

Friends and Family

– *brother Placid*

THE BIBLICAL FORTY YEARS SIGNIFIES A long walk and a long time. It means people traveling together to arrive at a new place. Something has commenced in a movement that bears fruit through fidelity and seeking. Bonds of love, friendship, and shared experience have welded people together as family.

Last year the Mexican Guadalupe Sisters and the Monks of Weston Priory marked the fortieth anniversary of our first meeting and our walk together. Our journey began with a simple suggestion from then Abbot Primate Rembert Weakland that if we had the opportunity we should meet the sisters. Finding a common spirit we initiated visits. Within a few years we jointly inaugurated the Guadalupe Center in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico.

Last year we marked our fortieth year with a joyful Eucharist and a festive meal during which we shared much laughter, recalling the many adventures and happenings over the years. Through this friendship and common vision we have become a family of sisters and brothers, united in a common vision of God's realm breaking into our world.

Now in deep gratitude for God's grace, and heeding the continual challenge of Christ to move forward, we travel together in hope and joy. ■



Sisters and brothers folkdancing.