



Misioneros De Padre Tomas is the US based 501(3)©, Non-profit organization dedicated to the support of Caminando Por LA Paz in Guatemala City.

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Caminando Por La Paz—In Guatemala

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OUR PROGRAM IS THE ONLY
 MARYKNOLL AFFILIATE MISSION PROGRAM

A major event of Holy Week is the making of afombra in the streets. These carpets are a major production taking a great deal of time. It is a custom through out Central America. First a form is laid out on the street then sawdust is placed in the form, then with the use of stencils a picture is drawn. It is not unusual to add flowers, bits of pottery and other material.

The best are done on Holy Thursday and remain until the processions from local churches cross over them. View a YouTube video about the [afombras](#).



Spirituality

I am often asked about Spirituality at the program. This is a rather difficult question to answer. I think my problem is with the distinction between Spirituality and Religiosity. For me spirituality is expressed in action/behavior. Religiosity is only the outward signs of a person's beliefs. Below you will see some photos of the outward signs expressed in the program. However the real spirituality is very difficult to picture since it is the internal attitude of our participants and is measured by that attitude. In this case the love and desire to improve our neighborhood; especially through our Educational Projects is the real expression of the spirituality of the youth who are directing the program.



Here you see Father Spain during a mass last November in honor of our founder, Father Thomas Goekler, MM

To the right you see a group at a recent Spiritual Journey. They are working on a verbal exercise expressing their feelings/beliefs about assigned Bible verses.



A new spiritual program for 2018.



We have had holy hour at the house on Fridays for several years. It is a local style Bible study.

This year we have started a new program, We now have a monthly Adult led Holy Hour for the children that come to tutoring.

The traditional manner for the practice of the “Stations of the Cross” is a bit different in Central America. While we usually go to the church, in Guatemala the Stations (via crux) will come to you.

There is another small difference on Palm Sunday . The churches do not give out the palms but they are sold by individuals near by in the street. People generally process into the church for the mass/



Announced as: "BODAS DE ROBLE DE VIDA CONSAGRADA - HELEN WARNER, MM

The Guatemala group of Maryknoll affiliates will celebrate her Eighty Years as a Maryknoll Sister

Sister Helen has been in Lemoa, in the mountains of Quiche, Guatemala since 1986. She originally came there when the Maryknoll Sisters received a request that Contemplative sisters of Maryknoll have a presence in violence torn Quiche. Since that time Sister Helen has been joined by Sister Connie and together they are involved in many projects to improve the life of the very poor individuals living in the area.

Sister Helen is a strong supporter of the Maryknoll Affiliate Movement.

Our readers who were able to attend the international conference of Maryknoll Affiliates this past November will recall that Sister Connie was the homilist for the closing Mass.

The court yard at the Sister's home in Lomoa.

Note the solar oven—used to heat water, cook beans, etc.



Local women served by the sisters. They are weaving hat bands that they sell to the men.. Then they start over with almost no profit.

The gift of love is the greatest gift of all.



Meditation

Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord make me an instrument of your peace
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair hope;
where there is darkness light;
where there is sadness joy.

Oh divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be beloved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

Senior , haz de mi un instrument de tu paz.
Que alla donde hay odio, yo ponga el amor.
Que alla donde hay ofensa, yo ponga el pardon.
Que alla donde hay discordia , yo ponga la union.
Que alla donde hay error, yo ponga la verdad.
Que alla donde desesperacion yo ponga esperanza.
Que alla donde hay tinieblas, yo ponga la luz.
Que alla donde hay tristeza yo pong la alegria..

Oh Senior,
que yo no busque tanto ser consolado, cuanto consolar,
Ser comprendido, cuanto omprender,
Ser amado, cuanto amar.

Porque es dandose como se recibe,
Es olvidandose de si mismo como uno se encuentra a si
Mismo,
Es perdonando, como se es perdonado,
Es muriendo ccomo se reesucita a la vida eterna. Amen

Meditation possibility: You may want to reflect on the meaning of "MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE"

There are undoubtedly as many ways of doing that as there are people on the planet.

One recent manifestation of becoming an instrument of peace was the actions of the Kings Bay Plowshares. The group included Mark Coville of the Amistad Catholic Workers House in New Haven, CT. Mark was a long time friend of our founder, Fr. Thomas Goekler, MM. Learn more at [Plowshares news](#)

Coffee Up-Date

There is not much to report on this front. The processes continues it slow incline as we work to increase our market share.

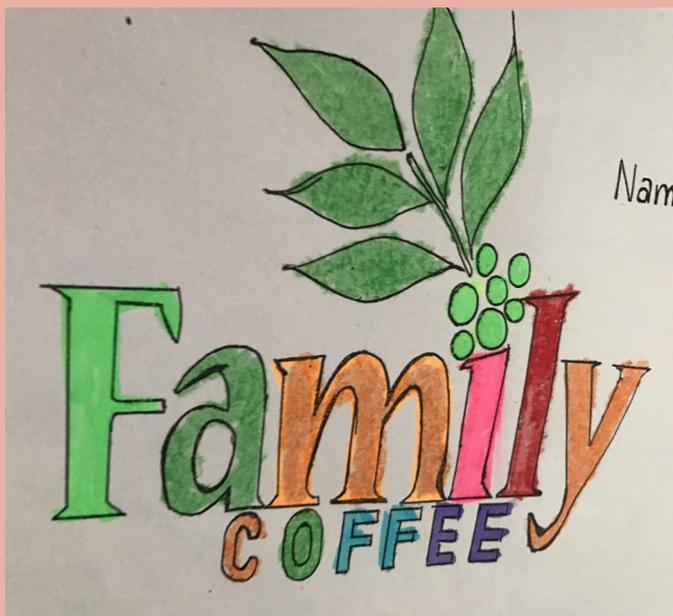
Ron Covey and Father Tom's sister have been reaching out to individuals asking them if they can be of service in identifying market sites for our coffee.

It does appear that there will be a very small profit this year. We will know more in late April or May. First we need to know the cost of

next years supply. (That is what it will cost to bring the coffee to the U.S., as well as the final purchase price. Whatever remains in the coffee project bank account will be considered profit.

We have advised the growers that we have a large surplus from past purchases. Thus to avoid storage cost we will only purchase sufficient green beans to replace what has been sold in the past year.

If you have any ideas to improve our coffee project please advise us at: rocovey@yahoo.com



Family Coffee is our effort to insure on-going economic stability to our Educational Programs.

You can purchase this premium coffee at: [Family Coffee](#)

If you have trouble with the link you can go to:

fathertomsfamilycoffee.org

The list below presents some of our most basic and important needs. Our way of doing things allows us to use the money in the general fund to purchase these things on an as needed basis. These needs are met in two ways(1) Your cash donations permits us to make local purchases of these items and (2) At times materials are given to our US Associate Director in Houston. He then brings these items to us in Guatemala.

Material needs of Caminando Por La Paz

(When these needs are met we function at our best!)

Learning tools

Markers (both ease board and regular)

School Supplies (i.e. backpacks, spiral notebooks

Crayons, erasers, pencils, pencil cases, etc.

Material to decorate work notebooks.

Note: School Supplies are often our most important and frequent need.

Games help us keep the kids interested in the program.

Games

Orgami Supplies

Equipment for table Tennis, soccer and other sports.

Money for repairs to the Community Field

Funds for maintenance and improvement of the program house.

Funds for student field trips

Payment of the cost of providing celebrations (i.e. birthdays, etc.

Expenses for training and spiritual development of our teachers.

It keeps us going
The more you help
the more children
we can help

General

Clothing including sports uniforms.

Kitchen Supplies (dishes, silverware, table cloths, etc.

Cleaning supplies (i.e. Clorox, brooms, mops, etc.

“Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers, you do unto me.”

Matthew 25:40 “Whatsoever you do to



You can become a part of *Caminando Por La Paz*

1. *Pray for us*
2. *Send your donation to us at:*

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

3. *Purchase Family Coffee at: [fathertomsfamilycoffee](http://fathertomsfamilycoffee.com)*

4. *Support one of our students:*

*Forward your check to:
Caminando Por La Paz
Post Office Box 1583
New Caney, Texas*

The cost of student support is \$600.00 per year or

\$ 50.00 per month.

Our website: fathertomsmission.org

Has a link to do so with your credit card.