



San José Nacahuil Parish, Guatemala



To work among the poor and marginalized or where the need is greatest—this is one of the Fraternity’s main charisms. We cannot think of a better example of living out this charism than our mission at San Jose Nacahuil Parish in Guatemala. This is a story of a poor people who hunger for the Word of God and when given the opportunity respond enthusiastically to the call. It is a story about a parish poor in material terms but very rich in faith and love of God.

Prior to 1994 San Jose was a mission site which belonged to another parish. In January of 1994 the Archdiocese established San Jose as a standalone parish in the town of Nacahuil which is located 11 miles north of Guatemala City. At the same time the new parish was entrusted to the spiritual care of the Missionary Fraternity of Mary.

Due to a shortage of local diocesan clergy and the predominant Mayan ethnic population of the parish the Archbishop believed that this new parish was a good fit for the spiritual and pastoral guidance of the Fraternity. The town of Nacahuil has a population of 20,000 residents of whom 90% are indigenous Mayan-Kaqchikeles (one of the 23 ethnic groups in Guatemala). Since 1994 the parish has seen a significant growth in faith, unity, and community life. Currently the parish has 3250 families. As a matter of fact 95% of the population in Nacahuil town are Catholics. The name Nacahuil in Kaqchikel language means “God who sees all”.

There are 14 small communities in the parish (groups of lay people who have their weekly assembly to meditate the Word of God, pray together and practice charity in their local church). There are also 14 liturgical groups which serve at the liturgical celebrations on weekends. Each small group has its own council in addition to the main pastoral council for the parish.

The growth of Catholic faith in San José Parish requires the presence of 3 Fraternity priests for ministry. There are twelve Masses every weekend with 1000 in attendance at each mass. On Sundays many will attend mass by standing outdoors in front of the church which is completely full. This year the pandemic has affected the number of people at the celebration of Mass, but we believe that soon attendance will again be overflowing.

Through different activities the parishioners express their catholic faith.

In each activity the presence and creativity of young people is a sign of hope for the Church.

In the photo on the right, people have decorated a street in San José Nacahuil for a procession of Jesus the Nazarene during Lent.



Our mission is to bring the sacraments to the marginalized catholics of the world. Jesus says “leave no one behind”. He wants all to be with Him. By ministering the sacraments we continue the mission of Jesus by bringing hope, peace, and reconciliation to the people.

Fr. Romeo Solares the Pastor at San José Nacahuil Parish, administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Mass.

Workshops and retreats are essential in the pastoral plan of San José parish. These enable pastoral leaders to become agents of change in the life of their fellow brothers and sisters.

Workshop for parish leaders at the facilities of San José Parish, Nacahuil, Guatemala



San Jose Parish does not have a school. However, unlike in the USA Catholic formation is allowed to be given in the public schools, something which Fraternity priests do regularly. Parents and children are very appreciative of this opportunity and welcome the catechesis which our priests provide in preparing them for the sacraments along with other religious instruction.

In this time of the pandemic, leaders of San Jose Parish in Nacahuil are helping people affected by the coronavirus. virus.

In this picture, volunteers distribute food to families in need in San José Nacahuil, Guatemala.



We pray that this new generation of Catholics in Guatemala will become agents of change in their local churches. The future of the church lies in the hands of our youth.

Two altar servers praying while participating in Stations of the Cross.



At San José Parish we try to provide many opportunities for youth to participate in the liturgical life of the church. The Catholic formation which we provide helps them to grow in the faith and see the church as an essential part of their daily life. It shows them new ways of discovering God and his people.

Other News

While there are always challenges we are happy to report that currently none of our priests have been infected with the coronavirus.

Please continue to pray for our needs. The pandemic has resulted in a significant reductions in worldwide mission appeals which will have a serious impact on our Budget.

All contributions are tax deductible and are used exclusively for the work of the Fraternity in Guatemala and its missions worldwide. For more information or to mail contributions, please send to:
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