



Weston Priory brothers with our Benedictine Sisters at the Guadalupe Center in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico

## Benedictine Vernacular

*—brother Placid*

*Each must the other take as sign, short sign  
To stop the whirlwind, balk the elements<sup>1</sup>*

**E**ACH VISIT TO OUR SISTERS IN MEXICO IS UNIQUE AND SO FAMILIAR—FAMILIAR IN THE GATHERING together of sisters and brothers, and so unique: our lives constantly change, the world always in flux. We move across boundaries, divides, obstacles, land and sea, to embrace each other anew as brothers and sisters: the Benedictine vernacular.

This year in a significant and poignant way our visit with our sisters in Mexico had a heightened meaning. The climate of the political situation in the U.S. toward Mexico and toward immigrants highlighted our joy and solidarity of being together—“a short sign to stop the whirlwind ...”

Our days unfolded in the ambience of the loving hospitality of our sisters. First at the Casa Central in Mexico City: we shared festive times and anxious moments of medical concern with sisters’ illnesses; we met with the sisters engaged in pastoral ministry; engaged in sharing with the young sisters; spent an afternoon celebrating the anniversary of the school at Josefina Valencia (with Mariachis!); listened to a violin recital by the ten-year-old son of a woman working with the sisters in the kitchen; and shared a day and a meal with brother Daniel’s family.

Then it was over the mountain to Cuernavaca and our Guadalupe Center. There, in the gorgeous setting and the gracious welcome of our sisters at the Center, we had some days of reflection and sharing. We visited our friends at Nopalera and the sewing cooperative and heard first-hand the stories of fear and anxiety for loved ones in the States. We heard an excellent presentation on the political situation in both Mexico and the U.S. And we had time for sharing with the sisters and the many doings at the Center.

Our visit was a special time of Gospel solidarity, a moment of realizing our Benedictine legacy of brotherhood and sisterhood, to “... take each other as sign ...” practicing the Benedictine vernacular. ■

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<sup>1</sup> Wallace Stevens: *The Collected Poems*, p. 401