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A new bishop has been named for San Marcos!



Monsignor Gómez

His name is Monsignor Carlos Enrique Trinidad Gómez, originally from Guatemala City. Father Gómez was ordained in 1984. As a former rector of the seminary in Guatemala City, he knows our friends in the diocese of San Marcos well. Padre Silverio Chum of El Rodeo said, “Me parece que se va a adecuar al trabajo pastoral de la diocesis. Por lo que conozco tiene espíritu de trabajar con la gente del campo, los pobres. Seguramente le costará un poco, pero tendrá que responder a la realidad de San Marcos. La ordenación será el sábado 31 de enero en San Marcos.”

(It seems to me that he will adapt to the pastoral work of the diocese... He has the spirit of working with people in the field, the poor. Surely there will be challenges, but he will have to respond to the reality of San Marcos. The ordination will be on Saturday, 31 January in San Marcos.)

Padre Silverio visited the Wilmington Diocese!

From October 23 – November 3, Padre Silverio Chum visited the Diocese of Wilmington. Padre Silverio is the pastor of San Jose in El Rodeo and a member of the solidarity committee in San Marcos. He had this to say after his trip:

De parte de la Comisión de Solidaridad de San Marcos agradezco la hospitalidad de las parroquias y escuelas que visité. También agradecer el esfuerzo de la Comisión de Wilmington por elaborar el programa de visitas. Cada año está mejorando nuestro hermanamiento. Que todo el trabajo hecho sea para extender el Reino de Dios en nuestros pueblos, especialmente entre la gente más necesitada. Me voy satisfecho de la visita. Espero seguir con esos lazos de amistad y de hermandad.—

P. Silverio Chum V.

(On behalf of the Solidarity Commission of San Marcos I am thankful for the hospitality of the parishes and schools that I visited. Also there is appreciation for the strength of the commission of Wilmington for expanding the program of visits. Each year it is improving our partnership. May all the work that is done be to extend the Kingdom of God in our communities, especially between the people most in need. I go very satisfied with the visit. I hope to continue with these connections of friendship and partnership.)

During his 10-day visit, Padre Silverio visited a number of parishes and schools, and also attended Delight Night. Following are some pictures and accounts of his experiences here.

Visit to Resurrection Parish, Wilmington

Fr. Silverio Chum is the pastor of San Jose el Rodeo, the sister parish to Resurrection in San Marcos. In addition to supporting the clinic in Santa Catarina, Resurrection supports the training of catechists so essential to the spiritual life of the far reaching San Jose el Rodeo. Fr. Silverio concelebrated one Mass each weekend during his visit, and spoke about the catechist supported by Resurrection, Griselda Ochoa, in the aldea of Santa Anna. After the Mass on Nov. 2, Resurrection hosted Father Silverio and a Guatemalan family from Seaford. We shared stories of border crossings and daily life in San Marcos, and shared a wonderful (American) lunch. Parishioners from Resurrection sent Fr. Chum away with money to buy 100 children’s bibles to share give to children in the remote villages throughout his parish. –Sandy Landoll, Social Concerns Coordinator at Resurrection Parish, Wilmington.



Pictures clockwise from top right: Parishioners and guests with Padre Silverio after Mass at Resurrection; Padre Silverio with Resurrection children’s choir members; Padre Silverio speaking at Mass; children in Padre Silverio’s parish in Guatemala; at Mass with Deacon John Falkowski, Fr. Bill Graney, at Resurrection.



Students at Most Blessed Sacrament School in Berlin, MD, made bowls like the one pictured at left and sold them to raise funds for scholarships for San Marcos children. Thanks to Mr. Mark Record, Principal, for letting us know, and to him and the students and teachers for their support.

During his visits, Padre Silverio described the hardships of coffee farmers: the average income between the equivalent of \$4 to \$5 per day and six months per year without work. He said, “We do not come looking for money or anything like that, we come to know one another better and to share.”

One thing that caught his attention was the presence of young Christians at the University of Delaware, “About 100 attended Mass, and then I spoke to a large group of them, who were very interested in learning more of the social reality of Guatemala. It is possible that they will organize a trip to our country to get the feeling of things for themselves,” he said excitedly.

Padre Silverio spoke about the fight by farmers in Guatemala to repeal a law requiring them to use only the seeds of transgenic corn and sideline native seed. “It was like stop being ourselves, we are the people of the corn.” It was a battle they won after much effort.

Below, left, Bishop Malooly with Padre Silverio. Below, right, students at Ursuline with Padre Silverio. Padre Silverio visited some of the World Religions classes at Ursuline, and urged the students to consider volunteering in Guatemala.



Of course, Padre Silverio’s visits included parishes in Maryland as well as in Delaware. Below, left, Padre Silverio greets a parishioner at Marydel. Below, right, Padre Silverio with parishioners at St. Agnes in Rising Sun, MD, from Huehuetenango, where Padre Silverio was born. .



Annual Delight Night – Mary Jo Frohlich

On Friday, October 24th, at Holy Family Hall in Newark, DE, a sold out Delight Night celebration of our diocesan partnership with San Marcos, Guatemala was enjoyed by all. The festivities included a group of young Mexican dancers, a great international menu of delicious food, DJ music, and a stellar silent auction.

Mare Draper, DRE and Youth Coordinator at Holy Family, did a fabulous job of organizing the set-up, serving of the meal, and clean-up by youth and adult volunteers. Jim Metz, a parishioner at St. Margaret of Scotland, cooked the meal, and Padre Silverio Chum, a guest from San Marcos, gave an informational and interesting short talk about San Marcos. Delight Night chairperson, Mary Jo Frohlich acted as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening and many volunteers spent hours making baskets for the auction. All the hard work paid off, and the evening was a huge success!

Our diocesan committee chairman, Fr. John Hynes, said this: “My sense, being in on many conversations, was of a people all united in common appreciation, even a sense of mission, and having a most enjoyable time. The youth, directed by Mare, were classy hosts---a little beyond what you would expect of teens. The booklet was snazzy too. Well done!”

Get your tickets early next year! With God’s help, we will sell out next year too!

Pictures top row, left to right: dancers performing at Delight Night and with Br. Chris Posch, the Delight Night crowd. Middle row, left to right: Br. Chris Posch and the dancers, Mary Jo Frohlich with Padre Silverio. Bottom: Servers from Holy Family.



This newsletter is published quarterly, with input from members of the Solidarity Committee in Wilmington, members of previous delegations, or other interested parties. If you would like to contribute, please email Pat.Sormani@gmail.com or Brother Chris Posch at chrisposch@gmail.com. If you have a question or comment about this newsletter, please email Pat.Sormani@gmail.com.