

Guadalupe Center News



Brothers and Sisters in Weston in June, 2022

In the year 1976, that is 46 years ago, the brothers of Weston were in Cuernavaca, when they went to a gathering of all the Benedictine communities of Mexico. The sisters invited the brothers over to lunch the next day at their Motherhouse in Mexico City. The world at that time had no personal computers, no walls built between the two countries, and in some ways, it seems like the world in general was a much gentler place. That first encounter was the beginning of a mutual communal friendship that continues today.

In the first years, small groups of brothers would visit the mission-houses of the sisters located in the rural areas of Mexico, and small groups of sisters would visit Weston. It was probably the desire to be hospitable and kind to each other, and the ability to listen to each other that drew the communities onto a path of deeper trust and appreciation for each other's charisms.

Such a gift needed to be shared. In 1984 the Guadalupe Center in Cuernavaca received its first group of North Americans for a 10-day retreat experience, which was an immersion into the reality of Mexico and Central America. The Center also gave the brothers a second home from where they could encounter all the places where the sisters offered prophetic ministries throughout Mexico and in Guatemala and Nicaragua as well.

There was one constant reflection that we received from all the groups that have gone to the Center: the hospitality of the sisters was the cornerstone of their experience. We need to continue learning through reading and listening, yet our face-to-face

interactions speak directly to our hearts. That is where real change occurs. The sisters have always been very clear about this in their work since they showed time and time again that although projects are important, our relationships with each other comes first.

After almost 38 years of receiving guests from North America at the Guadalupe Center, we mutually agreed that in this new time of history, the sisters will continue welcoming guests from Mexico, but will not be receiving groups from North America due to the present changing social realities. The groups from Mexico which stay at the Center are based on Scripture, Organic Farming, and ongoing Faith development. The sisters enjoy sharing their home as much as possible.

Today we have personal computers and walls have been built. Fear and prejudice can be very strong. It is only by our continued faithfulness to all that is deepest in our hearts and minds that we will continue to illuminate our world with faith, hope and love.



Brothers and Sisters in Mexico in 2010