



Las Posadas Celebrated In Santa Barbara

A rainstorm didn't prevent Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara Community Services Center from celebrating the true reason for the Christmas season by hosting its inaugural Posada celebration on December 15, 2016. Clients, volunteers, friends of Catholic Charities and staff joined together for a memorable evening.



Children of staff members act as Mary and Jesus for the Posada.

The night began with a traditional Posada procession complete with beautifully costumed Mary and Baby Jesus, both played by children of staff members, and Joseph, played by a client. The trio asked for posada (lodging) at two stops but were denied. At their final stop, they were welcomed to a wonderful feast, provided by volunteers, with homemade pozole, flautas and Mexican hot chocolate.

The event concluded with distribution of new toys to children of clients. The donated gifts included stuffed animals, cars, children's play aprons and more. The joy in the room was infectious and the evening served as beautiful way to celebrate Christmas. ❖

Former Teenage McGill Street House Resident Gives Back

McGill Street House, in the San Gabriel Region of Catholic Charities, provides seven-bed transitional housing for homeless women with children. It is a collaborative program with the City of Covina. The following was written by a former resident of McGill House:

My name is Yareli and I am now 17 years old. Recently, I was excitedly looking forward to purchasing a cute dress for the Homecoming School Dance with the \$75 that I had slowly set aside. However, something made me stop and reflect on whether a night of partying was worth that precious \$75. After thinking about it for a couple days, I came to the realization that it was not and that there was a better way to use my money.

I told my Mom that I wanted to use my savings to feed those who were hungry in downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row. She was so happy when she heard this that she even gave me more money so I could buy more food, including fruit.

The day that I was out on the streets with the homeless was an incredible experience. My happiness was overwhelming and



Yareli is happy giving food to people on skid row.

something unexplainable as I saw the smiles on the faces and savored the heartfelt expressions of "Thank you" and "God bless you!"

I learned to share with others, not because I had a lot to give but because I know what it means to, literally, have nothing. My family went through a really tough time when we had nothing at one point in our lives. My family is deeply grateful to the Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region and the City of Covina. With our stay at the McGill Street Transitional Housing Program, we were able to lift ourselves out of the pit and we continue to work hard each day to stay where we are now. ❖

In This Issue...

- Message from the Executive Director page 2
- "A Better Christmas" at Good Shepherd Center. page 2
- Director of Intra-Agency Programs page 3
- Ventura County Program Director. page 3
- 2016 City of Angels Christmas Gala page 4

Message from the Executive Director, Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

Augustine believed that there were three requirements necessary to be a Christian. The first was humility, the second was humility, and the third was humility. And he brought many more people to God by his humble confession than by his brilliant theological words.

As we begin our journey in 2017, we are invited to reflect and improve upon our lives. In Catholic Charities, we better serve the homeless and under-employed with the true spirit of humility. Our faith reminds us that we are stewards of God's blessings. He has entrusted to us gifts to be shared with those who are struggling in life. Humility challenges us to listen and explore with our clients options that will provide solutions to the many difficulties of their lives.

As the newly elected officials of our country begin their terms, let us pray that they are able to serve the needs of their electorate with wisdom and humility. Humility is not a weakness but a strength. It does not mean that we surrender our principles, but it does mean respecting and working with people who have different principles. Augustine once said, "It was pride that turned angels into devils; it is humility that makes man as angels." ❖

"A Better Christmas" Given To Good Shepherd Center

Residents of Catholic Charities' Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children were "star struck" by the procession of Los Angeles Police Department officers and United States Secret Service agents who collaborated to host "A Better Christmas" on December 14, 2016 at Good Shepherd Center.

The Secret Service's primary goal was to protect Santa, as he presented gifts, provided by the Secret Service, to every woman and child who attended the event. Secret Service agents, dressed as elves, also gave red roses to each of the women.

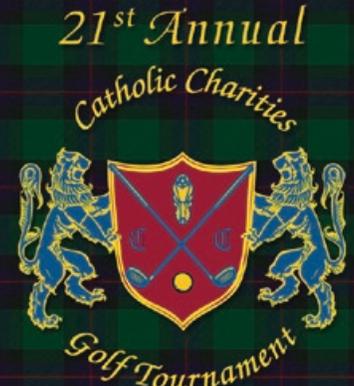
A delicious Christmas dinner was catered by "The Village Kitchen," a program of Good Shepherd Center, and served by LAPD officers, staff, advisory board members and volunteers. Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to have his or her photo taken with Santa. "A Better Christmas" is an annual event at Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women & Children. ❖



A mother and child who reside at Good Shepherd Center are served Christmas dinner by LAPD officers.



SAVE THE DATE!



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WHO ARE POOR AND HOMELESS.



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Make a difference this spring by donating a vehicle! Your donation will help us to provide services to the poor and vulnerable in our communities. **Catholic Charities** will arrange to sell your car and the proceeds will help those in need. Call toll free: (855) 370-4483 or visit <http://catholiccharitiesla.org/how-you-can-help/donate-a-vehicle/>.

Intra-Agency Programs Greet New Director

Carol Meylan, a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), began her position as Director of Intra-Agency Programs for Catholic Charities of Los Angeles on November 21, 2016. She is responsible for oversight of five programs that serve clients throughout the Archdiocese: Archdiocese Youth Employment; Catholic Youth Organization; Central Intake Unit; Esperanza; and Immigration and Refugee Resettlement. She is excited to be involved with programs that serve such diverse and vulnerable populations.

Carol brings a broad range of experience to Catholic Charities. After obtaining a BA in Political Science from UC Berkeley and an MBA in Finance from the University of Chicago, Carol worked for ten years in San Francisco and Chicago in business analysis, strategic planning and public affairs for a large telecommunications company. A native Angeleno, Carol returned to Los Angeles in 2001. She made a mid-life decision to pursue social work and completed a Master of Social Work degree from UCLA in 2006. She worked



Carol Meylan is the Director of Intra-Agency Programs

as a social worker and therapist in a variety of capacities in community mental health, older adult services and private practice. She previously served as a Department Director at WISE & Healthy Aging in Santa Monica where she oversaw Care Management, Information & Referral, Community Benefits and Volunteer Services.

Carol has been an active volunteer in the community, having served on the board of Corpus Christi Parish School in Pacific Palisades and as a counselor on the Suicide Prevention Hotline. She currently is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for a ten-year-old boy in the foster care system.

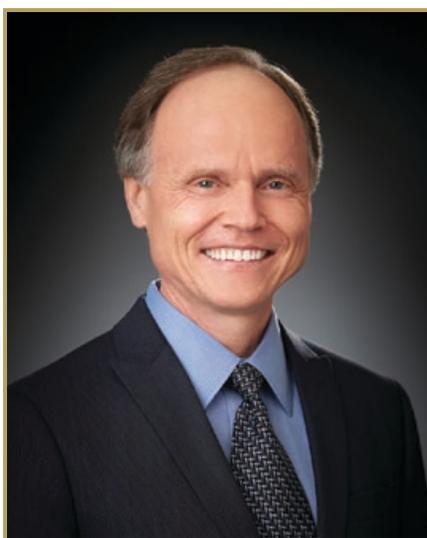
Carol has two adult daughters, Erin and Courtney, who live in New York City and Boston, and a son, Gavin, who is a freshman at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. She frequently visits her parents, graduates of Loyola High School and Immaculate Heart High School, who have lived in the same home in Glendale for nearly 50 years. ❖

Ventura County Welcomes New Program Director

Paul Makarewicz, MA, MSW, began his position on September 26, 2016 as the Program Director for Catholic Charities in Ventura County. Paul brings a broad range of collaborative experience to this position through his previous employment within the private and non-profit sectors as well as higher education and, more recently, in Catholic healthcare.

Paul has a rich background in theology, social work and bioethics. He completed his theology degree from the Angelicum University in Rome, his Master's in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and his Master's in Bioethics from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Paul was drawn to Catholic Charities because of his strong personal conviction for our Mission: "to manifest Christ's spirit by collaborating with diverse communities, providing services to the poor and vulnerable, promoting human dignity, and advocating for social justice." He comes to us from his last position as Director of Mission Leadership for nine years with the Providence Little Company of



Paul Makarewicz is the new Ventura County Program Director

Mary Medical Centers in the South Bay of Los Angeles, where he served on the Executive Administration team and led the Spiritual Care departments at two medical centers.

Paul grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and was the ninth child in a large Catholic, Polish-American family of 13 children. His father, Henry, was a dentist and amateur musician who instilled in the family a love of music. Paul has played the trumpet since he was ten years old, beginning with a classical training and then moving to jazz as well as liturgical music. His mother, Genevieve, was a homemaker, deeply dedicated to the family. Together, his parents imparted in Paul a strong sense of faith and service.

Paul is married to his lovely wife, Carmen, who is a geriatric nurse practitioner with Seaview IPA in Ventura County where she provides medical care to homebound, elderly patients. They were married at the San Buenaventura Mission where they are parishioners and where Paul plays his trumpet with the music ministry. They reside in the city of Ventura.

City of Angels Christmas Gala Honored Investees of Orders

The California Club in downtown Los Angeles was, again, the venue for Catholic Charities' annual City of Angels Christmas Gala which honored the 2016 Archdiocese of Los Angeles Investees of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

Archbishop José H. Gomez gave welcome remarks and reflections before offering a prayer before dinner. Paul D. Tosetti, Esq., President of Catholic Charities' Board of Trustees, was Master of Ceremonies and introduced the Investees. He also thanked the Chairs of the event, Julie and Tom Condon, as well as the members of the Committee.

Highlights of the evening included a special vocal performance of Christmas music by Nathan Granner. Attendees enjoyed exquisite food as well as listening and dancing to the wonderful music of the Jay Sterling Orchestra. Proceeds from the annual event are used to help the poor children and families served by the critical case management programs of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles. ❖



Tom and Julie Condon, Christmas Gala Chairs, greeted Archbishop Jose Gomez.



Pianist, Cathy Miller Popovic, and tenor, Nathan Granner, pleased the guests with beautiful Christmas music.



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Guadalupe Community Center in Catholic Charities' San Fernando Region boasts a preschool for young children in the Canoga Park area.



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