



E-News March/April 2019

Caminando Por La Paz

Holy Week is very important in Guatemala. Naturally there are events held in the various churches. Also some events such as the way they celebrate the “stations of the Cross” varies a bit from what we are use to. In Guatemala as in most of Central America the people will walk from home to home with each home being assigned a specific station such as “Veronica wipes the face of Jesus” or “Simons carries the cross:”. Additionally there are Numerous processions and the very special making of carpets in the streets. These will be destroyed when a procession walks across it. This is a tradition that dates to the time of the Spanish

Misioneros De Padre Tomas is the US based non-profit organization dedicate to the support of Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala

President.....Ron Covey

Vice President.... Sr. Sandra Atha

Treasure Harry Lehr

Secretary Tato Ramirez

Advisors

Sherry Arrick

Doug Arrick

Lori Morris

Caminando Por La Paz

Presiddente..... Carlos Miranda

Vice Presiedente ... Isis Marinda

Secretria..... Violeta Estrada

Vocal 1 Sandra Us

Vocal 2 Liseth de Leon



Here are photos of a carpet in process. This was made on the corner by the house and many people from Caminando participated in the process of making the carpet. They start by placing a format on the street then either pine needles or sawdust form the base., next the picture slowly takes shape. Often arears are filled in from stencils and adding flowers, fruits, bits of pottery, etc. Thus the final picture develops.



During March we had a visit by some students of Yale University



During their visit to Guatemala they also visited San Sebastian and learned a great deal concerning the history of violence in Guatemala as well as the life of Bishop Gerald, who was martyred in 1998.

When we have visitors one of the best things is the interactions between our kids and the visitors.

Here you see a couple of the girls showing their prizes after games with the visitors



We did a couple of new things with these visitors. Not shown we held our first ever bi-lingual Holy Hour.

Here you see us and our visitors in a local restaurant. The idea was to provide them with the experience of a very typical Guatemalan Restaurant.

News and up-dates

Coffee up-date

There is very little new news about our coffee project. We are now waiting on the arrival of this years crop. We will then know our operating cost and be in position to declare our 2018 profit.



Vehicle Go Fund Me effort

We have not had any progress on our go Fund Me effort.

Perhaps one of our readers will send us a great idea for how we might encourage donations to this fund.



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church plans Mission

Mission Trip to Guatemala in fall of 2018, lay missionary Ron Covey gave a wonderful presentation on the missionary work of Caminando Por La Paz in Guatemala City, in collaboration with the Maryknoll fathers and Sister's, His efforts and generosity have contributed to the success of this project which focuses on the education of children and the fostering of stability in their families and homes. St Johns will be sponsoring a Mission Trip to Guatemala in November of This year (probably Thanksgiving week). If you are interested please speak with Fr. Ellias. Although only a small group will be traveling to Guatemala, the entire parish will participate in this effort through education, missionary preparations, donations and of course prayer.



Meditation

Honor the MYSTERY

We belong beautifully to the earth and intimately to the cosmic web of life. Daily we breathe in the odor of sanctity that imbues creation. Our God walks with us in the garden of life, the Originating and Sustaining Mystery who is radically transparent for those who have eyes to see. We need a fresh approach to our theology of God, one that honors the mystery within which everything is held. The divine is written all over creation: the quantum vacuum, the supernova explosion, the recurring cycle of birth-death-rebirth, the process of photosynthesis — these and many more are the chapters of our primary scriptures. Divinity abounds in and around us.

— taken from “A Maryknoll Book of Inspiration

Diarmuid O’Murchu, from: Evolutionary Theology

What can you do to protect our
common home”



We at Caminando Por La Paz, our neighbors and friends are very concerned about the situation in Nicaragua. Here we re-print an article from the Maryknoll Affiliate Newsletter by Kitty Madden

Not So Far Afield

January/February 2019

NICARAGUA: SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

Kitty Madden – Nicaragua Affiliate

Catherine "Kitty" Madden has lived and worked in Nicaragua since 1986, first as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, then as a Maryknoll Affiliate. Read her unabridged article at <https://maryknollogc.org/article/nicaragua-speaking-truth-power>.

In August, we gathered to mourn the death of our neighbor, "Juan," killed by a sniper who fired on a peaceful protest, and to share our sympathies with his mother, wife, and children.

Just last April, Nicaragua was still hailed as "the most peaceful country in Central America." Many people entered the country each day, to provide humanitarian aid, to enjoy its beauty and the people's warm hospitality or to invest in its thriving economy. On the surface, things seemed quite perfect! However, just as with its volcanoes, something very charged was growing beneath the surface. No one could have imagined the catastrophic changes about to emerge.

In 32 years, I lived under the revolutionary Sandinista government in the 1980s. The FSLN (Sandinista national liberation front) had toppled the dictator Anastasio Somoza and his family dynasty in an insurrection that claimed 50,000 lives. In the 1980s, I anguished at the US backing (if not instigation) of the Contra War that ended in 1990, after taking another 30,000 lives and maiming thousands of others.

After three neo-liberal presidencies—1990 to 2006—another dictatorship developed, headed by Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo and their FSLN party. People began to carefully monitor their words or remain silent for fear of reprisals. Since his election in 2006, Daniel Ortega has moved to consolidate power, control, and wealth. And, yes, there have been "gifts" given, such as food, housing, scholarship programs, and perks for business leaders. The price? Silence, gratitude, loyalty. Any other entity serving the people, such as the Casa Materna Mary Ann Jackman clinic, was treated as a potential rival and a threat.

When university students launched a national protest on April 18 to demand not gifts but freedom of expression, the government responded with unexpected, unbridled ferocity. The Ortega government ordered police to fire real bullets to quell the student uprising on April 18-19. The students had gathered in support of pensioners, to protest changes in social security benefits. Previous protests against government policies had been quelled by police shooting rubber bullets or Sandinista youth gangs shoving and beating demonstrators.


Twenty-five people were killed in five days, and dozens more were seriously wounded. As people found their voices, the "volcano of submerged feelings" began to erupt with unbridled energy. As one man expressed it: "People have lost their fear of speaking out. And Daniel has lost the people."

By May 30th—Mothers' Day in Nicaragua, over 100 people had been killed. Most were young and many had been shot with one bullet to the head or heart. Over 600,000 people gathered in Managua that day to march with the grief-stricken mothers. Again, the police and snipers attacked; twenty were killed and close to a hundred wounded. The people now lament, "Mother's Day will never be the same. Nicaragua will never be the same."



Protest in Managua, Nicaragua on April 24, 2018, photo by Voices of America/Public Domain.

Each day, the count rises. By early August, over 350 were dead, 3,000-plus wounded, 1,200 imprisoned without legal rights, many tortured, and hundreds "disappeared"—perhaps hiding out if not already dead, and thousands were leaving the country every day. Recently, 200 medical personnel who had aided the wounded or dying have lost their jobs in public hospitals or universities. City streets are traveled not by tourists but by hooded and masked "paramilitaries" armed with high caliber weapons. Airlines that arrived twice a day now have flights only three times a week and numerous hotels and restaurants have been closed; of course, thousands have lost their jobs.

Yet, something vital and courageous is happening. People are regaining their voices and speaking truth to power. They do so at great cost and risk of death, but the civic alliance that has been formed is strongly committed to walking a nonviolent path. There is a pilgrimage of great pain and unspeakable grief. Please join in the Nicaraguans' journey of solidarity through the support of your prayers. 

There are many ways to become a part of our efforts

Your prayers continue our existence.

Helping the children of our neighborhood



Visit our website for

[Caminando Por La Paz](#)

Send you tax deductible donation to:

Caminando Por La Paz
Post Office Box 1583
New Caney, Texas, 77357

You can visit

[Family Coffee](#) to:

purchase our coffee which
supports our Educational
Projects.