

This appreciation appeared in the parish bulletin of St. Patrick's Parish, San Diego, on Christmas Day, 2017. It was written by St. Patrick's pastor, Fr. Mike McFadden, OSA

### **THE CHILDREN**

I remember reading a book about "Not So Merry England."

It was the time of the Industrial Revolution and work was hard and laborious. Lots of children were not able to be raised in the parents' home for lots of different reasons. Oliver Twist was a good example of the not so merry experience for some children. This is a thing of the past in England, but nowadays, some children in some places are still living a cruel existence.

Today the Augustinians are caring for 30 to 40 children in Mexico. There are a variety of babies and young people. We, the Augustinians, were asked 40 years ago to help out a bit with the Tijuana orphanage Hogar Infantil La Gloria. In time, that little bit turned into running the place and everything that it takes to pay the bills and develop things from A to Z.

We provide shelter, food, medicine, education and the list is longer still. We were recently able to purchase a van to transport the students from home to school and back. We have repaired the dorms and made places for students to study. And work goes on with even more projects.

It only works because of the generosity of your hearts, so I thank you at this Christmas time when we remember how Mary and Joseph were there for the Christ Child so many years ago.

God bless and Merry Christmas, Fr. Michael, OSA

P.S. This year we helped with your donations reaching \$8,000.