



Live your best Lent, St. Columba! 2026 Lenten Appeal Activity Guide

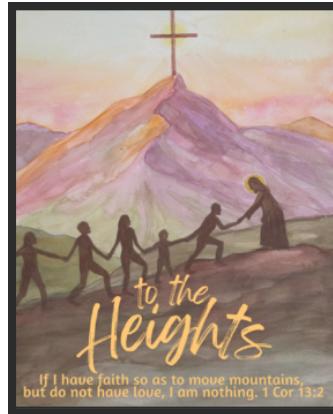
-Ash Wednesday-



Our new Lenten Appeal
will go to...

Casa Franciscana Mission, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico

Located 450 miles south of Phoenix, the Mission serves the poor and marginalized of the area through many ministries of feeding, health care, education and shelter. Casa Franciscana is administered and served by Franciscan friars and local residents.



Learn More

History of Casa Franciscana Mission

The Mission dates back to 1968, when the Obregon Diocese in Northern Mexico asked the Franciscan Province of Santa Barbara, California, to provide pastoral care for the English speaking community at San Carlos, Mexico community. The friars agreed to minister this care to San Carlos under the condition that they could also serve the poor in the neighboring city of Guaymas (pronounced "Why-mus") Visit and explore www.casafranciscanaoutreach.org !!!



Do this

This week, we get our rice box from the church or school. Place it in a prominent place in your home where you will think of the people of Casa Franciscana Mission. Consider "giving something up for Lent" or adding something that will bring you closer to God. During Lent, the 40 days of penance do not include Sundays, so some people choose to relax their Lenten sacrifices on Sundays.



Read Scripture

"As each one has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens... In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us." Ephesians 1:3, 7-8

CASA FRANCISCANA
OUTREACH

Pray

Heavenly Father,
You call us to the heights of holiness in our
journey of faith.

Grant us the grace and courage to aspire for
greatness in all that we do.
Help us to serve with love and fill our hearts
with joy to live fully in your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever,
Amen.

-St. Columba 25-26 Discipleship Prayer-

Grown-Up's Corner

Consider joining a Lenten small group. Call the office for information. 970-247-0044

Watch: The Spirituality of Stewardship by Archbishop Paul Etienne

<https://tinyurl.com/28e5kyr7>



Watch: What is Stewardship?

Diocese of Charleston

<https://tinyurl.com/5rbk3mpz>



Kid's Corner



Children in Guaymas often rely on donated clothes and food.

Can you name the people in your life who....Buy and cook your food?

Buy your clothes?

Teach you to read and write?

Teach you about God?

Tell these people THANK YOU, and pray for the children of Guaymas.



WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

“ONCE ONE CHOOSES TO BECOME A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST,
STEWARDSHIP IS NOT AN OPTION.”

With these words, Bishop John J. McRaith, an original member of the U.S. Catholic bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship, summarized succinctly the heart of the 1992 pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*.

The authentic disciple regards all he or she is and possesses as gifts and blessings and realizes the need to share those gifts and blessings with others for the sake of the kingdom of God.

“Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives.” Good stewards live with joy and gratitude for the blessings they have received—including those that have multiplied through diligence and hard work. Indeed, good stewards live in communion with Christ, and through Christ and the Spirit strive to return all gifts to the Father “with an increase.” Stewardship is fundamentally the work of the Spirit in our lives. When we accept our lives as sheer gifts, the Spirit can use us as apt instruments for spreading the Gospel. -Excerpts from *Stewardship: Pastoral Letter on Stewardship* and Bishop Sylvester D. Ryan.

Read the letter at: <https://tinyurl.com/3jsbrun4>

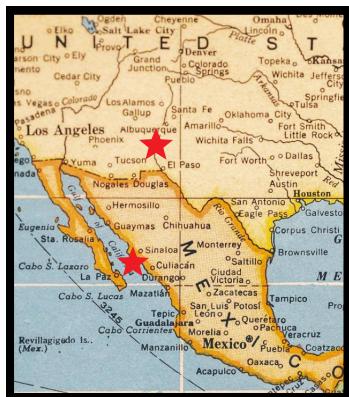




Live your best Lent, St. Columba! 2026 Lenten Appeal Activity Guide



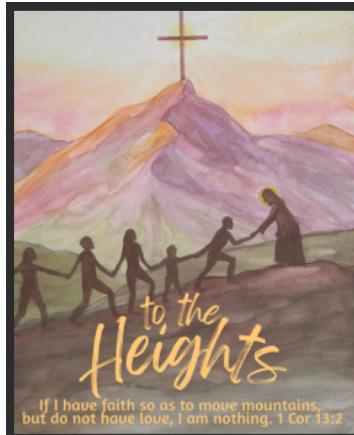
-1st Week of Lent-



Our new Lenten Appeal
will go to...

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Learn More

One of Casa Franciscana's ministries is feeding the hungry. Six days a week, the Mesón de Jesús at Casa Franciscana serves breakfast and lunch to hundreds of struggling adults, many seeking a simple meal to get through the day or a reassuring smile. Family members also carry food into the hills for those too weak to walk. Additionally, the Mesón functions as a shelter from the tropical storms and as community center or oasis from a life of hardship. The elderly come to mingle, avoiding isolation and having a hot meal. It is an integral part of the community and a respite for the marginalized residents.



Read Scripture

Read the Parable of the Talents:

Matthew 25:14-30.

"Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:6-8



Do this

Consider sacrifices you can make this week. Can we give up dessert/snacks and put the money we save in the rice box? Can we volunteer at the Manna Soup Kitchen or Durango Community Shelter to feed our local hungry?

One of the best ways to share our gifts is to pray for one another. Pray for those who are hungry and for the people at Casa Franciscana who eat there and for the people who serve them. Pray also for our locals who are hungry.



Pray

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is "the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." I know that it is from Your hand that I have received all that I have and am and will be. Gracious and loving God, I understand that You call me to be the steward of Your abundance, the caretaker of all You have entrusted to me. Help me always to use Your gifts wisely and teach me to share them generously. May my faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in my life. I pray this with a grateful heart in Jesus' name. Amen.

Grown-Up's Corner

It's not too late to join a Lenten small group. Call the office for information. 970-247-0044

Watch: What is Stewardship: Video 1: Time
<https://youtu.be/HPJzsSxKTvs>



Kid's Corner



Have you ever been REALLY hungry? The next time this happens, stay hungry for a minute while you pray for the hungry in Guaymas, Mexico. This is called "being in solidarity". It helps you feel how others may feel so that you can understand them better.



WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

“Stewardship is taking responsibility for the gifts God has given us. One day God will require an accounting of the use each person has made of the gifts entrusted to him or her. Each will be measured by the standard of his or her individual vocation. Each has received a different “sum”—a unique mix of talents, opportunities, challenges, weaknesses and strengths, potential modes of service and response—on which the Master expects a return. He will judge individuals according to what they have done with what they were given.” (Bishop Sylvester D. Ryan).

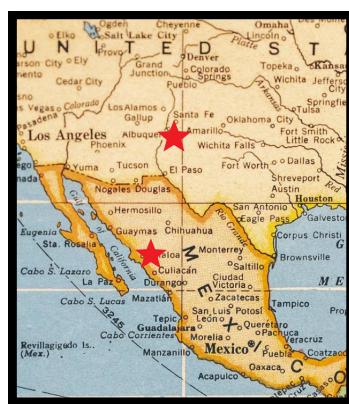
In Catholic teaching, stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes that everything is a gift from God. This is traditionally categorized into the "Three Ts": Time, Talent, and Treasure. Christian stewardship emphasizes using God-given talents (resources), treasure (material gifts), and life (time) to serve others and build the Kingdom of God. “The practice of stewardship is important to the mission of the church and for the spiritual well-being of each individual Christian. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of his time, talent, and treasure.” (Pope Benedict XVI)



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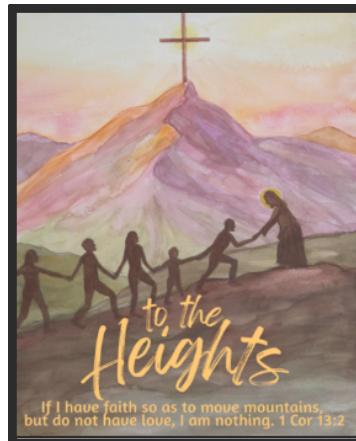
-2nd Week of Lent-



Our new Lenten Appeal
will go to...

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Learn More

Casa Franciscana Mission has two additional rooms to provide food and refuge to children. These separate dining rooms for children provide food for those who might not have eaten since breakfast and are not served food in school. Many children are now thriving thanks to a safe environment fostered by the Mission Staff. After their meal, children at the youth center have time to engage in play while waiting for their parents to arrive.



Read Scripture

"He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood." Mark 12:41-44

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, and see if I do not open the floodgates of heaven for you, and pour down upon you blessing without measure!" Malachi 3:10



CASA FRANCISCANA
OUTREACH



Do this

This week listen to Father Martin as he visits St. Columba Church and School to share about his life working with the people that Casa Franciscana (CF) serves. Listen intently to what he says, ask questions, and pray for his safe travels and for the people he talks about. The school will be served a meal similar to the meals that CF serves at the mission. It is estimated that one meal at CF costs \$2.70. Can we put \$2.70 in our rice box to cover the cost of 1 meal, \$5.40 for 2 meals, \$18.90 for a week, \$81 for a month?



Heavenly Father, Giver of all good gifts, I thank You for the blessings and resources You have entrusted to me. I recognize that everything I have belongs to You. I pray for a generous heart that is free from greed or selfishness. Guide me in giving of my treasure to Casa Franciscana Mission and to my Durango community. In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.

Grown-Up's Corner

There's still time to join a Lenten small group. Call the office for information. 970-247-0044

Register to attend the Lenten "Called and Gifted" retreat on Saturday, 3/21, 9a-4p at St. Columba.



Kid's Corner



Try not to waste food! Take only what you can eat, and don't throw away leftovers.

Be thankful for what food you have.



WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship of treasure starts with the understanding that we are not isolated individuals, but rather that we live in a community called the "Body of Christ." Living in this community incurs a financial commitment in support of the community, not unlike the financial commitment to support our families. It starts with one's prayerful reflection about the contribution that will be allotted in support of the church and its activities. It involves an up-front budgeting decision to contribute this amount on a consistent basis—not simply to drop in the collection basket what is left over at the end of the week. Ask yourself, "Do I give to God first, or do I give to God what is left over?" Give until it feels good!

Like prayer or fasting, giving is a spiritual discipline that draws us closer to God. Just as fasting frees us from our notions of comfort, and prayer reorients our hearts toward the Lord, intentional generosity loosens our attachment to material possessions. It reminds us that our income, savings and possessions are not the source of ultimate security, but are temporary trusts from God, granted to us for the sake of His kingdom. (Anna Kampa)

Watch: What is Stewardship: Video 3: Treasure <https://youtu.be/olI9sVfR-pY>



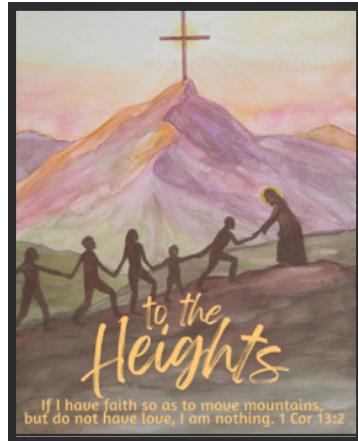


3rd Week of Lent

Casa Franciscana Mission



Casa Franciscana Outreach (CFO) in Scottsdale, Arizona is the supportive arm of the mission north of the border. CFO aims to support mission programs through fundraising to address the fundamental needs of the poor, homeless, hungry, and marginalized. By embracing St. Francis of Assisi's joyful and prophetic spirit, we promote social justice, peace and care for creation.



Learn More

Casa Franciscana delivers food to the elderly, disabled, and poor who are unable to travel to their dining rooms.

They bring food to these marginalized populations in Guaymas, focusing on four of the poorest neighborhoods, serving around 10,000 people. Over 12,000 food boxes and bags are delivered to the disabled and elderly each year.



Read Scripture

Read about different spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness”.

Romans 12: 6-8



Do this



CASA FRANCISCANA
OUTREACH

This week we are asked to donate ONE of the following 3 items at Mass:

- ~small box of cereal~
- ~can of hearty soup~
- ~can of spaghetti sauce~



These will go to our own St. Columba food pantry. We will do this as a sign of solidarity with Casa Franciscana's food distribution to the marginalized people in their community.

Watch this and think about what your special talents are and how you can help at home and school.: What Makes You Unique: Romans 12: 6-8
<https://youtube?v=sDY2ZsixLqY>



Pray

Lord, I pray that You would use all that I am, my own abilities and my talents as well as the spiritual gift or gifts that You, in Your grace, have seen fit to bestow on me. I also pray that You would open my understanding to the special spiritual gift that You have bestowed on me by Your grace. Show me I pray, what is the special spiritual gift that You have given me to use to the benefit of the body of Christ, and I ask that You would make it truly known to me and that You

would use it to encourage and teach my brothers and sisters in Christ, to Your praise and glory. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Grown-Up's Corner

Watch: What is Stewardship: Video 2: Talent
<https://youtu.be/kp5W0wrV6HE>

You are invited to attend the Ecumenical Dinner at 6pm on Wednesday, March 11th! 
More info in the bulletin.



Kid's Corner



It's difficult for a kid to feed the hungry without grown up help. But you know what's free? A smile. You can smile at a person who looks hungry or sad and make them feel seen. Try it! Think about what your special talents are and how you can help at home and school.



WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship of talents involves identifying, developing, and using the spiritual gifts, abilities, and charisms God has given us to serve in our home, school/parish, and community. Our talents are not for self-glory but for God's glory, the service of others, and the advancement of the gospel. It is not about perfection, but rather the willing and faithful use of what we have been given. We are unique, and so will be our contribution to the Kingdom of God.

Here are parts of a letter from Father Martin of Casa Franciscana written in April 2025:

My dear sisters and brothers,

There is a door at the Mission that, due to its design, we call the Resurrection Door. However, I think of it as the Resurrection Door because of all the lives that have risen from pain and hopelessness through our programs...

A few weeks ago, I had my own "resurrection". I was accompanying our team to visit Jesus (his real name). He is an elderly man who broke his hip four years ago and never had it treated. Now he is totally bedridden in his one room shack. We bring food and supplies. His special treat is instant coffee that he makes in a saucepan on a one burner hotplate up close to his bed. Our remarkable staff bathes him, changes bed linens and cleans his small living area...

We saw no bitterness, despair or self-pity. His eyes were filled with joy and love. I truly felt that I was in the presence of Jesus Christ. Yes, we try to find the face of Jesus in all that we meet but I realized that we should strive to have everyone find the face of Jesus in us. There is a difference between serving our brethren or walking together with them. That is how God intended it. Each holding up the other. I felt how this humble man held me up...

Let everything you do be done in love,
Fr. Martin Ibarra, OFM



4th Week of Lent



Casa Franciscana Mission, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico

Casa Franciscana operates the Denise Nagel Youth Center to provide safe after-school activities to children—including local youth and children from nearby colonies, agricultural families, and indigenous communities—who struggle academically, have special needs, or are out of school, helping them with reading, writing, computer skills, and homework. They currently serve 117 children.



Learn More

As an extension of their centers, they have provided over 50 laptops to children who lack access to technology. Each laptop is equipped with tutoring software, encyclopedias, and educational programs, enabling students to excel academically.

Evaluations show positive outcomes, with many students demonstrating academic advancement and several receiving achievement diplomas as a result of this support overseen by staff at these centers.

Read Scripture

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden...Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:14, 15

“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much; and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.” -Luke 12:48



Do this



CASA FRANCISCANA
OUTREACH

Pray

Think of your talents and use them to do something for one of your family, parishioners, or neighbors. Help your friend with their taxes or hard to understand documents. Use your talents to do something special this week for one of God's family.

Attend the Lenten “Called and Gifted” retreat Saturday, 3/21, from 9am-4pm.

Lord, You desire that we would not hide our talents in the ground, but would use them to grow Your kingdom. We pray that we as Your people would not be afraid to use our gifts and to step out in faith for Your purposes.

Give us more and more opportunities to use them to bless others and to bless You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Grown-Up's Corner

Watch: Stewardship at St. Mark:
Talent <https://tinyurl.com/mrk463bw>



Kid's Corner



Most of the students here in Durango are blessed to have all the supplies they need to do their schoolwork. Do you?

Can you use up ALL your school supplies, even broken crayons and the back sides of paper, before buying more? Instead of buying new things, use up old things completely, and put the money you save in your rice box. Tutor or help one of your siblings or classmates with their homework, Always take care of your backpack, lunchbox, tablet or computer, and other special school things by keeping them clean, organized, and in a safe place. Be thankful for these things!

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship of Talent: Stewardship of talent is the intentional nurturing, development, and active use of God-given abilities—skills, knowledge, and spiritual gifts—to serve others and glorify God rather than for self-interest.

Key aspects of the stewardship of talent include:

- Identification: Recognizing personal talents and spiritual gifts through prayer, self-reflection, and seeking advice.
- Development: Actively nurturing abilities through practice, learning, and improvement.
- Application: Using talents to serve the community, such as teaching, volunteering, or helping those in need.
- Accountability: Viewing talents as resources entrusted by God to be used for the greater good.

This practice applies to all areas of life, including family, work, and community involvement.





5th Week of Lent



Casa Franciscana Mission

has a medical clinic with general practitioners on staff to provide care to those in need who cannot afford to go elsewhere. The medical clinic serves on average 60 people per day. The clinic includes a pharmacy for distributing supplies such as medications, adult diapers, and first aid supplies to make life a little easier. Also provided are laboratory tests to check for diabetes and parasites as well as other blood work for children, adults, and the elderly.



Learn More

Casa Franciscana's dental clinic provides cleanings, fillings, extractions and preventative care to help patients maintain good oral hygiene. Also, the Mission has a diabetic education program. Diabetes strikes one in six Mexicans and is higher among the poor. It can have debilitating outcomes including amputations, kidney failure, blindness, and heart disease resulting in the inability to work or care for oneself. The program's success depends on participants possessing a glucometer and test strips, which cost \$700 per person per year.

The Assistive Devices Program provides wheelchairs, braces, crutches, walkers and care packages for individuals in the community with mobility limitations. This program also works with Shriners' International to help children receive treatment and mobility devices.

Read Scripture

"Watch carefully then, how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another [in] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father." (Ephesians 5:15-20)

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens." (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

"For he says: In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)



Do this

Can we think of ways we can spend our Gift of Time to bring honor and glory to God- attend an extra mass during the week, spend extra time in prayer? Can we visit the sick or lonely, send them a card, or spend time in prayer for them this week? Can we pray for the health care workers at Casa Franciscana and in our own community?

Part of Casa Franciscana's mission is to provide insulin to the poor in Mexico. One month's supply of insulin costs \$17. Can we put \$17 in our rice box to provide them with that life-saving medication for a month, \$8.50 for half a month, 50 cents for a day, or \$204 for a year?

Pray

Dear Lord, thank you for my gift of time. Help me to use my time wisely in ways that bring honor and glory to You, my God. Guide me as I seek ways that will deepen my relationship with You and improve my spiritual life. Send Your Spirit to encourage, strengthen and assist my efforts as I gift You with my Time in prayer, scripture, weekly mass, adoration, and in aiding those in need of my stewardship.

Amen.

Grown-Up's Corner

Watch: Stewardship of Time
<https://youtu.be/x326EhkRWE?si=tliCvwjEGdBGGzJt>



At Casa Franciscana, twice a year, doctors, nurses, dentists and hygienists travel from the US to the outlying camps of Guaymas to perform check-ups and diabetes exams, give immunizations, and administer general medical and dental care to those lacking healthcare access. In 2024, the medical mission served 1,130 patients. The Mission also offers in-home medical visits by healthcare professionals to provide critical care and medicine to individuals who are unable to get to the clinic.

If you are a healthcare professional, consider donating your time and talents in our local area or even beyond.

Kid's Corner



Hopefully, you can always go to the doctor when you're really sick. Medical care is difficult to get in Guaymas. Say thank you to those parents, doctors, dentists, and nurses who take care of you when you're sick!

This week, try to visit with, or at least make a card for, anyone you know who is sick or lonely. Maybe you'll grow up to be a nurse, dentist, or doctor, or caregiver someday. Learn all you can in school so that however God calls you, you will be ready!

What is Stewardship?

Our time is a very precious gift given to us by God, but it can't be stored up like grain in a barn. Most of us feel we don't have enough time for all the things we want to do. Everyone is given the same amount of time; 24 hours each day, 168 hours each week.

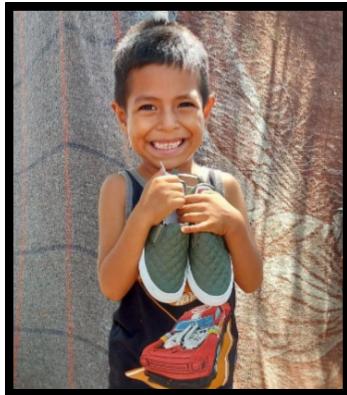
Once a moment passes, it is gone forever. So, the question becomes: How do we choose to use our time? "For Catholics, stewardship of time should include setting aside periods for family prayer, for the reading of Scripture, for visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and for the attendance at Mass during the week..." (U.S. Bishops' Pastoral

Letter on Stewardship). Assisting individuals, organizations, and the Church is another way to share our personal time for the glory of God. Your gift of time, given to you by God, is unique because you are the only one who can share it.





6th and last Week of Lent



Casa Franciscana Mission,
Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico

Thank you for taking the time to learn about St. Columba's new Lenten Appeal recipient! As we joyfully anticipate the Easter season, let's keep Casa Franciscana in our prayers, and fill our rice boxes to return this week!



Learn More

Shoes are a requirement for school attendance.

Casa Franciscana Outreach continues to purchase thousands of new shoes yearly for students in need.

Through the generosity of the Shoe Program, some students receive their first pair of shoes and the opportunity to attend school.



Read Scripture

"I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Phillipians 1:3-6

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 4:16-17



Do this

Use this last week of Lent (Holy Week) to fast and pray for the people of Casa Franciscana who we are supporting by our Lenten Appeal. Fast from the luxuries that we enjoy every day (the internet, phone, television, social media, unneeded food and drink, entertainment, etc.). Use that extra time to pray, meditate, read scripture, go to Mass, help someone in need.

Donate the money you save from your normal weekly expenses to the people of Casa Franciscana. This week (Holy Week) we will turn in our rice boxes with the treasure we have accumulated through God's blessings of our time and talent. How much will we share with Casa Franciscana to provide meals, tutoring, school supplies, shoes, medical and dental care, medications (especially insulin), and shelter?



Pray

Dear Lord, Thank you for all you have given me. Make known to me how I can best share my time, talent, and treasure with my family, school/parish, community, and Casa Franciscana. Help me to be a cheerful giver and to give generously like the poor widow in scripture who gave all that she had. Amen

Contemplate how you plan to share your time, talent and treasure--God's gifts to you--imagine that Jesus himself is sitting across the table helping you decide what to do. After all, he is there spiritually. What would you do for him if he were there physically?

Grown-Up's Corner

Casa Franciscana offers pilgrimages to witness and participate in the work that they do, and to pray, meditate, reflect and connect with our brothers and sisters in Guaymas.

St. Columba is hoping to schedule one during next year's spring break, March 15-19, 2027. At that time, we hope to bring shoes and school supplies to the mission. Watch the bulletin on how to join the mission trip!



Kid's Corner



Did you know that some kids can't go to school because they don't have even one pair of shoes? Casa Franciscana helps by giving a pair of shoes to children so they can attend school.

Ask your parents or grandparents if they will pay you to do a job for them, and then put the money in your rice box.



What is Stewardship?

Our money and possessions— our treasure are gifts from God that we are asked to care for and generously share. It is essential to share our money and material possessions for two reasons: first, all the good things that God made, including money, are meant to be shared, and second, we need to give. We need to give our money to individuals and families in need, the Church, and other worthwhile charitable organizations because giving money is good for the soul and because we need to return thanks to a loving God for our many blessings.

(St. Patrick Church, Tacoma, WA).

As members of God's family on earth, we must remember His absolute love for each of us every day of our lives. Stewardship is a wonderful reminder of how we can give back to Him all He has given to us by sharing with others.

