have more light. The history of the Aztecs becomes brighter because of her appearance. In a matter of months, Mary ended the Aztec culture of death. Their religion involved human sacrifice on an unthinkable scale. In the decade following her appearance, ten million Indians converted to Catholicism. The indigenous population recognized in the image of Guadalupe specific signs that Christianity was superior to other belief systems including

their own. In that period the Indians did their writing in hieroglyphics, so to them the image was a hieroglyphic letter. The fact that the natives read the image is most important in understanding the purpose of Our Lady's apparitions. To the Indians the image depicted a beautiful lady standing in front of the sun, a sign to them that she was greater than the sun god whom they worshiped. The crescent or the moon beneath her feet showed that their moon god was less than nothing since she was standing on it.

2. The hill on which she appeared is called Tepeyac. The word means roses. The roses that she put in Juan Diego's cloak were not indigenous to Mexico. In fact, the bishop, who was from Spain, recognized them from Spain and this fact made him more of a believer. Plus the roses grew in the middle of winter.
3. Juan Diego's cloak (Tilma) was made of a type of cactus fiber that is native to the area and is known to last about 15 to 20 years before it deteriorates. The miraculous image has shown no signs of degradation 500 years later.
4. Skeptics have said that the Tilma was painted. There is no sketching on the image nor brush strokes whatsoever. Scientists have said: "It is inconceivable that an artist in the 16th century would paint a portrait without first doing a drawing on it."
5. Twice people tried to destroy the Tilma. The first time was when acid was thrown on it before it was under glass. The only harm that was done was a small stain on the top edge of the Tilma. Nothing else was harmed. The second time was when a bomb was hidden among flowers and was placed on the altar. When the bomb exploded, the candle sticks were bent in two by the force of the explosion and the crucifix was severely damaged but no harm was done to the Tilma.

I share all these facts with you because when **the Anna Seethaler Hospital was built, it was placed under the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe.** She has protected the hospital from an earthquake with little damage done. Vandalism has always been minimal. Government interference has not closed it. Money needed to pay for all the services to the poor has always been available.

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Father Scott, continued

If you had asked me when I first planned to visit my friend in Oaxaca in 1998 if I would get involved in building a hospital/clinic for the poor, I would have said: “No way!” Yet, here we are 26 years later. I believe that Mary asked God the Father to speak directly to me the last day of my visit. The words were: “Help the doctor!” I had not even met the doctor. In the afternoon when I met him by chance, he couldn’t believe me when I said I would raise money to build a clinic. I left for home the next day. It took my friends two weeks to convince the doctor that I was serious about my offer. Yet, I didn’t have the money myself. **So as I traveled around preaching, I would tell the people about my desire to build a clinic for the poor in Oaxaca, Mexico. I asked for their help and the response was overwhelming. Some of you were among my first listeners and still contribute. Amazing!**

God bless you!

Fr. Scott

■ Servant Leadership – “The compounding effect” - by Charley B. Gates, MD

“Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world.”

– Albert Einstein

Compound interest is a financial term that refers to interest earned on interest. In other words, when money is deposited into a bank account, it will earn interest. If no funds are withdrawn, that interest is added to the initial deposit amount and begins to earn interest. Compounding can lead to enormous gains over time. For example, assume that \$1 is deposited into a bank account on January 1 and that this amount doubles every day. After 31 days, there will be more than \$1 billion dollars in the account! This exponential growth inspired Einstein, a Nobel prize winner and the most influential physicist of the 20th century, to comment on the power of compounding.

Compounding also has relevance in our everyday lives. For example, good health habits like aerobic exercise that are repeated daily over a long course of time lead to significant improvements in health. Exercise has a beneficial effect on practically every organ system in the body, and the accumulated benefits build on themselves. Over time, dramatic improvements in health are possible.

The compounding effect consists of two parts: 1) an initial action to start the process, and 2) the consistent repetition of that action at regular intervals over a long period of time.

In Oaxaca, I have witnessed the power of compounding. One of the organizations with which TASH collaborates, *Oaxaca Youth Empowerment*, was started by an American couple more than forty years ago. Jodi and Harold Bauman, a couple from Missouri, were on vacation in Oaxaca in 1984 when they were approached by children selling products and asking for money. The Baumans were deeply troubled by this.

Most often, this story would end there. The fleeting feeling of remorse passes quickly and is soon forgotten. Many people, and many organizations, decide that a problem is too big and that nothing can be done. Nothing happens because nothing starts in the first place.

The Baumans, however, broke through the inertia of inaction and committed themselves to do something. Initially, they helped an indigenous family to enroll their children in school. They continued their efforts over the years. By 1996, Jodi and Harold had started a non-profit, called *Oaxaca Street Children Grassroots*, which eventually grew into the organization now known as



TASH is proud to partner with CEI/OYE to support their projects.
Photo credit: Otoniel Mecinas, Social Media Manager at OYE

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Servant Leadership, continued

Oaxaca Youth Empowerment (OYE).

Today, OYE consists of two initiatives:

- 1) A brick-and-mortar location in central Oaxaca that offers students a safe place to go after school to do their homework, work with a tutor, or see a psychologist or doctor, if needed.
- 2) A scholarship program that sponsors more than 600 students, including 100 students at the university level. More than 10,000 scholarship students have passed through OYE's doors since inception. Here is a link to some of the student success stories from the OYE homepage: <https://www.oaxacayouthempowerment.org/success-stories>

TASH has been collaborating with OYE since 2020 in a variety of ways. Through the hospital La Clinica del Pueblo, TASH provides free medical care to OYE students and to their families. TASH also supports twelve OYE scholarship students and funded OYE's emergency food relief efforts during the pandemic.

Great achievements harness the power of compounding. The ideas are simple: take action and follow up with consistent, disciplined effort over a long period of time. Enormous benefits await those people and those organizations that follow these principles.

I firmly believe that TASH is harnessing the power of the compounding effect in Oaxaca. Father Scott brilliantly started the whole process more than 25 years ago. When he witnessed first-hand the poverty and the abject lack of medical care available to the poor, he took action. He never wavered. Since then, the consistent efforts of many people have propelled the mission forward over the years. **The prayers and generous support of TASH donors have been critical to the impact that TASH has had in Oaxaca.** From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

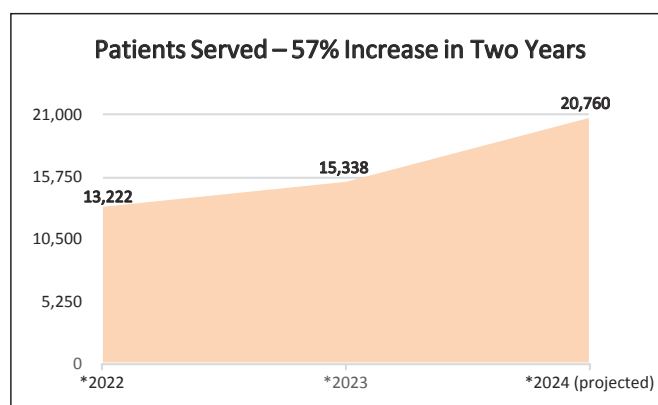
God love you.

Charley B. Gates, MD
President, TASH Board of Directors

■ Witness to Oaxaca – by Pete Noll

THE TASH MISSION IS ALIVE!

The Hospital Clinica del Pueblo, “*Anna Seethaler, A.C.*” continues to make impressive progress and is up to historical highs. **The numbers back this up!** Since the local Board, supported by TASH, brought in new leadership in 2023, they have seen an **impressive 57% increase** starting with primary care consultations and subsequent surgeries. In the context of an accelerated presence of pop-up clinics or pharmacies with an on-call doctor, the Clinica remains the reference for quality, compassionate and affordable care.



In a deeper dive into the statistics, we have found that in recent years, the highest demand has shifted to internal medicine specialty appointments. For years the primary specialty area has been ophthalmology, and it continues in a close 2nd place. This is likely due to a disturbing rise in diabetes and not only in the elderly, as 30% of children are overweight or obese. One out of every 5 deaths in the country is caused by diabetes.

With **diabetes directly affecting 10.9%** and rising of the Mexican population, we are grateful for Dra. María Isabel López Maguey's dedication to the Clinica during the past 16 years. Born into a low-income family herself, she has always persevered, and brings a unique perspective and heart for the mission of the Clinica. She originally worked 2-3 days a week, but with the

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Witness to Oaxaca, continued

rising demand, she now works almost daily, offering internal medicine consultation. **She is a true beacon of hope for the staff, patients, and their families.**

We are grateful for your support of the amazing staff who work tirelessly 24/7, 365 days a year. If you ever get the opportunity, we invite you down here to see firsthand the “compounding effect” of Fr. Scott’s call to help Oaxaca. **In the meantime, your contributions are invaluable to allow us to support the Clinica’s growth and expand our impact into other much-needed social service projects, like the one that Dr. Gates highlighted.**



Heart for the poor: Dr. Maguey attends one of the 175 patients she might see in a month. Photo credit: Steven Rubin



Building trust with the patients is an essential part of the Clinica’s approach to patient-centered care. Photo credit: Steven Rubin



FUTURE EVENTS & UPDATES

This past **28th of June**, we joined the TASH, Inc. and Oaxaca community, in celebrating Fr. Scott’s most recent birthday.



Two months and counting! We hope that you will join us as a sponsor, racer, volunteer, or race day attendee as **we celebrate the 16th edition of the Olé 5k Benefit.** Again, this year, we will be organizing the 2nd ever sponsor “*Building Bridges Brunch and private Mass*” at St. Augustine’s Friary on Sunday, September 29, starting at 11 a.m.

100% of the race proceeds will be sent to our projects in Oaxaca, Mexico, where many families must get by on less than \$7 per day. With great need comes greater generosity. Family fun for a worthy cause! You can find more information and updates: www.ole5k.com

If you are able 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.



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