

# Mission of Divine Mercy

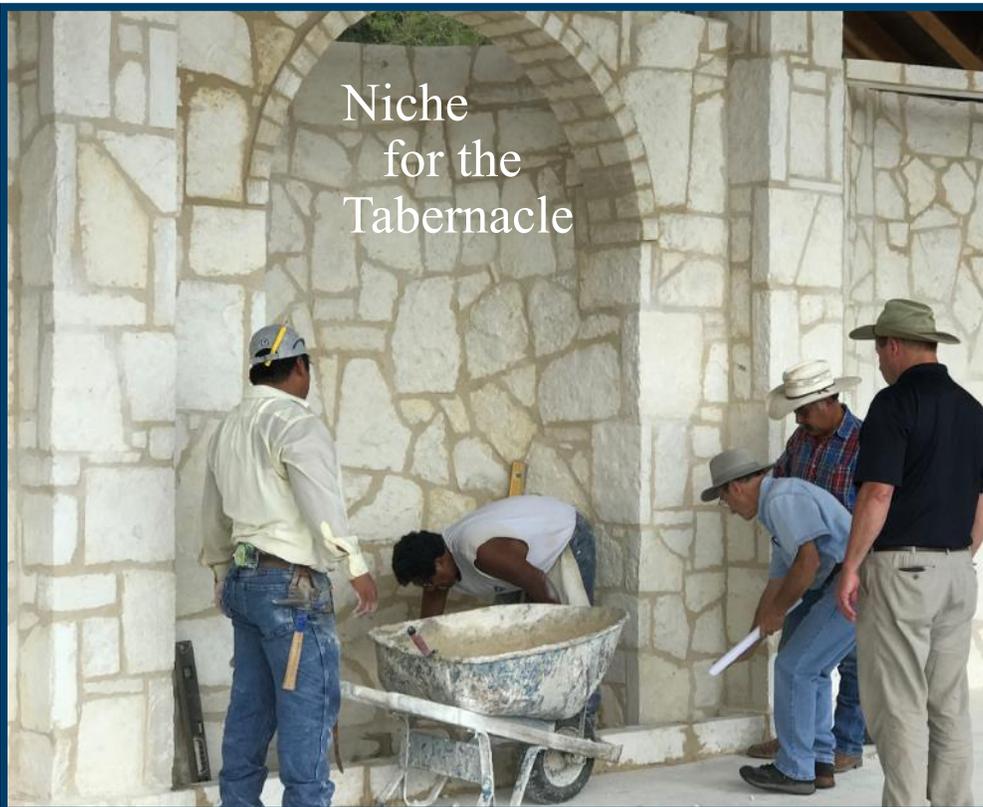
*Fall 2017, A.D.*



Year of Fatima...  
Year of the Teocalli



Peter Roderique,  
our first Consecrated Layman,  
enters the Novitiate on the Feast of Pentecost



Niche  
for the  
Tabernacle

### Calendar

Nov. 1	All Saints Day
Nov. 2	All Souls Day (Masses 8am, 11am, 6:30pm)
Nov. 4	Archdiocesan Assembly
Nov. 19	MDM Anniversary
Dec. 3	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 8	Immaculate Conception
Dec. 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec. 24	Christmas Vigil
Dec. 25	Christmas
Jan. 1	Solemnity of Mary

ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS  
Retreats on Pg. 14

# “LOOK UP AND RAISE YOUR HEADS, YOUR REDEMPTION IS DRAWING NEAR ....”

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*D*ear Friends –

*As I was praying about what to say in this newsletter, and knowing of the very difficult situations that so many are facing, this is what I sensed:*

*We are facing unprecedented times and situations, full of confusion, pain, uncertainty and moral and physical exhaustion.*

*And the wave of discouragement and fear seems to continually swirl around us, at times engulfing us.*

*What to do when so much seems hopeless, when even the LORD seems to stand by as His little ones are being swallowed up right and left? When He seems deaf to our prayers? To our suffering?*

*Two passages from Scripture, in particular, come to mind that can give us light:*

**SIRACH 2:10-11 and LUKE 21:28.**

## **SIRACH 2:10-11**

**“<sup>10</sup> Consider the ancient generations and see: Who ever trusted in the Lord and was put to shame? Or who ever persevered in His Commandments and was forsaken? Or who ever called upon Him and was overlooked?**

**<sup>11</sup> For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; He forgives sins and saves in time of affliction; He is the shield of all who seek Him in truth.”**

*At first reading, this passage might seem like a lie. We can all think of so many occasions when people have called out to God in terrible distress, and there doesn't seem to be an answer. This is because we are considering it with our very limited human eyes and human understanding. The key to truly understanding it is the light of Divine Faith. We need to see with the light of Divine Mystery. But this is sometimes extremely difficult to do. And we can only do so with His Grace.*

*So “consider the ancient generations and see” must be understood with the light of faith.*

*Thinking about how God has intervened in the past, in situations that seemed*

*and were humanly hopeless, reminds us that He is respectful of our choices, and that He allows the consequences of those choices to take place as an expiation, as an offering of suffering, and as an opportunity for us to turn to His Will instead of following our own ideas and solutions.*

*It also reminds us that we are not contending just with fallen humanity, but with a fierce, merciless enemy, that hates us personally and wishes our utter destruction.*

*We tend to forget this; or relegate it as some old-fashioned way of thinking.*

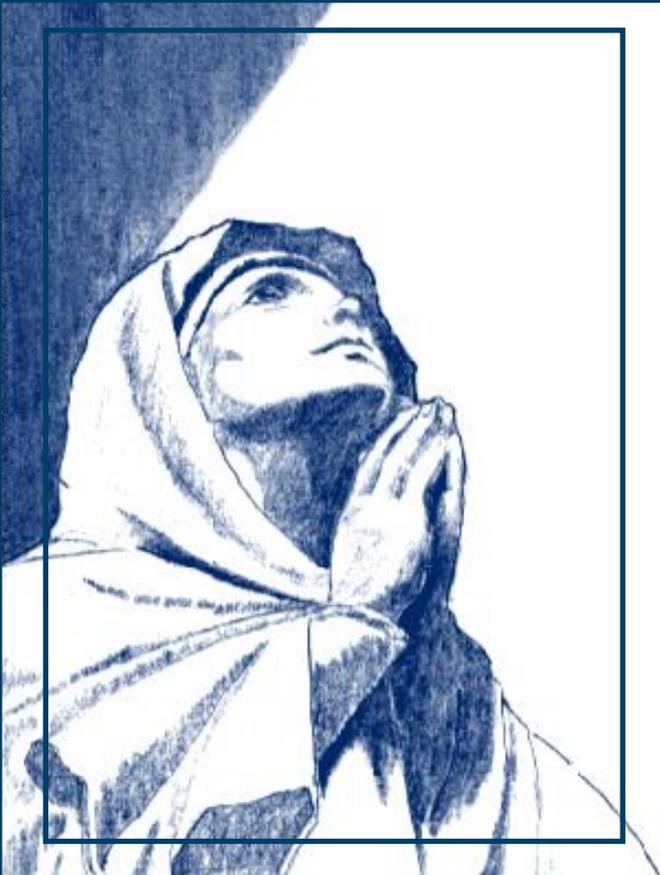
*But from Scripture and history we are reminded that this is very real, as is the cooperation of some of our brothers with these forces of darkness. There are traitors. Jesus had them. The Apostles had them. So do we now. This too we many times prefer not to see, not to believe, it is too painful.*

*But these traitors need our prayers, that they may repent and the enemy have one less victim.*

## **LUKE 21:28**

**“Now when these things\* begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”**

(\* Read the preceding verses that speak of persecution, terror, war, signs in the heavens.)



*When we see and experience these things, together with our own humanness, weakness and sinfulness, it can seem like disaster on every side; like there is little hope of improving the situation.*

*This is when those words of Jesus are so helpful and shed light on how we can respond.*

**“When you see these things begin to take place...”**

*First, we must recognize that “something” is happening; seeing and examining them with the eyes of faith, seeing beyond appearances.*

**“Lift up your head...”**

*Remember WHO has the solution; WHO has the Power to fix the problems; WHO is the One Who knows the Truth; and above all, WHO LOVES us.*

*Looking up to our FATHER as little children who hope and expect ALL from Him.*

*Looking up with our whole being, calling out from the depths of our hearts, “Abba, Father, help us!”*

*Looking up to Heaven, to the real reality – to the Truth, to the LIGHT.*

## **Rejoice!**

*Though the word “ Rejoice,” is not used, that is what Our Lord seems to be calling us to.*

*Rejoice? When everything seems and is falling apart on every level? How can we rejoice?*

*If we remember what He has done in the past, the Marvels He has already accomplished on behalf of His children, when all seemed lost – then we can understand this “Rejoice” better.*

*“Rejoice!” because the LORD our God is powerful to save, and surely He will help us, His children, who cry out to Him in such distress.*

## **“For your redemption is drawing near...”**

*The worse the situation gets, the closer is the time of His intervention. When all seems lost, when the offense to God seems insurmountable; when the victory of the enemy seems sure, the closer is the hour of His intervention and victory.*

*God Who acts in surprising and unimaginable ways, will surely act on our behalf now.*

*The charism of MDM, “Faith so that God can act” is the key to our response and to our prayer and to our cooperation in the plans of God.*

*Believing that just as He has acted and intervened powerfully in the past, in very manifest ways, so He will act now. Soon. On our behalf.*

*Letting Him ACT, letting Him decide how and when to act and not getting in His way with our very limited reasoning and understanding.*

*Lifting up our hearts and the hearts of all His children to Him and crying out “Abba, Father, help us! Come!”*

*This is the great cry in which all the children of God unite that reaches Heaven, that reaches His Heart.*

**“MARANATHA!”**

**“COME!” +**

## YEAR OF FATIMA

## YEAR OF THE TEOCALLI



Our blank canvas ...

**H**ere at the Mission we are continually learning that man proposes and God disposes.

In January as we began this Centennial Year of Fatima we didn't realize that it would take us - -appropriately – over to Marian Hill. But it seems that the Lord wanted to give His Mother a special Gift for Her Centennial. And a Gift for His children as well.

When Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac in 1531, She requested that the Bishop build Her a *teocalli* or *House of God* where She might listen to

and console all Her children.

Early this spring several events indicated to us that we also were supposed to build a *Teocalli* here for Our Blessed Mother; that it was to take priority over other projects; that it was the Lord's priority for the Mission.

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For several years we had felt the need for an outdoor Sanctuary; one that would permit us to receive larger crowds, and that could be used for special events such as Divine Mercy Sunday, or the First Mass of a new Priest, or our annual Anniversary celebration.

But our needs and inspirations often seem to be jockeying

with each other for first place in the line-up of funding allocations.

Suddenly this spring, however, there was a collective sense that the Lord was moving the Sanctuary to the top of the list. This resulted in the designing and building of the *Teocalli* that many of you have been following through our website and the Friday Meditations.

When we placed a down payment on the Mission Land in November of 2004, we were ea-

ger to place the property under the protection of Our Blessed Mother. Three weeks later on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12, many of our friends joined us as we carried Her Image over to the Hillside at the center of the property and established Our Blessed Mother as Patroness and Protector of our Mission. The hillside became known as Marian Hill.

But now that hillside will be known as *Tepeyac*, the hillside in Mexico where Our

## The Home Team at the site



Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego, and the Sanctuary will be our *Teocalli*.

The *Teocalli* is a simple structure with a peaked roof that sits halfway up the hillside, rather than at the bottom like you might expect. This location is unexpected, but it is where the Community sensed in prayer that God wished it to be situated. Perhaps He feels that it helps us to raise our hearts and eyes to Him!

The *Teocalli* is only a sanctuary ---that part of a church where the Altar rests--not an entire chapel.

One person, upon seeing it, said that it made him think of a giant version of the Stable at Bethlehem, just waiting for someone to place life-size statues of the Shepherds and the Angels and the Holy Family inside it.

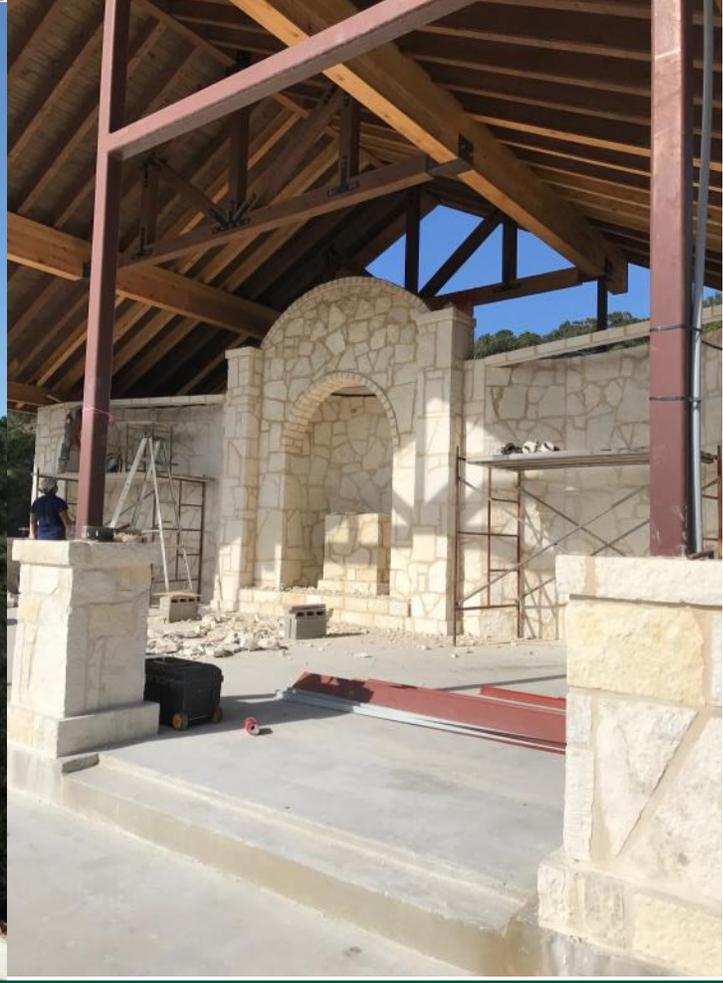
The back wall has a niche for a Tabernacle and is flanked on one side by a large Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and on the other by a large Crucifix. The Altar is centered deep within the open-air sanctuary so that it is

protected from sun, rain and wind. But the front wall and the two side walls are almost totally open and offer a clear line-of-site to the Altar for those gathered in the natural amphitheater of the hillside.

The project also includes a plan for a sacristy building and St. Anne's Pavilion adjacent to the Sanctuary. The pavilion will provide shelter and seating for the infirm. There will be some simple bench seating around the shaded perimeters, but most of the crowd will sit, stand or kneel on the surrounding hillsides. Remember the *Teocalli* is for special occasions, and events at the Mission often call for some sacrifice of our comfort!

By the time you are reading this article, God willing, we will have had the first of these special occasions. In a circumstance that only God could arrange, we will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima with a first, simple Mass at the still-to-be-completed *Teocalli*, an event that seems very special to us!

And in the meantime, we wouldn't mind if God Himself placed the Holy Family within....♦



## NEW POSITION AT THE MISSION

### THE POSITION

As the scope of the Mission broadens and the staff and apostolate increase, management of our temporal affairs requires more and more time, work and attention. Because of this, and to prepare for future growth, we have created a new position of *President*. While this position has not existed before, there has long been a *need* for it.

This position will report directly to Fr. John Mary, the Guardian of the Community. The President's role, in this case, is not to determine the Mission's vision but to receive and implement it.

Because of the dual nature of this job it's helpful if it is filled by a Community member.

For years, in addition to his own job, our Executive Director David Reed has been quietly shouldering the burden of innumerable extras that surface on a regular basis and seem to gravitate unofficially to his office. This new position will corral a lot of that work, and free up David for the increasing demands of his office.

The collaboration between the offices of President and Exec-

utive Director, with the Executive Director reporting to the President, will help expedite decisions with regard to the material organization and management of MDM. It will also relieve Father John Mary and the consecrated Community of certain temporal responsibilities so that they can be more devoted to the spiritual life.

### THE PERSON

While it was hard to find the right person for this position, after prayerful consideration the Community has asked Peter Roderique to take it on.

Peter joined us in October 2016 and made promises as a Consecrated Layman on Pentecost 2017. While it is unusual to place this much responsibility on someone so new to the Community, we do sense in prayer that he is the Lord's choice.

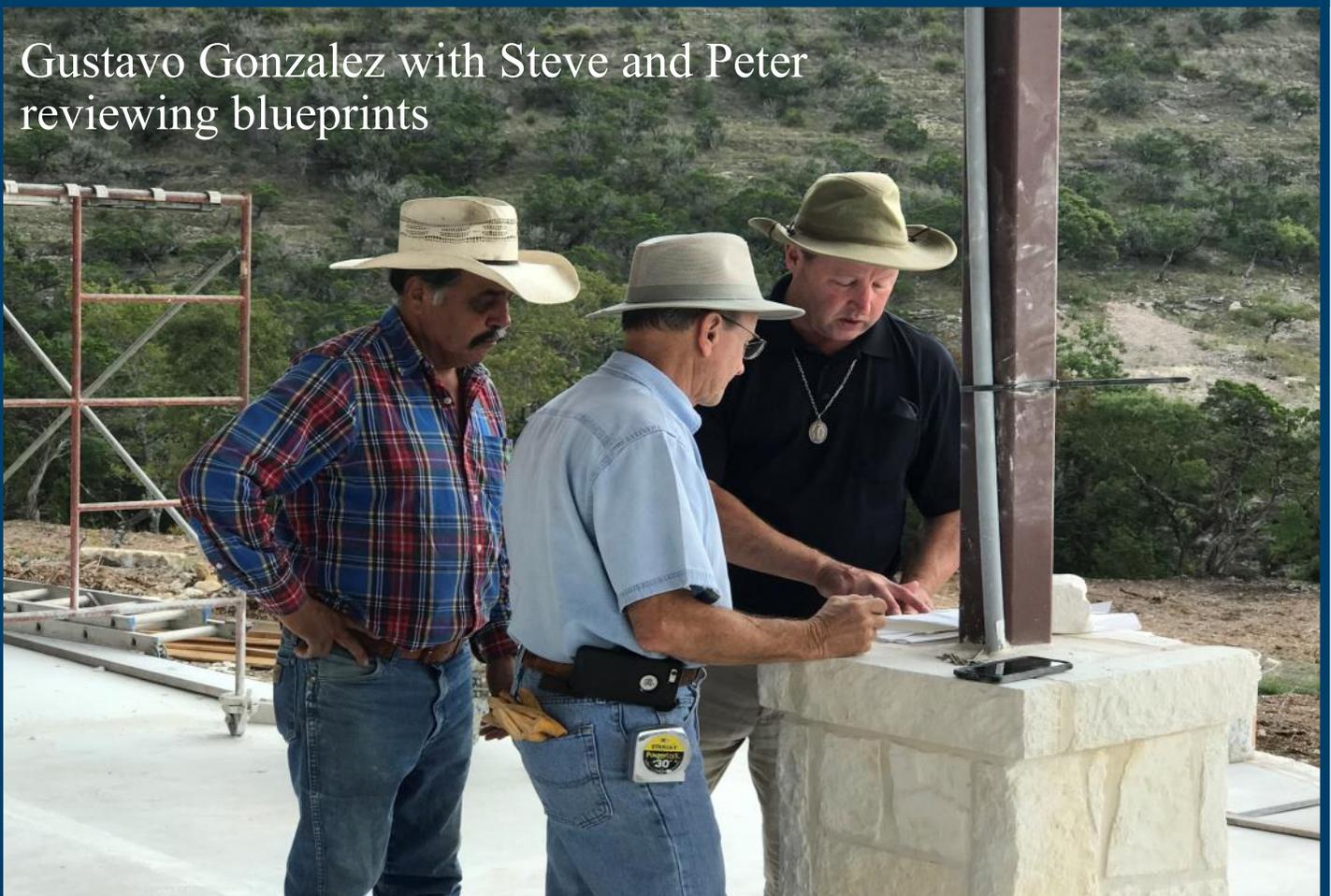
Moreover, with thirty-plus years in business and project management, Peter has many natural and professional skills that should prove helpful in this role. But most importantly he has sensed and responded to a vocation to the Mission as a consecrated layman. That presumes an obedience, fidelity, and submission to the mission of the Mis-

sion; something that will be essential for the execution of this role.

Nonetheless, this is a weighty cross to place on the shoulders of a new member. Peter did not seek this position nor want it. He has accepted it in obedience, trusting in the Holy Spirit and we are tremendously grateful for that. This position provides the link that we have struggled for years to fill, and now we have. We ask your prayers for him and for all of us that we may be faithful to the Lord and His Plan. ♦



Gustavo Gonzalez with Steve and Peter reviewing blueprints



# DAVE'S CORNER

*With all the work being done on Tep-eyac Hill, you might think that nothing else was happening at the Mission. So we asked Dave Sommers to set you straight.*

If you have never been out to the Mission you might not be able to appreciate the importance of the phrase “road upgrades.” I think back to twelve years ago when the pot holes and ruts made getting to Mass like running an obstacle course. And in the dry months clouds of dust hid the car in front of you. A visiting priest from Africa said that our roads reminded him of the mission outposts in the Bush Country back home.

Then there were the low-water crossings that washed out every time it even looked like rain. You have heard the term “shovel ready projects,” well we were a great example of shovel ready projects because every time it rained we had to have shovels ready to fill the holes and get the roads passable for the weekends. No machinery of any kind, just

shovels and buckets but we did it.

**This past year, thanks to some very generous benefactors we have made some real improvements in our road system. We have widened roads and paved them with a product known as chip seal, BUT IT IS GOLD TO US! Very importantly, we have put in two concrete swales at low-water crossings to prevent road washouts. And we have added a second lane and a second gate at our entrance to allow for two-way traffic. We still need to finish the entrance with additional rock columns, lighting and landscaping.**

When you think about it, the Mission has most of the same maintenance issues of a small city. We have a water supply that must be maintained and meet regulations for public use. We have a sewer system that must accommodate large crowds. We have six wells that supply the water for our buildings, offices and homes that require constant servicing. We have a road network that must be maintained. We have a power system both solar and commercial that has to be kept up and running. Plus there are security require-

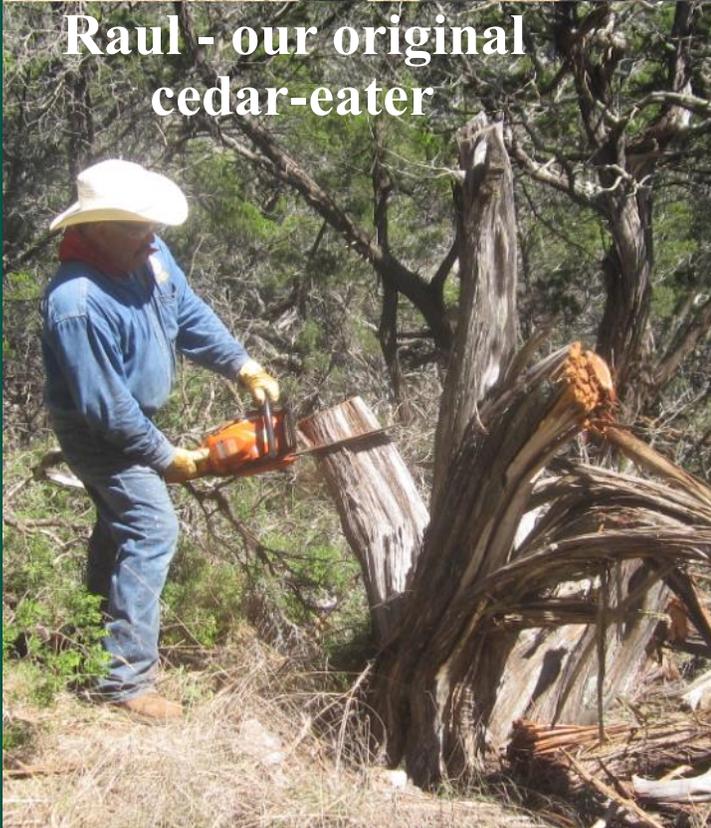


**Ingram Ready Mix and Dean Word Co. employees placing concrete for low water crossing**

Dave and John discuss the roadwork with Cisco of M. C. ETHRIDGE Co.



Raul - our original cedar-eater



ments which are growing more critical each day, and then there is the general maintenance of all the buildings. Fortunately, we don't have to elect a city council!

I guess I've wandered away from the topic of roads, but I want to end by thanking all of those who have answered God with a resounding YES when it comes to supporting the Mission with your time, talent and treasure. Your generosity and prayers have made all of this progress possible and the Lord will reward you. As Monsignor O'Callaghan use to tell me, "Don't worry David, the Lord has you on the delayed payment program." I am sure many of you are on the same program!

Semper Fi  
Dave

## FUNDRAISING AS STEPS IN FAITH

**G**od indicates to us that He can do more with one act of faith than with a whole fundraising campaign. Well, all of our fundraising projects have demanded a lot of faith!

The timing of the Tepeyac Hill Project, as noted in this newsletter, came as somewhat of a surprise. Even though we had felt the need for an outdoor sanctuary for many years, it hadn't been an immediate priority. Once it became an immediate priority -- with the Sanctuary, the sacristy building, and St. Anne's Pavilion for the Infirm -- so did the fundraising.

The first goal was the completion of the Sanctuary itself, estimated at \$300,000. Almost immediately three people stepped forward wanting to do a matching challenge. They had no idea of the cost estimate, they just wanted to help. Together their three gifts totaled \$150,000. Matching them would raise exactly the \$300,000!

The deadline for that sum -- or that "Miracle of the Sun" -- was set for October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Hundredth Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima. Even if that was a partial goal, it was nonetheless, a steep one; and there was a certain skepticism about the possibility of meeting it that quickly.

**Gracias a Dios!!! Because against all odds the Lord and you have gotten us there!** Your prayers and generosity, and a few very significant last-minute donations, helped us to make that goal.

**Take a minute to rejoice, rest on your laurels and to thank the Lord with us.**

But now we must take the next step in faith.

As we go to print on this newsletter,



bulldozers are preparing the land adjacent to the *Teocalli* for the sacristy and St. Anne's Pavilion. The cost of these two structures is estimated at around \$200,000. So for those who didn't get to get help with the *Teocalli*, don't feel bad, you have another opportunity!

While these special projects are claiming our energy and funds, all of the regular operations and upkeep (see Dave's Corner) are also occurring; and the regular bills still need to be paid. We know that God will provide ---- but it seems to please Him to do it through YOU. May God bless you and yours for your generous support. ♦

Oct. 26-29 Encounter With Jesus (Women - English)  
Nov. 9-12 Encounter With Jesus (Women – Spanish)  
Nov.30-Dec.3 Encounter With Jesus (Men – English)  
Jan. 11-14 Encounter With Jesus (Men – Spanish)

Contact  
830.302.9707

# WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

The Tepeyac Hill Project and all of the improvements to the Mission's infrastructure could not have happened without the help of many talented and generous individuals and businesses. We want to thank all of those who have given so generously of their time, experience and financial assistance. We ask the Lord to bless you, your businesses and your families.

Brauntex Materials  
Kevin Butschek – Shandera Homes  
Miguel Casillas  
Cedar Eaters of Texas  
CEMEX  
CMC Rebar  
Compound Security Specialists  
Scott Cornelius - Cornelius Contracting  
Willy Erben  
Ergon Asphalt & Emulsion  
Ethridge Family - M. C. Ethridge Company

Gustavo Gonzalez and his crew  
Ingram Ready Mix  
Kapavik Transportation  
Jeff Leland  
Charles Mager – Cowboy & Co. Construction  
Mike Norris  
Edgar Ramirez  
Rinker Materials  
Texas Corrugators  
John Weber  
Dean Word Co.  
Bill Wylie

Steve and Craig with Kevin of SHANDERA HOMES check construction plans





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(830) 905-4515 To Be Discontinued

