



Piarist Fathers Latin Mission
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In June 2018, the Piarist Fathers' Latin Mission traveled to a rural parish in Macuspana, Tabasco, Mexico. This year's team was made up of many dedicated lay people. In addition, Father Mario Vizcaino, Father Luis Cruz, Father Jesus Romero, Father Nicholas Zunun, Brother Ricardo Rivera and Brother Melchor Ortega participated. Highlights from the mission included the continued construction of three small churches in rural villages and a field trip to a university in Tabasco. For many of the local people, this was their first time outside of their local villages.

HISTORY OF THE PIARIST FATHERS' LATIN MISSION

For 48 years, members of the Piarist Fathers' Latin Mission have been present in different rural communities of a parish in Macuspana, Tabasco, Mexico. We have worked in over 20 communities. We have shared with these communities our love, our teachings, our respectful brotherhood, our compassion, our reconciliation ministry and a "little bit" of financial help. It has never been in a paternalistic way. Rather, we have always utilized a partnership model by "giving them not the fish but instead the fishing rod." Suddenly, when we least expect, some of these efforts begin to bear fruit. Church buildings and communities are renewed. The projects, which we help to undertake in the Latin Mission, help give the communities a sense of ownership and make them proud and co-responsible for the maintenance of the church and general welfare of the community.

Over the years, the Piarist Fathers' Latin Mission has helped to construct eight chapels in the rural communities of the parish or in its mother parish. These chapels are now located in Pueblito, Palomas, Chivalito II, Caparroso, Sagrado Corazon, Chivalito IV, Melchor O'Campo II and Divina Providencia. The communities are far apart and there is a shortage of priests. Typically a priest can visit a community once every few months.

During our time each summer during the Latin Mission, we celebrate daily Mass, offer the sacraments and train people in the communities to be good stewards of the Church. Many people anxiously await each year for the opportunity to receive the sacraments administered during our mission. In addition, we spend time with the children by teaching reading and other academic disciplines through interactive group sessions. Our health program is designed using the *construction technique*. For example, we try to emphasize the need to maintain healthy latrines to eliminate the spread of disease.

There is much work and good to be done.