

BISHOP BALDACCHINO VISITS WITH CHILDREN AT LA SALLE EDUCATIONAL CENTER

HOMESTEAD | When he first visited last month, there were no children present at the La Salle Educational Center in Homestead. But Miami Auxiliary Bishop Peter Baldacchino promised to return. He did so Aug. 12, to admire the children's creativity at an art show hosted by the Children's Gallery and Arts Center.

The bishop received a colorful mural to hang in his office as a gift from the children. He also delighted in a game of air hockey and enjoyed cake and pastries.

The La Salle Educational Center is located at the South Dade Labor Camp and serves 300 low-income families. It provides after-school tutoring for children and evening classes in English and computers for adults. It also houses the La Salle Atelier, where women learn how to sew and sell their creations to earn extra income.

At the end of this year, the La Salle Educational Center will commemorate the 25th anniversary of its foundation. It was founded and continues to be supported by alumni of schools operated in Cuba and Miami by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, an order founded by St. John Baptiste De La Salle more than three centuries ago. The center relies on a mostly volunteer staff and individual donations to support its programs.



Auxiliary Bishop Baldacchino stops for a quick photo with some of the children from the La Salle Educational Center.



"Happy birthday to you." Heide Cerecedo (center) celebrates her birthday with pastries, cake, the birthday song and "Las Manañitas" sung by the children at the La Salle Educational Center and Auxiliary Bishop Peter Baldacchino. Cerecedo is one of three volunteers from Mexico who will be visiting and helping in the center for the next six months.



The children from the La Salle Educational Center presented Auxiliary Bishop Peter Baldacchino with a vibrant mural to hang in his office.



Brother Martin Rocha is presented with a "La Salle Educational Center" t-shirt by La Salle student Verenice. Brother Martin is the Provincial of the Antilles Mexico district of the La-Sallian Christian Brothers, and he was in town to see the work being done at the center.