

Visiting Our Mexican Sisters

WHILE STAYING WITH OUR BENEDICTINE SISTERS AT THEIR motherhouse in Mexico City, we met Mexican theologian Mariana Gómez Álvarez-Icaza. She spoke about the challenges facing Mexico today: ecological catastrophe, economic uncertainty, and horrendous violence especially against women and Indigenous communities. In describing them as authentic outcries demanding a response, she suggested we need to embrace them with a prophetic eye that enables us to recognize, however faintly, signs of God's grace already acting. Equally important is what she described as a "Samaritan attitude" that is willing to engage risk with compassionate commitment.

It was marvelous to listen to her sense of hope, grace, and possibility of real transformation. All of it grounded in humble tenderness!

After Mariana's talk concluded, I was fully aware that our interactions with the Sisters were always colored by their tender care. The witness of these simple women, attentive to their sick and elderly Sisters, to their poor neighbors, and to us as their guests, is a self-effacing, living example of a response to which Mariana was inviting us all through her powerful talk. ■



Mariana Gómez
Álvarez-Icaza,
Mexican theologian

