



*May you have the same attitude in you
as in Christ Jesus
who emptied himself of all grandeur
to be born in human likeness.*



- Philipians 2: 5-6

AFTER 2,000 YEARS OF HISTORY, IN THE FACE OF THE ONGOING DESTRUCTION OF OUR COMMON HOME, we find so many children with their families living amidst abject hunger, violence, war, and the desperation of migration that many times separates these children from their parents.

Each year at Christmas time we remember the tender love of God through assuming our human nature, becoming one of us. Jesus, who though being in equality with God, emptied himself of all grandeur and took on the form of our humanity. He entered into our poverty being born in a stable and sleeping among the animals. In this way the messenger of peace and love was born.

We are remembering you joyfully this Christmas as you celebrate with your families and friends. We ask God that we may all discover the many possibilities of becoming more human in the way that Jesus Christ has opened for us: to deeply immerse ourselves in our common flesh and choose life-giving attitudes of



Logo for the Synod of Amazonia

cooperation to build a new Humanity together.

Jesus not only experienced our radical sinful condition but also assumed our fragility and called forth our ability to engage new horizons and options for our future.

One significant example for us has been the recent Synod of Amazonia wherein persons of different social strata, women, men, original peoples of the world all looked at their reality together with Pope Francis and asked the question of God: What are we to do?



Sisters on a walk together

Our Community Life

LIVING COMMUNITY LIFE IS OUR RESPONSE TO ONE of life's important options. This choice is born through our commitment to assume together God's plan for salvation. Following the inspiration of the early Christian communities, we offer in service to one another the gifts with which we are blessed by God in order to realize the mission of God's reign among us. We build community day-in-and-day-out through common prayer, our work together, the enjoyment of one another's company and in celebration of each other's feast days. We also deepen our spirituality in



Sisters Joaquina and Reyna in the Greenhouse

times of retreat, communal studies, and in the deep exchanges reflecting together upon the Guadalupan-Benedictine dimensions of our common life.

Times of prayer are privileged moments of encountering God that foster our relationships with one another in the vision of the God's Reign and brings healing through pardon and reconciliation. In this vision our prayer builds a community of hope that listens to God and invites us to serve the historical reality in which we live as it unfolds each day.

At the Guadalupe Center Sister Blanca has become a part of another local community of our Sisters; and Sister Ascención has been transferred to our assisted living community in Mexico City for ongoing health care. We have welcomed Sister Leticia Téllez as part of our community at the Center.

This year is also a time of gratefulness and joy that God has blessed the fidelity of our Sisters Joaquina, Virginia, and Rosa Elena as they celebrate their 50th anniversary of religious life on the feast of Christ the King.



Benedictine Abbot Primate Gregory Polan with the Sisters



Sisters with a group of their Oblates

Hospitality

FAITHFUL TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD THROUGH OUR Benedictine tradition, and following the example and teachings of our founders, our house is always open to whoever comes to our door. We want it to reflect the house of Nazareth where Jesus was able to grow, find understanding and loving support. We want it to reflect the welcoming home in Bethany where he was able to rest, be attentive to God's presence in himself and others, and respond to the aspirations and call of mission in his heart.

Our Congregation of Sisters has been blessed by the 43 years of friendship with our brothers of Weston Priory. This has been evident in the profound trust and deep fidelity that we have shared in moments of clarity and obscurity on our journey together. We have helped each other in our search for God and in our mutual work for the Reign of God, respecting the uniqueness of each other's form of communal life. We are so very grateful.

Together we have realized a mutual dream as we live our vision for the Guadalupe Center. This Center has allowed us the opportunity to come to know many people



Sisters exchanging with the brothers of Weston Priory



U.S. group representing various Christian Churches

from the United States, Canada, Mexico and beyond whom we would never have known otherwise and who have blessed our home with their presence.

We continually open our hearts and doors to receive different groups of persons who are seeking our welcome and hospitality. From Mexico we receive groups of married couples, persons joined in Prayer and Life Encounters, groups of women, and others from outside of Mexico (both Christians and people of different religious traditions). We joyfully share our prayer and work, creating an ambience of friendship and unity as we search with one another for our one God and respond to God's living presence among us.

I was a stranger and you received me. (Matthew 25; 35)

IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER OUR HOUSE WAS GRACED to receive a group of Benedictine Abbesses and Prioresses who are delegates of the International Communion of Benedictine Women (CIB). They came representing different regions and countries of the world. These days of exchange were an experience of Pentecost. Our hearts were united in the same Benedictine spirituality, each of us praising God in our own language, but always in one heart.

As the community of the Guadalupe Center we are profoundly grateful that God's love and tenderness was revealed through the various events and moments we have lived in this passing year 2019:

The World Youth Pilgrimage;
the Synod of Amazonia;
Caravans of Migrants arriving at our borders;
the cries of so many suffering peoples.

These voices challenge us to become more and more a listening Church that needs to hear the experiences and questions especially of youth today with their hopes and desire to renew the covenant that God has made with all creation.

We are grateful also for the presence of each one of you who have shared your life, your searching, questioning and hopes with those living in poverty as you reached out to visit and meet them and continue to remember them. We Sisters are also grateful to those who have generously helped us through gifts and donations to extend the mission of the Guadalupe Center.



Meeting with Abbesses, Prioresses and Benedictine Delegates



Hospitality for Mexican married couples



Central American Migrants sharing with a group from the U.S.



U.S. group experiencing the Celebration of the Day of the Dead

*May Emmanuel, God-with-us,
fill your lives
with peace and hope and joy
at this Christmas time
and in this New Year 2020 !*



**With our love and prayer,
Your Guadalupan-Benedictine Sisters,**
*(left to right) Rosario, Carmelita, Fidelina,
Guadalupe, Griselda, Leticia,
Reyna, Joaquina, Marcela, and Carolina*

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(in Spanish)