

# DESERT BLOOMS

August 2018



Our summer months began with the celebration of First Communion for our first-ever special religious education class at Santo Niño. We are blessed to have several trained catechists among our special mothers and team. Sofia

coordinated the Saturday afternoon classes with the help of Liliana and Celia but because the program is family-based, all of the mothers or grandmothers were active participants. On June 3, the parish feast of Corpus Christi (The Body of Christ) our Santo Niño children received their first Eucharist with the other children of the parish. What a witness of God's desire to draw close so close to us, especially the most vulnerable and simple. "Let the little ones come to me!" We are grateful for the welcome we have at Corpus Christi Parish in Rancho Anapra.

Luis Pablo went home to God in July. His life was one of those mysteries of suffering. He had not been able to come to the center for

many months but over the seventeen years of Santo Niño we had seen him grow from a boy to a young man. Because his family knew of our project we were also able to assist his cousins Chuy, Andrea and Alexa. Severely limited by cerebral palsy in this life, we are consoled by our faith that now and for eternity Luis Pablo is enjoying

perfect freedom.

In more mundane news, our breakfast



routine at Santo Niño includes dishes and dental hygiene. Oral care is especially important for the children on medications that affect teeth and gums and is also part of our

speech and language therapy. One of the mothers is assigned to the "brush, swish and spit" duty and the children take it very seriously!

Singer/rapper and *Hamilton* creator/star Lin-Manuel Miranda tweeted last November: "***Crawl before you walk before you run before you fly before you ASCEND TO GREATNESS & get some food in you, maybe a banana. Vamos!***"

While he didn't have us in mind, this is actually a key concept at Santo Niño and little Arian has been working the program with Sister Carol for several months! He loves his lessons but lets her know when it's time for the banana (or any other food!) using his hand sign for "Eat!" Down's syndrome causes some hyperflexibility of the joints and loose muscle tone that make it a special challenge to get the tummy off the table, let alone right/left movements of arms and legs. Last week all the complex parts and movements came together and Arian was ascending to greatness! Look out, world!

