



# Caridad de Corazón

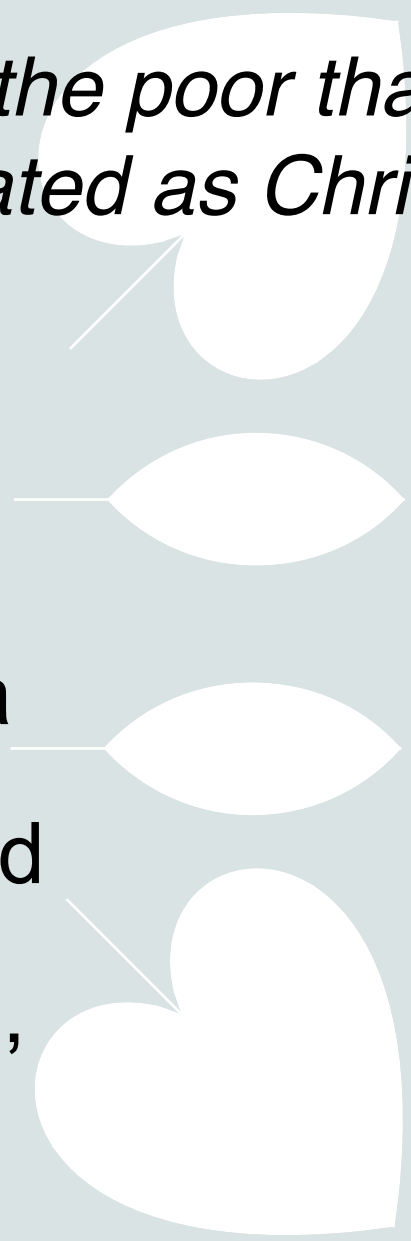
## Organization of Benedictine Sisters

Sr. Ursula Herrera, OSB

*Mission Statement: We are committed to ministry to the poor that God has placed in our path. Each person is to be treated as Christ.*

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Caridad de Corazón started a short time after I arrived in Eagle Pass. I was working at Fort Duncan Medical Center when in November of 1997 I was asked to be responsible for the gifts that were being donated for the orphanage Casa Hogar Niños de Piedras Negras. I worked with that orphanage for a year before I was introduced to Casa Nazareth, the orphanage founded by Padre Carlos. I then started taking food, clothing, shoes and other supplies as needed to both orphanages.





I was introduced to Casa Bethesda several years after coming to Eagle Pass. It is a home for disabled children/adults. The children who started out here were basically abandoned as their families were

unable to care for them. These children are now adults but because of their disabilities they remain children at heart.



# Food Distribution Ministry

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In September 1999 I was approached by Terry Bliquez to assist in distributing food to needy individuals in Piedras Negras. I said yes and the ministry took on another task: we would begin to serve several colonias (unincorporated areas without infrastructure). Deacon Jerry Campa from St. Mary Magdalene in San Antonio started bringing rice and beans donated by Sky Cross Ministries down to Eagle Pass and shortly there after established "Feed My Sheep". Each month they would bring food and clothing aside from the beans and rice donated by Sky Cross. The group would package the food on the US side and then take it across and distributed it to different colonias in Piedras Negras. The work continued until a few years ago when the United States issued warnings regarding the safety of US citizens in Mexico.

# Scholarship Fund

## Students from Colonia Ramon Bravo



We have a scholarship fund to help students in Piedras Negras continue their education after grade school. In Mexico, parents must pay for continuing education in Junior High and High School. It is difficult for parents who work for minimal wages to provide an education for their children.

# Students from Colonia Bravo



With an education, these children have a greater chance of a better future. Keeping them in school will also help to prevent them from becoming an easy pick for running or using drugs. Our only requirement is that they maintain an average of 8-10. We have helped to educate nurses, lab technicians, teachers, lawyers, and business managers. The students have been successful in obtaining good jobs after their education.

## *Prison Ministry*

- We provide food, clothing, shoes, toiletries, and other items as needed to inmates in a Piedras Negras Prison. The family who continues in this ministry takes them the items we provide and a home cooked meal weekly thus nourishing their bodies and the Word of God for their souls.
- A few years ago, those in charge of decided that inmates would and khaki T-shirts or challenge garments in this color. However, God provides, and we did receive some and we were able to sweatshirts.



# Soup Kitchens in Piedras Negras

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- We assist monthly with donations for food and other items as needed such as clothing, adult diapers, wheelchairs, and medical supplies. We were able to help in completing the soup kitchen area after an organization called Operation Christian Love was unable to continue funding them.
- We also assist a smaller soup kitchen operated by Pastor Ramirez.



# Mano de Dios      Soup kitchens      and      Mundo de Fe



# Home repairs/construction



Some mission groups have decided to stay in the United States rather than cross the border. They help repair or construct homes in Eagle Pass. There are some Adult Groups, Youth Groups and Family Groups that have opted to do this as their mission. Our home is a mission house for those coming to do this work.

# Mission House

In 2004 we, the sisters, were asked to present a dream for our future. My dream was a mission house for missionaries in Eagle Pass. I was given the okay and set about looking for a home that would be large enough to house 10-12 missionaries. We purchased a home in December of 2004 and moved in in April of 2005. With the help of volunteers and two Felician Franciscan Sisters we removed carpeting and cleaned the house. Gradually we got it ready with new carpets in the bedroom and new flooring in the dining/living area. As the stream of missionaries increased, we converted the garage into bedrooms. We now have 28 beds available.

# Immigrants

Our newest ministry is to the immigrants seeking asylum in the United States. This ministry started in 2019 when I was asked to open our mission house to immigrants when I did not have groups booked for use of the house. The migration was detained during Covid but resumed soon after the epidemic started to subside, a shelter was opened in an abandoned church and I was asked to do the cooking. The numbers doubled and we soon outgrew the church building and had to move to a converted warehouse on Del Rio Blvd. With the increased influx in 2023, Mission: Border Hope was able to purchase a new building.



# The New Shelter

In September of 2023 we had a huge influx of immigrants/migrants and a state of emergency was declared. Mission: Border Hope opened its doors September 21, 2023, before the renovation was completed. We opted to work with Mission: Border Hope as opposed to having our own shelter for obvious reasons. Working together we have been able to accomplish the impossible. We have had volunteers coming from various churches to assist in this very important ministry.



# The New Shelter – September 21, 2023



# Volunteers making sandwiches



We are very appreciative of all donations whether it is of time, clothing, monetary, or any other donation. We have a great staff but there are not always enough of us to around. The immigrants themselves sometimes volunteer to help; other times they are too tired, sick, or stressed from their journey. Currently, our ministry is slow, so we are taking time to re-energize. We do know how long this will last.





Thank you very much  
for letting me share  
about our Eagle Pass  
Ministry.

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