



# MISSIONARIES IN ACTION

## DOMINICAN MISSION FOUNDATION

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*On Earth  
as it is  
in Heaven*



Dear Mission Friends:

When you receive this newsletter, autumn will have already begun and nature will be preparing for its winter sleep. Here in the Mexicali Valley, the leaves of the cottonwood trees are now turning a beautiful golden shade, signaling to us that they will soon wither and fall to the ground. We know, however, that every spring the cottonwoods will reawaken, bringing forth shiny new, bright green leaves.

As nature calls us in this season to reflect on the theme of life through death, so too does the Church, inviting us to remember that death cannot destroy Christian unity. On All Saints Day, we remember our sisters and brothers whose lives in this world were dedicated to love of God and love of neighbor. Let us give thanks for their intercession on our behalf.



*The archway  
marking  
the entrance  
to the  
Mexicali  
"Horseshoe"  
cemetery.*

### *St. Martin de Porres Feast Day Triduum*

**In honor of the November 3rd feast day of St. Martin de Porres, the patron of our missions, special Masses will be offered at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco on November 1, 2, and 3. We invite you to fill in and return the enclosed list of petitions which will be placed on the altar and remembered each day. And please join us in praying the Triduum in honor of St. Martin (*back page*).**

### *All Souls' Day Remembrance*

**November is the month for us to pray especially for our loved ones who have gone before us. You are invited to list the names of your departed family members and friends on the enclosed slip and return it to be placed on the altar at St. Dominic's Church in San Francisco. Your loved ones will be remembered at daily Mass throughout the month.**



On All Souls Day, we remember our dearly departed family members and friends, buried in sacred spaces, or cemeteries, who, though deceased, remain united with us in love. Let our prayers accompany their souls into the protection of God's divine love.

Burial of the faithful departed encourages family members and the whole Christian community

to pray for and remember the dead while at the same time fostering the veneration of the martyrs and saints.

In a windswept section of desert within our Mexicali mission is a cemetery that was established around 1900 by early settlers who had come to build the first canals in order to bring water from the Colorado River and enable agriculture in this region.

Once a year I join descendants of a large extended pioneer family on a pilgrimage, riding on horseback from their ranch to the cemetery for prayers and blessings. Twice a year I also celebrate public Masses at the cemetery, a tradition begun 20 years ago with a request from Fr. David Bello, pastor of the Mexicali parish at the time (*and now*). The first Mass is on All Souls Day, November 2, and to this day, descendants of those early settlers—those who live on nearby ranches as well as many who come from great distances—return to the cemetery to remember and reflect at Mass. Some even come a day early and spend the previous night cleaning off the graves of their loved ones while praying, singing, and eating.

The second Mass I celebrate is in the spring, on Mexico's Mothers' Day, May 10, a fitting counterpart to All Souls Day, as nature is now reawakening and Jesus's resurrection has conferred upon us hope, renewal, and new life.



During our Masses and blessings, it seems that in this humble sacred place in the desert, earth and heaven are united through the faith and devotion of those who venerate their departed sisters and brothers.



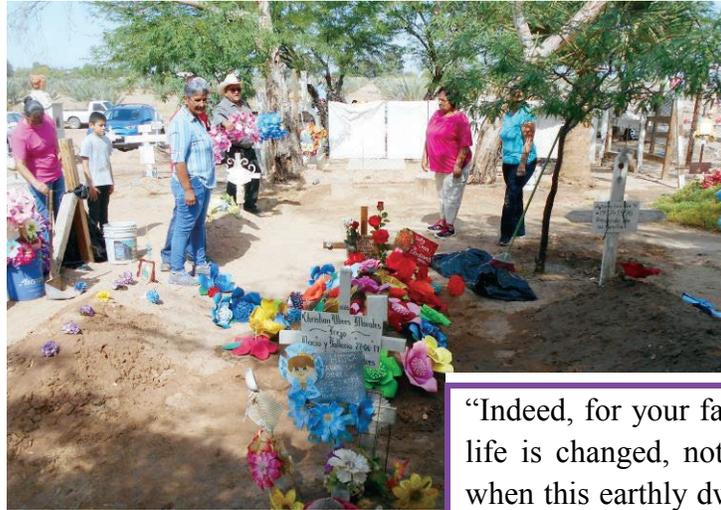
The more often I visit the cemetery, the more names I recognize on the headstones, and my emotional attachment to this mission by way of those I've known and served becomes deeper and deeper.



*Left and below, the annual Mass for the descendants of a local pioneer family; they ride horseback en masse from their ranch.*



## *The Lord will wipe away every tear.*



Let us reflect upon the words of the prophet Isaiah as we remember that one day we shall come before the Lord ourselves: *And on that day it will be said: Behold our God to whom we have looked to save us. This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice that he has saved us* (Is. 25: 9).

“Indeed, for your faithful, Lord, life is changed, not ended, and when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.” (*Roman Missal*)



### **St. Martin de Porres Triduum November 1, 2, and 3**

**First Day:** *St. Martin, you always had sympathy for the poor and those who were suffering. I need your help and now ask for it with great confidence in your goodness and power. Please remember me, as you adore God. Amen.*

**(Your petitions, followed by Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Closing Prayer.)**

**Closing Prayer:** *Dear St. Martin, I turn to you in my sorrow and anxiety to seek your friendly protection. Please intercede for me with our merciful Father in heaven so that I may be truly sorry for all my sins and be freed from the evils that shackle me. Ask that I might have something of your spirit of love and self-sacrifice, and so be at all times reconciled to God’s holy will. Oh heavenly Father, in the name of your Son and of His blessed Mother, and by the merits of your faithful servant Martin, help me in my trouble and do not forsake me. Amen.*

**Second Day:** *St. Martin, we praise God for the manifestation of His love. The favors you received from God encourage us now to seek your intercession and help. We ask you most humbly to befriend and assist us from your place in heaven; but most of all, we beg you to commend us to our beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. (Your petitions, followed by Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Closing Prayer.)*

**Third Day:** *Brother Martin, when you were here on earth, you spent your life loving God and your neighbor. This we know from the testimony of your own Dominican brethren. Now that you live in the presence of God in paradise, intercede for those who stand so much in need of the healing help of God and beg the Divine Physician to give us health of the soul and body. Amen*

**(Your petitions, followed by Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Closing Prayer.)**