



Benedictine Sisters presently serving at the Guadalupe Center, January, 2010

Astonished by Some Women

*As we walked along the road, downcast in spirit,
we talked and wondered
about all that was happening in these days . . .
and some women from our group astonished us . . . Luke 24*

ON THE JOURNEY FROM EASTER THROUGH PENTECOST the early disciples of Jesus moved from hiding fearfully behind closed doors to living a new life in the Spirit of Jesus. That Spirit opened their hearts and they began to speak other languages. Even strangers were able to hear and understand them speaking in their native tongues.

For us brothers and for many friends, the relationship with our Mexican Benedictine Sisters has opened a new vision of hope for what our world can become. As daily bread was broken and the Word of God shared in simple song and celebration, we have been touched and radically changed by the hospitality of the Sisters who



Sister Berenice



Sister Lucía



Sister Cecilia



Sister Celia



Sister Benita



Sister Nohemí



Sister Toni

invited us to listen and commune far beyond words. We have truly been amazed and astonished!

The Guadalupe Center in Cuernavaca, Mexico, is the fruit of a covenant that our two communities made with one another. This past year the Center celebrated 25 years of service to a vision we hold together of God's Reign unfolding in our midst. We brothers, together with hundreds of friends, have shared this experience and have been touched by this vision. We are truly grateful to these amazing women of faith!

The widening gap that divides our world is not merely between nations, but within nations. It is becoming more a divide between the rich and the poor. The Sisters have led us across this divide into the lives of the poor. Even amidst difficult and at times frightening experiences, they have encouraged us to unearth the beauty that can emerge and flower even in the crevices of hard stone. From the initial days of our exchange with the Sisters, they have challenged us to look beyond a mere material response to immediate needs and apparent deficits. They have invited us to first discover a communion by sharing ourselves, our time, our interest and concern in the other. We are already one. A gift lies deep in the heart of the other. It is a beautiful gift. And though we may begin as strangers, we find ourselves as truly brothers and sisters!

We are very grateful to the whole Congregation of our Mexican Benedictine Sisters for their love and care over the years, especially all the Sisters who have served and continue to serve the many people and groups who come to the Guadalupe Center. In particular, we remember with heartfelt gratitude the Sisters who have worked at the Center and are now living the fullness of God's new life: our Sisters Cecilia, Berenice, Nohemí, Benita, Lucía, Celia, and Antonieta (Toni).

In this bulletin we want to share our experiences – the reflections and dreams, the laughter and tears – that bring us to this day as we continue to journey the years together. ■