

The Newsletter
Of
The Community
Of
St. Martin

*Apostles of
Charity*

The Breeze of St. Martin

Vol 3, Number 1
Epiphany

“Finally, there
was a gentle
Breeze...
Elijah,
Why are
you here?”
1 Kings
19:12b-13



Comunidad de Los Martines A.C.

**To Serve the Poor
In the Tradition of**
San Martin de Tours—To Evangelize
**San Martin De Porres—To Serve the
Poor**
**Martin Luther—To Take God's Grace
to the Streets**
**Martin Luther King, Jr.—To Work for
Peace and Justice**



2012 Finds the Community Of St. Martin Among the People

The Community of St. Martin continues to take “Good News to the Streets,” in the Spirit of reaching people in their language. Cultural competency requires new methods and tactics to do HIV prevention education and to encourage people to be tested for HIV.

2012 marks our second year of having an educational outreach booth as part of a local Sunday street market. Snuggled in between fruit and vegetable stands and vendors of clothing, used tools and household items, people find the workers of the Community promoting holistic healthcare, including information about safe sex and family planning.

With HIV on the rise in Mexico among youth and with an estimated 80% of families not feeling comfortable at home to talk about sex—and God forbid it to be discussed in the church! - the information provided by the Community is both life-saving and life-transforming.

Outreach workers invite passersby to workshops on HIV and its transmission. People are invited to come and be tested for HIV.

With support from the State of Jalisco’s Department of Health, condoms are distributed as well as pamphlets on various healthcare related subjects. The rapid tests for HIV, given in the Casa de San Martín in Polanco, are also provided to the Community by the Jalisco Department of Health.

Pedro Chavez (bottom left) also works with sex workers in the center of Guadalajara. Using a harm reduction approach, sex workers are not judged but encouraged to value their lives through safe sex, organization to prevent violence and proper hygiene.



January 6th The Three Kings Day was Celebrated in the House of St. Martin

Cesar Valle, (left to right) Hana Sanchez, Dr. Elizabeth Carrizalez Abundis and Eduardo González Reyes get ready to cut the traditional Pan de Rosca. The bread is filled with fresh figs, dried fruits and small, bite-size plastic replicas of a baby Jesus. Those “lucky” enough to get a “monito” in their slice are

then required to bring a dozen tamales to the February 2 Candle Light Mass.

Those who gathered reflected on how light comes not from centers of power but from mystical and unknown sources outside of the dominant ways for viewing the world. The three kings passed through Jerusalem, the seat of power for the Roman and Jewish leaders. They went to the forgotten land of Judah, to the small village of Bethlehem.

And so we too many times leave behind the centers of power to find our identity, our authority to be who we are. We are called to serve the poor and to be among the lowly as we seek to find the light that leads us forward in our efforts to be whole and holy.

Cesar directs the Community’s Youth Outreach program and Eduardo works in areas of Popular Education. Dr. Carrizalez and Hana are volunteers working in holistic healthcare.

Cultural Work is an Important Piece Of the Community's Work

Cultural work is an important piece of our work in Mexico. Organizing people in their communities around cultural symbols that are important are converted into life-giving images creating a **culture of life**. Posadas are celebrated 9 days before Christmas reminding people of the 9 months of Mary's pregnancy and of the journey of José and María to Bethlehem in search of housing. While the rich of Jerusalem turned them away and the inn-

keepers of Bethlehem had no room, the stable keepers welcomed them.

The Community acted out this popular drama with both residents of Polanco and with the blind in Aguascalientes, reminding both communities that here among the poor is where a popular culture is being created that brings life and light and energy to the poor.

The Community celebrates a monthly cultural event in Polanco, which includes dance, music and interactive activities for kids with holistic healthcare themes.

Cultural Worker, Norberto Villaseñor, leads the singing in an outdoor Pre-Christmas Posada en Polanco.

Eduardo Reyes (green shirt) prepares a group of blind persons in Aguascalientes to do the Posada procession.



**You can help the Community to continue its miracles in 2012.
Please consider a generous holiday gift or a monthly pledge for 2012.
Thank you for your support!!!**

The Community of St. Martin

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Fiscal Office-Donations are Welcome!

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On-line donations are encouraged:

www.ecchurch.org/sanmartin

**The Community of St. Martin
Is a recognized ministry in partnership with
The Ecumenical Catholic Church
*Your donations are tax-deductible***

The Rev. David J. Kalke, President of la Comunidad de los Martines and an AIDS activist working in New York City and southern California since the mid-1980's, is also an active member of the International AIDS Society.
www.iasociety.org