



We want to start our news of this first month of the year asking for your prayers for our beloved Adriana, memory eternal! We also ask for your prayers for the children and teenagers, the staff and clergy of the Hogar and Monastery, on the loss of this precious child. You can read all about what happened to Adriana in the special news at this same website.

***Birthdays celebrated these months with cake:***



Alexander turned 7 years old on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and the year, Circumcision of our Lord and Saint Basil the Great

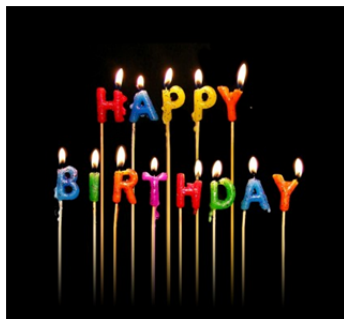


Anthony Gabriel turned 9 years old on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Feast of Theophany of our Lord



Silvia turned 20 years old on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Hieromartyr Clement. A small surprise dinner was served in honor of Silvia.

*Many years to them!*



## ***The children and teenagers:***



Everyone enjoyed the big luncheon at the Hogar on the first day of the year and after the Divine Liturgy. The delicious chocolate cake sent by the Quiñonez Family was enjoyed by all! Mother Ines gave the small chocolate dolls in the cake to the children who played those same parts of the yolka or the Nativity play.



Anthony Gabriel (9) presented a minor facial stroke, so he has been receiving special treatments and therapies. He has evolved positively along the month. Your prayers for him are appreciated.

- Barbara (17), left the Hogar. The guard opened the door for a truck to enter and she ran away. We were so concerned as to where she had gone but a few days later they called saying she was with her family in a town that is located about two hours from the city. We wish her the best with her family. The teenagers had dynamics and talks with Mother Ines and the teachers to discuss the difficult loss for everyone.



The children and young ones received nice toys on the 21<sup>st</sup> since Mr. Aranki a parishioner from our church gave tricycles to the little ones and skating boards to the young ones. They are having much fun playing with their new toys.



The teenage boys are attending a new school. They were transferred to the town of Nueva Concepción where they are living and studying. Father John Chakos is living there and the boys are very happy and helping with all the Orthodox services for the new converts. God acts in mysterious ways! We thank Steven Dudenhoeffer and all the people at AkTenamit for everything they did for our boys while they were at Rio Dulce.



Henry Kleiner, now 20 years old, Karen's brother returned from Mexico where he studied the past 8 years. He graduated from High School and lived at the Monastery of Saint Anthony under our Metropolitan Antonio. He returned to Guatemala to continue with his studies and he is living at the Monastery. Welcome back Henry! The only one left to finish High School in July is William, who will return to our country when he is finished. Both want

to go to college and we will continue helping them achieve their dreams.



After the departure of Adriana to the Lord, memory eternal, the children have been with many reactions as everyone does with something like this. They have participated in dynamics, talks and presentations to be supported with their personal and collective grieving. They have also slept more and played outdoors. Some of them including Reina, enjoyed an ice cream the day after. Please continue to pray for all the children and teenagers.

### **School:**

- On the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month, formal school activities restarted after the end of the year celebrations. May the children have a blessed school year!



It is a joy to have Seño Mirna, our former Grade School teacher, working at the Monastery and helping Mother Ines supervise the construction site. Welcome home again!

### **Summary written by Dr. Alan Russell about the woodshop:**

- The Hogar is making a portable three piece display (three 30" x 72" room dividers) out of mahogany and cork to have 6 surfaces for print display for the Canon distributor. Since the girls have used Canon cameras and a Canon printer, they will have the first showing. I think we will make two of these. We can then display and sell their images at UFM, major banks, shopping malls, etc where we can get a showing. They will use special hinges and wheels so they are mobile.
- During the February trip Mother Ines, Astrid, and I will lay out the floor plan for the new Carpinteria at San Miguel. The hurricanes left a number of large cedar (cedro) trees down that now are being harvested for

wood. Madre Ines and I have picked out the Alaskan Mark III C2 sawmill to more efficiently harvest the wood with a higher usable yield. She will contract the labor to do the initial cutting.



The production and assembling of the pews is coming along. Don Arturo is a master craftsman and expects perfection in his projects. The end product is beautiful and represents a lot of hours from Don Arturo and the girls. They work on this on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

- Their next project will be their solid mahogany armoire. It will have two sets of raised panel doors (6 and 4) which are available for carved designs, a full length mirror on the inside of the right hand six panel door and two drawers that use a combination lock. Even during this process they will continue to do scroll saw, intarsia, lathe and combination CNC router and power tools.

- A new Nova DVR professional lathe is on the way thru Miami which will expand our lathe capacity. With the left over mahogany from the Monastery and the new cedro in major size blanks we will see bowls and other projects. More wood burning and carving projects are beginning to surface.

### ***Teams, visitors and their activities:***



The team from Minnesota arrived on the first, led by Father Nathan Kroll and Doria Saros, six missionaries came with them. The team helped with the children as it was vacation time, they enjoyed chanting and working with arts and crafts projects. Sandra Anderson coordinated the painting of an icon of the Panagia, when finished they were blessed by Father Nathan. The team treated many of the children and young ones to the hot springs and enjoyed the day. They visited the Monastery for Theophany. Doria presented the teenagers with a Youth Bible produced and donated by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese for their personal use. After many activities, the team traveled on their last day to the Highlands and Antigua. We thank the team, and especially Doria for being such a great leader and motivator to our children and young ones.



Christine and Michelle Farkouh from New York came to visit. They joined the MN team in all of their activities and stayed a few more days. Michelle fell and broke her ankle, we are sorry about this accident and wish her a fast and healing recuperation.

- John Thetford from Ellwood City, PA will be working in a Guatemalan school for one year. He will be visiting as much as he is able to as he can come to church and share with the boys. Welcome home away from home John!



Dr. Alan Russell arrived to work at the woodshop and the photography project for ten days. It was a joy to celebrate his birthday on one of those days and he treated the teenagers and the nuns to eat a nice lunch at Tony Romas. Later that evening the girls prepared a special and delicious dinner for him, and his good friend Lisa Hanckel was invited, it was truly a joyful day for everyone. Many years to our dear Mr. Russell!



Father John Chakos arrived to Guatemala in order to work with the new group of converts in the South Coast of the country. He spent the weekend at the Hogar and Monastery and then departed to the place where he will be living. We wish him the best!



The Virginia Team arrived for a week, led by Father Maximus Urbanowitz and Antonia Chelpon, accompanied by six more missionaries. The missionaries brought many donations, they helped cleaning the grounds, mowing the yard, painting the church and playing with the children. Antonia and Maria Chelpon, dental hygienists, cleaned the children's teeth and applied fluoride. The team

treated the children to visit Museo Miraflores (Mayan subjects) and later ate at Pollo Campero. They prepared a healthy meal for the children (pasta with shrimp, salad and strawberry yogurt) as a farewell activity. On one of their days here, the missionaries visited the Monastery and Antigua. We thank them for all that they did and also for the chairs they bought for Lucy our Secretary and Jorge!

***Foundation Friends of the Hogar based in Chicago:***



Through their work and fundraisers they have reached to giving people who are sponsoring some of our children. We thank the sponsors and the board!

## **Guatemalan visitors, volunteers, donors and their activities:**



Sergio Furnari, an Italian who lives in New York and works special art projects for Samboro tile company in Guatemala, visited the Monastery in the afternoon of Theophany. The children painted a tile following Sergio's instructions since he will make a mural with them. You can visit his website at [www.sergiofurnari.com](http://www.sergiofurnari.com).



Many thanks to our dear Olga Lila Ayau for sending so many delicious avocados again and again!

## **Church and Clergy:**



The first day of the year started with the Divine Liturgy for the Circumcision of our Lord and Saint Basil the Great with the prayers for the beginning of the New Year.



At the Hogar the Royal Hours and the Vespers Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great were celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup> by Father Antonio and Father Nathan Kroll who came with the MN team. Later that day, Great Compline with Lytia and Matins were celebrated.



The Feast of Theophany was celebrated at the Monastery by Father Antonio and Father Nathan. A bus was rented and the children attended the celebration. After the Divine Liturgy, the Great Blessing of the Waters was done and everyone went down the mountain to bless the waters of Lake Amatitlán. Two of the young boys dived for the Cross, lunch was served in a picnic style and everyone enjoyed very much.



On the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, Father Antonio and Father Nathan blessed all the Hogar and everyone. It was another joyful celebration.



Father Antonio and Father John Chakos celebrated the Divine Liturgy on the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup>, before Father John departed to his new home.



The nuns and Father Antonio, accompanied by María Isaura Mazariegos and Roberto Brol, parishioners of our church, traveled to Mexico to participate in the celebrations of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of our beloved Metropolitan Antonio. A Hierarchical Liturgy was celebrated on the day of Saint Anthony at the new Saint Peter and Saint Paul Antiochian Cathedral. The hierarchs celebrating from the Antiochian Synod were Archbishop George of Homs, Archbishop Damaskinos of Brazil and Bishop Ignacio Saaman; from the Russian Church were Archbishops Justinian of New York and Kiril of Los Angeles; and from OCA Bishop Alejo. Mother Joanna from Lebanon also attended, she is helping to write the icons at the cathedral. A lunch with many people attending was served afterwards. On one of the days they visited the Monastery of Saint Anthony in Jilotepec. We wish our Metropolitan Antonio many years! You can read more about this event at [www.iglesiaortodoxa.org.mx](http://www.iglesiaortodoxa.org.mx).

### ***The Staff:***

- We wish Mónica Palma, one of our accountants, the best as she starts her practices on Psychology. She is studying at Universidad Mariano Gálvez.

### ***Adopted Children:***

- Cara Shaver organized an ice cream sale at DeSales High School. It was a lot of fun and very successful. She raised \$533.00 for the Hogar!!!! The students were very interested in hearing about the Hogar and liked the posters Cara made with pictures of the children from our visits. Cara is also selling handmade rosaries and key lanyards in her church bazaar. Cara is always finding ways to help the children at her former home! Thank you dearest Cara!



Cara Shaver, adopted from the Hogar some years ago by Dave and Melissa Shaver. She studies at St. Francis DeSales High School and has been chosen as the Winner of Soroptimist International Northeast Suburban Franklin County's Violet Richardson Award in Ohio! The award is based on service to others. The judges were impressed and inspired by her

accomplishments for the Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage in Guatemala. The awards ceremony will be held tentatively on May 14th, 2012.

*Our prayers:*

- For the new President of the Republic, and for all civil and military authorities who started their new government on the 14<sup>th</sup>. For all Guatemalans so God delivers us from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress.



Memory eternal to Biancka! Our prayers for Sister Ana Mónica and all of her family for the loss of her beloved mother. Father Antonio and the nuns participated in all the services for the wake and burial. May our Resurrected Lord comfort them all.

Memory eternal to our beloved child Adriana!



**MEMORY ETERNAL ADRIANA!**

On the Feast of Saint John Chrysostom, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, our beloved child Adriana slept in the Lord. Memory eternal Adriana!



Kimberly Adriana Vasquez also known as Adriana Meza Vasquez was born in Guatemala City on August 31, 1999, she was 12 years old. She arrived to the Hogar Rafael Ayau as a volunteer on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 with her sisters Alicia (20 now) and Reina (14 now). She was baptized on Pascha, 2003, being her Godmothers Mother Inés and Ioanna de García. Her brother Marvin arrived some time later; Marvin and Alicia left the Hogar after a few years.

Adriana was a happy child and her smile with cute dimples was unique. She was on Fifth Grade studying at the Hogar's school. She loved to swim, to play, to have jobs in church and especially to read. The last book she was reading was "The Face of God".

She had health problems since a few years ago, her immune system was weak and a simple cold would become a major respiratory problem. In September of 2009 she was at the General Hospital for one month and many tests were done with no definite diagnosis, except for altered results in her blood samples. Adriana also underwent many tests at the Children's Hospital for Cancer and no definite diagnosis was confirmed. She was tested frequently to make sure she did not present a major blood problem. Her liver and spleen tended to enlarge and all the medicines required to treat her problems were always given, thanks to Dr. Ludwig, MD of the Hogar, as well as Dr. Rafa our Naturopathic Physician.

On January 10<sup>th</sup> of this year, Adriana presented the same recurrent problems of general weakness, rashes, enlarged liver and spleen, she lost her appetite and therefore some weight. Many more tests were run. On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, she attended the Divine Liturgy but looked weak and pale, but she was the church's subleader for the month and she was very happy as it was the first time she carried out this position with great responsibility. That same weekend she was happy playing with the new skate boards the children received as gifts from a parishioner, and she enjoyed! During that week her health was compromised, especially after a hemorrhagic vomit where the paramedics took her immediately to the hospital on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>. Adriana was very upset to go to the hospital as she did not want to go again, and she was reminded in the ambulance that Jesus was with her and she needed not to be afraid, that Jesus will give her the strength and patience; she smiled beautifully.

Adriana was received in the Emergency unit of the General Hospital and during the night she was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit due to much bleeding, where she slept in the Lord on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Feast of Saint John Chrysostom at 6:45 am. The diagnosis the doctors gave as her cause of sleeping in the Lord was a Myeloid Dysplastic Syndrome complicated with multiple hemorrhages, and finally, heart failure.

After many letters and paperwork from the Hogar to the legal Court for Minors, Adriana was prepared and brought to the Hogar at 5 pm that same Friday. The bells sounded as she entered in her white coffin on the van of the Hogar driven by Jorge. All the children with Mother Inés and the nuns, with Father Antonio prayed the Trisagion prayers for her soul. Later that night, the Funeral Service was chanted entirely, a beautiful and comforting service. Many people from Adriana's biological family, the parishioners and friends of the Hogar came to share in the church. Most of the teenage girls did not want to leave the church and spend the whole night reading the Psalms and Akhatists to Adriana. Reina, her sister, was comforted with all the chanting and reading around her.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Feast of Saint Ephrem the Syrian, a Trisagion was sung and Adriana was taken to the General Cemetery. The cemetery at the Monastery was ready to receive

Adriana's body but her biological family requested that she be buried at the General Cemetery. Adriana was accompanied by Father Antonio, Mother Inés and the nuns, many children, teenagers, staff and friends of the Hogar.

We want to thank all the staff, friends, missionaries, volunteers and donors of the Hogar Rafael Ayau for all the telephone calls, emails and notes on facebook expressing sympathy, love, support and prayers for the loss of Adriana. All these expressions were very comforting for everyone, especially for Reina, the children and the nuns.

We ask for your prayers in memory of Adriana, as well as your prayers for everyone grieving at the Hogar. Reina is holding up with much faith and patience, and appreciates all the notes sent. May the memory of Adriana be eternal!



Once again we thank everyone for making the Hogar such a special place and for your love, support and prayers. Your donations are invaluable, both from Guatemalans and from the missionaries who visit us. Your monetary donations are helpful to run the Hogar and to continue with the construction of the new hogar at the Monastery. We thank you and we thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for so many blessings!