

CATHOLIC MEANS UNIVERSAL

St. Ambrose ✨

Trip to our Sister Parish San Juan Bautista, Yupiltepeque,
Jutiapa, Guatemala. 15 June – 20 June 2018

San Juan Bautista ✨

ITINERARY/OUTLINE

- Day 1 – 15 June Travel Guatemala City and Sister Parish
- Day 2 – 16 June, Saturday
 - Tour the Jutiapa countryside and visit Ipala Volcano and Lake
 - Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel and dinner with local Council
- Day 3 -17 June, Sunday
 - Morning Mass at Village Chapel and San Juan Bautista
 - Afternoon Mass at San Juan Bautista and dinner with Parish Council
- Day 4 – 18 June, Monday visit Esquipulas Temple – Cristo Negro
- Day 5 – 19 June, Tuesday Lunch with Bishop and go to Guatemala City
- Day 6 – 20 June, Wednesday – CRS and Fly Home

MISSION INTERNATIONAL (MI)

- MI Grass Roots Organization – Springfield/Belleville Dioceses
- Started in 1987 by Len Daiber – Being Continued by Shelly Sands
- Sixty Seven (67) Sister Parishes in Guatemala, Haiti, and Venezuela
- This Trip 29 People – 10 Parishes – 3 Springfield 7 Belleville
- CRS and MI Work Together
- More information: MI – sisterparish13@gmail.com
- Esquipulas – Temple of the Black Jesus
<https://www.trover.com/esquipulas-guatemala>

DAY 1 – ARRIVE GUATEMALA CITY



Arrived at the airport to the sound of local music.

We were met at the airport exit with hordes of fellow Catholics holding banners and balloons.

There were 29 people on this mission trip. Our sister parish San Juan Bautista is in Jutiapa as was two other groups for a total of 8 people. We piled into a nine passenger van for the 80 mile trip south. Eight of us, three Priests, two interpreters, and a driver.

Before we left Guatemala City we stopped and ate at Pizza Hut.

We took the main north south highway out of the city for about 40 miles and we continued our trip with Fr. Jamie in his car.

Literally a hundred or more people waiting to meet and greet their sister Parish



Can you say 15 people in a 9 people van plus luggage. Eight visitors to three Parishes in Jutiapa. No need for seat belts. They don't exist anyway



Guatemala City all the comforts of home.
Dinner at Pizza Hut before the trip south.

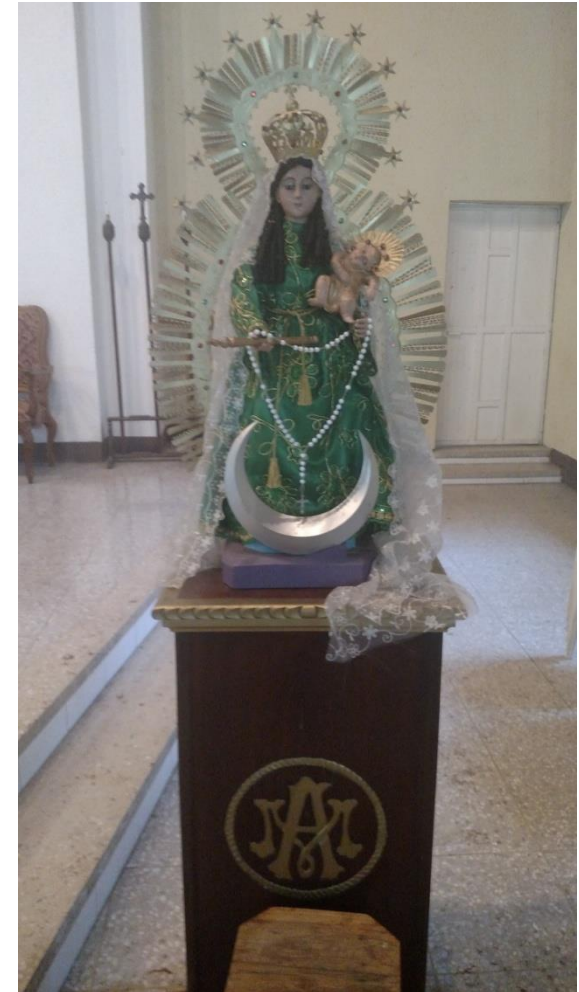


Gas cost about the same as US



Trip to Jutiapa – Church Pit Stop

Switch from van to car



Welcomed to our home away from home with food and fireworks



Accommodations were simple and clean – newly painted

Everyone was extremely friendly

Our donations helped fix the roof.



Day 2 Tour of local Country - Jutiapa



Meg & Pat Miller, Fr. Jamie, Olga



Border to El Salvador

Saturday morning we toured the local area by Truck.

Stopped at the El Salvador border. I think we would have crossed over but one of us forgot their passport. Fr. Jamie is from an order in El Salvador. It is easy to cross back and fourth.





Roomy section of road in the city
Clipped a mirror once



Design by what's available
Gas Station Bathroom Sink

IPALA VOLCANO AND LAKE

PAT POSES WITH TWO OF OUR INTERPRETERS, THE LITTLE GIRL VICTORIA SPOKE VERY GOOD ENGLISH. HER FATHER HAS A LAWN AND GARDEN SERVICE IN OWENSBORO MD. HE NEEDS TO TRAVEL BACK AND FOURTH FREQUENTLY TO KEEP HIS STATUS LEGAL.





VOLCANO LAKE – VERY DEEP AND UNKNOWN LAST ERUPTION

AGUA BLANCA AND SAN
JUAN BAUTISTA PARISHES





Tortillas Being Made Everywhere



Share the road



Agua Blanca Young Men Parishioners

STATE RUN PARK – NEEDED 4 WHEEL DRIVE TO GET THERE AND BACK

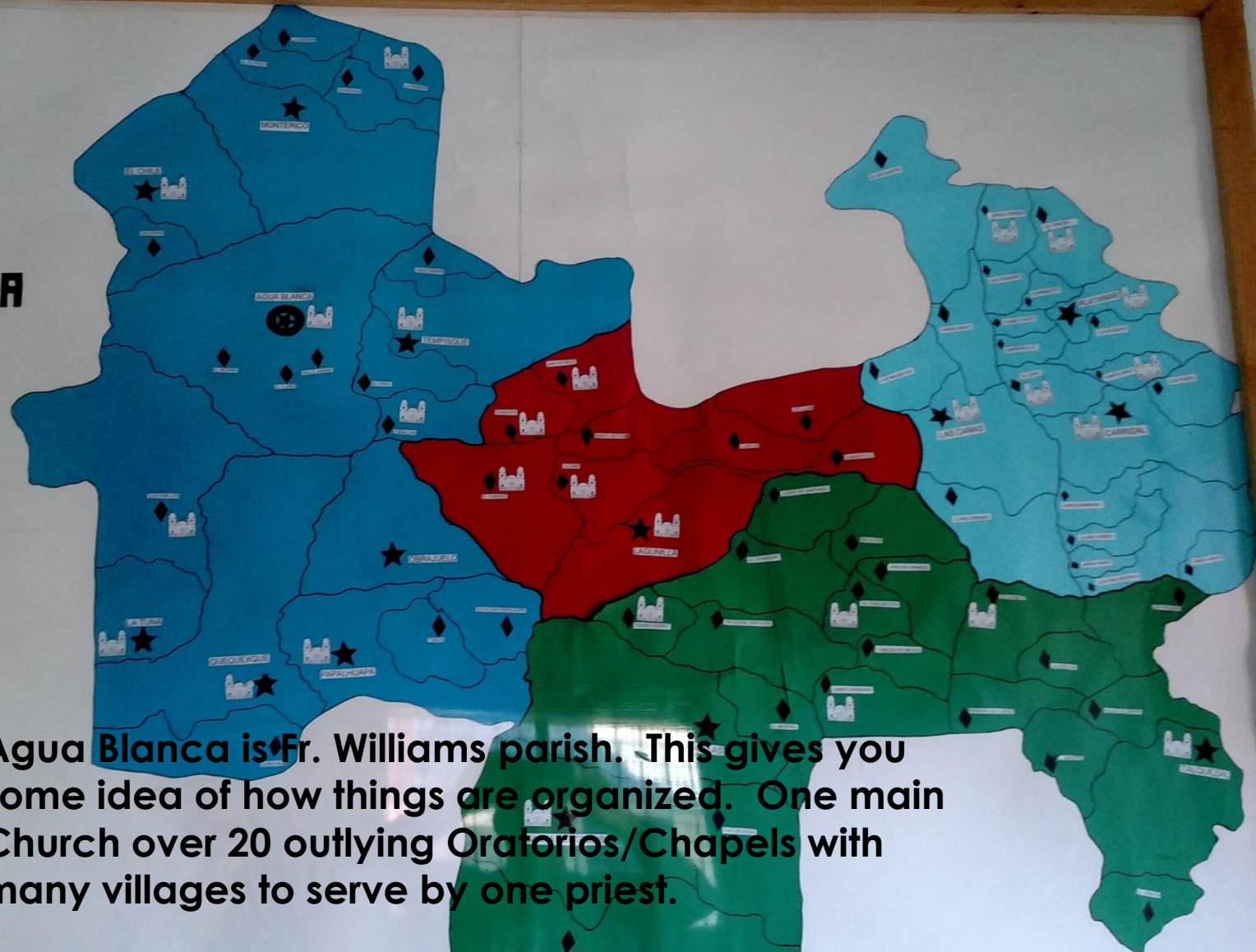


DEL ROSARIO AGUA BLANCA JUTIAPA



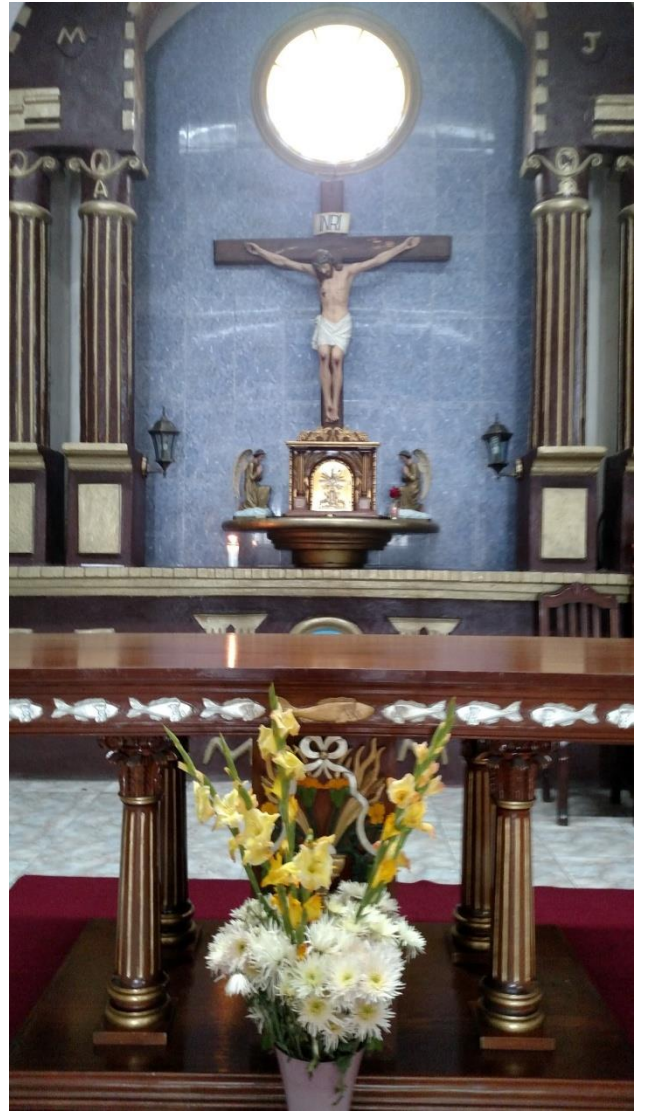
SIMBOLOGIA

	CABECERA MUNICIPAL
	ALDEAS
	CASERIOS
	ORATORIOS
	SECTOR NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL ROSARIO
	SECTOR VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE
	SECTOR SAN ANTONIO
	SECTOR SAN JOSE



Agua Blanca is Fr. Williams parish. This gives you some idea of how things are organized. One main Church over 20 outlying Oratorios/Chapels with many villages to serve by one priest.

A four wheel drive truck is a must.



Inside the
Church at Agua
Blanca



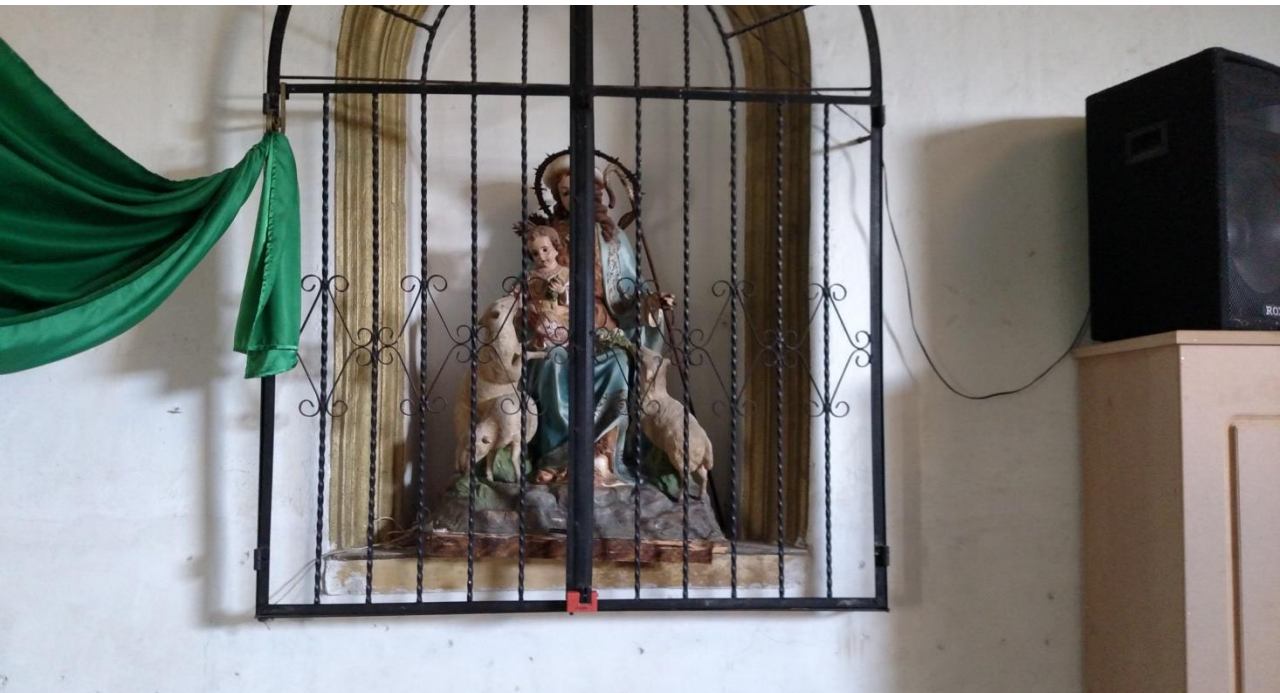


Typical Taxi 3 wheel.
50 cents a ride,
packed and
everywhere



Looking out the back of the
Church at Agua Blanca
toward the market





One of the 13 Church Buildings which make up San Juan Bautista Parish, i.e. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Fr. Jamie and Celso posing with one of the two St. Ambrose banner we brought them.

We were greeted Friday night with firecrackers and hugs.

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Open but yet ornate

Saturday 4:30 Mass at our Home Base Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel





Saturday Night Fiesta

Village (Amatillo) Church First Morning Mass



Everyone who has a role in the Mass processes in with incense





Yours truly attempting to speak Spanish

PSR after Church.
Each Village Church has it's own structure, e.g.
administrator, catechists, lectors, sacristan,
youth leaders, etc.



At San Juan Bautista Church

We had four masses one on Saturday at Our Lady of Guatelupe, Sunday Morning a Parish village church, and then two at San Juan Bautista, for two different groups. The first group traveled in from out of town. Each Mass was packed with people standing and sitting out the back door. No one left early. Mass lasted about 1:15.

The last Mass at 3:00 was for Yupiltepeque itself. Each Church has it's own Church Council, catechists, etc.

I did a brief reflection in Spanish, set the altar, incensed the people, gave the sign of peace and the dismiss. I'm sure it sounded wonderful?

Please excuse me but my Spanish is not good. "I am very happy to be here with you to share our Catholic Faith. Your faith is a seed that I will take with me back home." Gospel was the mustard seed.





Pat wins a Fathers Day Gift
– Lottery give away
before Mass



Typical
statues at
San Juan
Bautista

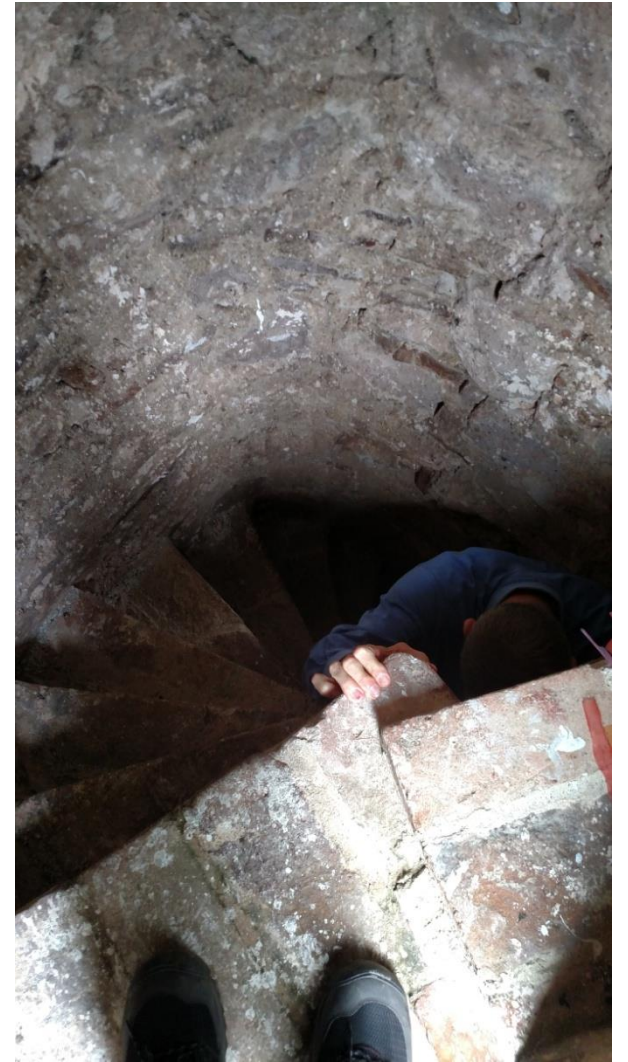


St. Ambrose / San Juan Bautista
Banner



Looking out from the top of the Church, right next to the bell

This church is the oldest in the area, over three hundred years old the walls are a good three feet thick





Sunday 2nd Mass
Children's Choir we
donated the shirts.

Three boys just like our
Choir.

They all wanted to
take pictures with us
and hug us.





Sunday night dinner with the Parish Council and live music.

Dinner was in the unfinished parsonage we are helping to fund.

You can't tell but it's an emergency lighting situation



Monday Morning off to the Temple of the Black Jesus



Keeping the poultry out of the house



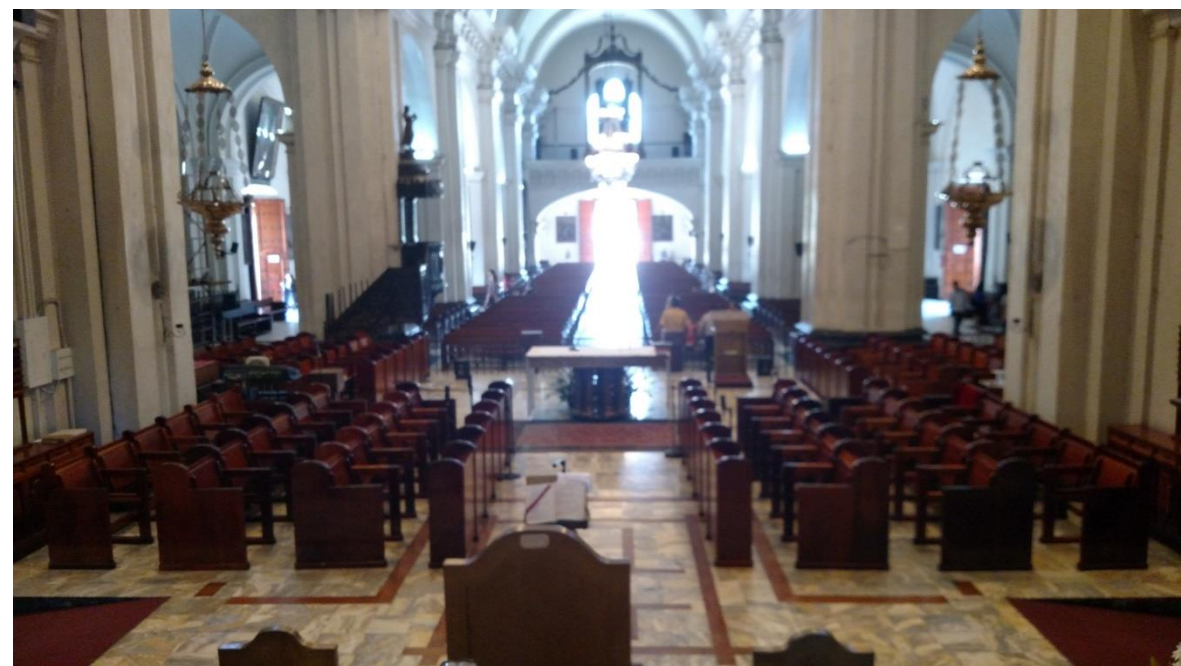
On our way to the Temple of the Black Jesus (Monday Morning)





Stations of the cross statues,

Temple of the Black Jesus







Second only
to Our Lady
of
Guadalupe
as the most
important
shrine in
Central
America





Did not see one farm tractor, but plenty of growing corn. All planted by hand. Sometimes on very steep grades between volcanic rocks.

Subsistence farming, yet everyone seemed to have a cell phone



Church Gate Keeper



Typical Cemetery – All of them are highly decorated

Keeping a beach ball aloft with the youth group in the rain.

Your typical dog – Saw many, many dogs all about this size but usually a lighter shade of brown



Most houses were behind gates and every courtyard had chickens. Our courtyard had chickens and turkeys

Our cooks and hosts. Fr. Jamie's Mother and Niece

