

St. Teresa Casita

"Serving Those in Greatest Needs"

January 2020
Newsletter 2



CASITA UPDATES



Saint Teresa Casita, San Pedro Town

Saint Teresa Casita is a humble organization and branch of the San Pedro Roman Catholic Church. From its opening in 2017, its volunteers have been spreading love and kindness to everyone who comes seeking assistance. The Casita follows Saint Teresa's way: do small things with great love. The Casita operates with the kind donations of parishioners and a few businesses.

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Advent Food Drive 2019

The San Pedro Roman Catholic School held a canned food drive before their Christmas vacation to help the Casita. It was a great success, thanks be to God. The class with the most canned food collected was awarded with ice cream at their end of year class party. This year a Standard 5 won.



**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL
TO ALL THE DONORS
THAT HAVE CON-
TRIBUTED SOME WAY
OR THE OTHER IN THIS
GREAT WORK OF SERV-
ING OUR NEEDY IN THE
COMMUNITY. WE WILL
ALWAYS BE THANKFUL.**

**FOR DONATIONS PLEASE
CALL 623-3372 OR
VISIT ST TERESA CASITA
LOCATED AT THE BACK
OF THE CHURCH**



The Casita will always be looking for dedicated leaders and individuals to come and join our great organization. We are looking for anyone willing to work from home with good writing skills. We also visit our families that come on distribution days. If you think you are ready to be one of us kindly contact the church at 623- 3372 or visit the casita located at the back of the church.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



*"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."
- St Teresa of Calcutta*

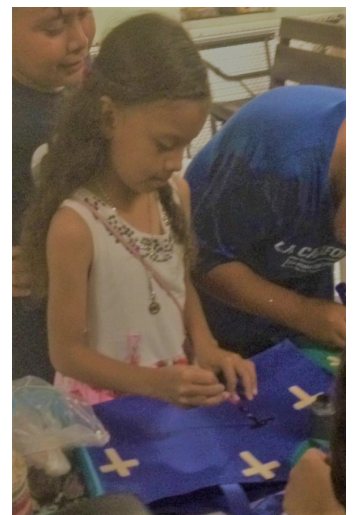
VOLUNTEER CORNER

VOLUNTEER CORNER We have 34 Confirmation candidates this year for Confirmation Level 2.

They began volunteering on November 30, 2019 in groups of 5 at the Saint Teresa Casita from 9 a.m. –

10:30 a.m. These candidates are between the age of 10 – 15 years old. For most, this is their first opportunity to volunteer for a worthy cause. This volunteer work is very beneficial for their personal formation on how to serve the community. They work under the guidance and supervision of the casita leader. Community Days are held twice per month and assist over 60 families with food and hygiene supplies.

On December 14, each candidate had the fun task of designing a Christmas Bag. They placed much love, patience, and creativity in their design because they knew that a family would receive the very bag they were working on.





OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Public celebrations, or fiestas, are held in honor of Mary, the Virgin of Guadalupe, on December 12. Catholics from across Mexico and other countries pay pilgrimage to see an image of Mary, believed to be authentic, in the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

To celebrate, a procession of golf carts lit up the streets of San Pedro on December 12th, followed by a celebration at Central Park.

CASITA RENOVATIONS & SEED OF LIFE

The Saint Teresa Casita was recently beautified with a garden. This is the ideal spot for the St. Teresa Casita youth volunteers to feel at peace and at home in a holy environment since it is located on the Church yard. The interior of the Casita, which is home to the Seed of Life, a Pregnancy Resource Center is undergoing some needed renovations as well, including new tiled floors.



EPIPHANY



The Epiphany of the Lord was held on Sunday January 5th at 10 am Mass. After mass, the children received gifts.

"It is a poverty to decide that Child must Die, so that you may live as you wish"

-St Teresa of Calcutta

St. Teresa of Calcutta, Saint and Nun (1910-1997)

Mother Teresa was the founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women dedicated to helping the poor. Considered one of the 20th Century's greatest humanitarians, she was canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.

Known worldwide and admired even by professed atheists, she lived her religious life with a love for Christ that was genuine and heroic. She did not feel Christ's love in return for many years but lived in a kind of spiritual darkness. This may have been a gift of the Lord that she would share in His isolation on the Cross and the suffering of those dying alone on the streets of Calcutta.

She formed her Sisters of Charity to surrender themselves to the fiery love of Christ and to allow His love and His thirst for souls to move them to greater and greater acts of mercy and charity for the rich and the poor, in whom Mother found poverty of soul and body.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...

“The Roman Catholic Church of Ambergris Caye”

by Angel Nunez, for Ambergris Today Online

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday Community Day:

Community Days are currently bi-monthly 9am to noon.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mondays (8 am to 12 pm)

Wednesdays (11 am to 2 pm)

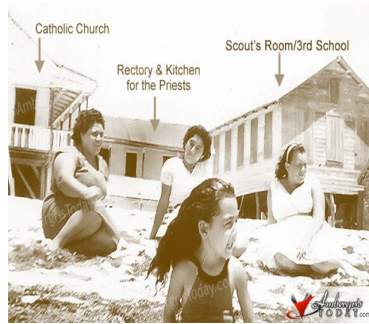
Saturdays (9 am to 12 pm)

HOLY HOUR for Volunteers

Every Thursday
12 noon to 1 pm

Adoration Chapel

San Pedro Roman Catholic Church



The island of Ambergris Caye was auctioned on the 13th of September 1869 and the successful bidder at \$625.00 was James Hume Blake, a British magistrate of the Corozal District. The only land exempted from the sale was a lot given for the purpose of building a Roman Catholic Church in the village of San Pedro. At this time the village was inhabited by several Mestizo families who had fled from the Caste War in Yucatan and settled in the village which they named San Pedro.

The property given to the Catholic Church was left unoccupied for many years until early in the 1900's some village men began this labor of love and unity. It is known that in 1905 James Howell Blake II built his mansion that lived to be over 100 years old and popularly known as Blake House (The site is now occupied by Heritage Bank).

Who built the first church is unknown, but shortly after the Blake House it is said that the villagers did so. The Blake's helped with its construction since they were a very fervent Catholic family. It was a concrete building, beautiful and outstanding among the thatch

houses in the village. The Roman Catholic Church had an uninterrupted view of the Caribbean Sea and was the pride of San Pedro. It was this same Caribbean Sea that destroyed the church in the 1942 Hurricane.

In 1985 Mayor Gilberto Gomez and the Town Council Council decided to preserve the memory of this church by erecting a lovely water fountain depicting the history of the Mayas and Mestizos who built the first church in San Pedro. It was a magnificent piece of concrete sculpture carved out by famous local artist, Eduardo "Papo" Alamilla. Unfortunately it was removed to make way for the present day Central Park plans.

There is a big looming question still. Who does that vacated church property belong to? The R.C. Church or The Town Council? However the villagers of San Pedro would not have it without a church and by 1949, or thereabout, they had built with the help of Papa Blake and is lovely wife Elena Blake Alamilla a brand new church. This one was built on a lot also owned by the Blake's. It was an all wooden structure with verandah all around. Because Papa Bake had a daughter who was a nun, he also added a U-shaped building which served for the nuns' vacation home on the island complete with dormitory, kitchen and dining room. Even though it was a property for the nuns and the Catholic Church, it was also used by the Belize Scout during their summer vacations and in time it was popularly known as the Scout Room.

This new parish was visited by Father Franco, a Mexican/Belizean and by Father Robert Raszowski (pictured left) who gave his life of service to this Catholic community for over 50 years. Hundreds of baptisms, confirmations, weddings and even funerals were officiated in this church. The San Pedro Musical Band played their hearts out on the verandah for the Good Friday rituals and mass.

Then came Hurricane Hattie in 1961 and demolished the entire beach of San Pedro. The church and nuns' quarters were saved but damaged badly. For two long years the building served as the Catholic school. At this point Father Raszowski commenced with his dream of a new concrete church. Plans were drawn and the community began with fund raising - fairs, food sales, carnival dances - everyone wanted to contribute because it was Father's wish that no money be accepted from foreigners.

After the ground-breaking, it took many years and the construction advanced very slowly, sometimes disappointingly slow. It was not until 1977 that our majestic and pride of San Pedro was completed. San Pedro was joyful that Father Raszowski was alive to see its completion and be able to enjoy it for many years. After his passing changes, additions and improvements have been brought about by Father Jesus Riverol, Father Jim, Father Paul, Father Dan Nunez, Father Anonuevo and Fathers Scott and David. This helps to prove that San Pedro has always been considered a

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