December 12th 1990

Hispanic News

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The second day of the Summit: 1) formulate a blueprint of educational reform for Latinos; 2) form a broad-based coalition on education reform; 3) strengthen Affirmative Action efforts at all levels, and 4) initiate a campaign of parental empowerment. Dr. Navarro concluded, "This Summit is unique, in that the educators that will be present will be able to input their total educational expertise to enhance a realistic picture of the present education climate in California relative to Hispanics and make recommendations for the development of objectives to meet the Summit goals."

Persons may call the Institute for Social Justice at (714) 888-0207 for further information or reservations.

Abrid elected President of Colton School Board

By: Rev. Miguel Ceja, Associate Pastor, St. Catherine's Church, Rialto

This article was written exclusively for the Inland Empire Hispanic News.

Virgilio Elizondo, who has been recognized as the major theologian of the Mexican-American culture, claims that two Mexican-American celebrations stand out as the most universal: the collective celebration of the fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the family celebration of the baptisms of an infant. The two celebrations are interrelated, he claims, in the identification of the people as la raza as a cultural and religious entity.

Because of the historical process that has been taking place over the past four hundred years and continues today, the cultural elements in the Mexican-American identity cannot be fully separated from the religious elements. The gospel and the culture are not fully identified with each other, but they cannot be fully separated. The gospel has been transformed the culture and the culture has been reactualizing the gospel through its own vital expressions.

If Ash Wednesday stresses the earthly belongings and the present suffering of the people, and Good Friday marks their collective struggles and death, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe shines out with joy the proclamation that a new dawn is breaking; the collective resurrection of a new people. Out of their own earth—Tepeyan—in continuity with the life of their ancestors, a new mother emerges, pregnant with new life. She is not a goddess, Virgilio claims, but "the new woman from whom the new humanity will be born, la raza cosmica de las Americas." She is herself the prototype of the new creation. She is la Mestiza. She combines opposing forces so that in a creative way new life, not destruction, will emerge. December 12 is celebrated, as Virgilio puts it, "the beginning of the new human-divine adventure."

It is important to remember that flowers were the sign that la Morenita gave to prove that she was God's messenger. In ancient and contemporary Mexican culture, flowers are a sign of new existence. From the seeds that fall to earth are watered by the heavenly dew, and fertilized by the ashes and remains of previous life, new life comes forth. The resurrection of Christ was the beginning of new Christian people, Continued on back page
Norton A.F.B. Reservists Guaranteed Re-Employment after Desert Shield Duty

NORTON AFB, Calif. - Air Force Reservists called to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield are guaranteed certain re-employment and legal rights by federal legislation dating from 1940.

The Veterans' Re-employment Rights Law gives Reservists the right to time off from civilian jobs to fulfill military obligations. It also protects them from discharge or discrimination because of those obligations.

When called for active duty, Reservists are not required to ask for a leave of absence, but need to notify their employer.

"They can't just disappear from their job," Air Force Reserve officials said. The Veterans' Re-employment Rights Law applies to federal, state and local governments and to private employers, regardless of organizational size.

It protects any Reservist who gives up a civilian job to enter active duty, voluntarily or involuntarily, in peace-time or wartime.

Returning veterans are entitled to the level of job, the seniority, status and rate of pay they would have attained if they had stayed continuously employed instead of serving on active duty.

The law also gives them a six month period of special protection against being dismissed without cause.

An employer who fires a veteran during that period must prove the veteran was guilty of misconduct which would have caused the person to be fired even if the person hadn't been a veteran.

Returning veterans must meet certain eligibility requirements to regain their former jobs:

* The job that was held must have been an "other than temporary" job.
* The veteran must have left the job to enter active duty.
* The active duty period must be no longer than four years. However, it can be up to five years if the period beyond the four years in any election at the request and for the convenience of the federal government.
* Release from active duty must be under honorable conditions.
* Application for re-employment with the preserve employer must be within 90 days after release from active duty, or 31 days if called under Title 10, U.S. Code 673b.

He emulated his father, Ray Abril, Senior, 80 years old, who was actively involved in the community for six decades, Mr. Abril has been active in numerous activities since his discharge. He was recording secretary for the Steel Workers Local 5647 for 18 years. During the late 60's, a group of activists organized the Mexican-American Parent/Student Organization, in which he was actively involved, and in which the group was instrumental in "advise" the school district on educational programs and impacting policies regarding minority students.

More recently, Mr. Abril has been sought by candidates for endorsements, in addition to being asked for support of issues before the electorate. He has, also, participated in various capacities in numerous municipal, state and national elections.

He is a co-founder of the Inland Empire Hispanic News and serves on its board of directors.

Mr. Abril and his wife Hortensia have been married for 35 years. They have 6 children and 16 grandchildren.

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DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE
Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber Founded

Maria De La Cobas is the President of the Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the most recently organized Hispanic business group in the Inland Empire.

In an exclusive interview, Ms. De La Cobas described how she became a member of the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce and discussed with Chamber officials about the feasibility of inviting the Hispanic business-persons in the area to become members. Lacking the official's interest in expanding their membership, Ms. De La Cobas decided that Hispanics (businesses) had to be organized and researching city files and visiting the business area, she identified approximately 25 Hispanic businesspersons.

She invited the businesspersons to a meeting to determine the interest in organizing a business group. The response was positive and as a result, the meeting became the organizational nucleus for the new Hispanic Chamber. The Officers elected at the meeting were Roy Olivaras as Vice-President, Dolores Kotts, as Secretary and Lisa De La Galicia as Treasurer.

Ms. De La Cobas stated that Moreno Valley has 125,000 residents living within the city limits and approximately 30% (or 37,500) are Hispanics! She further stated that the area's business and housing development and increase in population has the potential for the Hispanic Chamber to be the most viable and progressive group in the community.

The short goal for the chamber, said Ms. De La Cobas, is to develop a cohesive group that will network within the Hispanic business community; identify economic resources that will be available to the Chamber member's needs, and; and assertively reinforce the expansion of Hispanic businesses.

Ms. De La Cobas is an account executive with KCAL AM radio station in Redlands.

The first business mixer is planned at the Casa Isabel Restaurant, comer of Pigeon Pass and Ironwood in Moreno Valley on December 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. (east of 60, off on Fredericks, left to Ironwood).

Holiday Traditions

Christmas (Dec. 25): The first Christmas took place in a stable, with shepherds and farm animals honoring the birth of Jesus Christ. It's remarkable that a holiday with such humble roots could evolve into the time of hustle and rush we know today. Yet, in the flurry of shopping for perfect presents, devising the most opulent decorations, and preparing the richest foods, we often lose sight of the simple beauty that characterized the first Christmas.

"Simple" certainly characterized the Pilgrim settlers' Christmases: "Spartan" is a better term. The Pilgrims held the day to be strictly religious. And besides, no one has actually proved that Jesus' birth took place on Dec. 25th. All in all, the Pilgrims took a dim view of other settlers' noisy revelry harking back to British yuletide celebrations. Pilgrims consecrated Christmas Day to full labor; the traditional mincemeat pie was forbidden. In their zeal to celebrate, Pilgrim homemakers baked the pies anyway, but disguised them in odd-shaped pans.

French settlers feted the holiday with a dinner after midnight services, call a reveillon. Today, their descendants leave shoes near the creche, or manger scene; they hope presents will spill out of their footwear the next morning.

In the early days of American settlement, German residents set the children loose the three Thursdays before Christmas. These "knocking nights" saw children tripping from door to door dressed in outlandish masks and with blazing white candles, symbolizing purity. And we have German settlers to thank for introducing the custom of inviting the Hispanic business community; identify economic resources that will be available to the Chamber member's needs, and; and assertively reinforce the expansion of Hispanic businesses.

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French settlers feted the holiday with a dinner after midnight services, call a reveillon. Today, their descendants prepare a celebratory Christmas cake in the shape of a yule log: the bûche de Noël! Festooned with almond-paste holly, meringue mushrooms and butter-cream bark, the logs are a feast for the eye as well as the tummy. Children leave shoes near the creche, or manger scene; they hope presents will spill out of their footwear the next morning.

In the early days of American settlement, German residents set the children loose the three Thursdays before Christmas. These "knocking nights" saw children tripping from door to door dressed in outlandish masks and singing hymns centering around the word "knock." The kids clattered cow bells and other noisemakers to drive away evil spirits.

Few German-Americans today observe Klöpfelnachte. But all through the holiday they framed their windows with blazing white candles, symbolizing purity. And we have German settlers to thank for introducing the custom of the Christmas tree.

Southwestern Christmases feature regional specialties like Chile; tamale; posole, a hominy chile stew; and bischochitos, small cookies peppered with anise seeds. The people eat Joseph and Mary's search for an inn with a ritual known as Las Posadas. Groups wander around neighborhoods, serenading folks in their homes and asking owners to let them in. First they're declined entry, but finally an owner agrees to allow them in. The posadas party starts off with some energetic piñata-bashing. The piñata is a clay or paper-mache animal decorated with colored tissue paper, stuffed with candies and pennies and hung just out of reach. Blindfolded children take turns swinging at it with a stick until it breaks, and they rush to gather the treats.

New Year's (Jan. 1): Although people around the world observe New Year's Eve with noise and toasting, many clusters of Americans celebrate the start of a New Year on other days.

Chinese-Americans and people of Vietnamese descent throw their New Year's parties on the first day of the first moon, usually between February and March. Outside in the streets, a huge dragon supported by more than 50 revelers spreads good luck as it leads the Chinese New Year cavalcade. Firecrackers explode in every nook and cranny of the neighborhood to scare away evil spirits.
Globalization of Garment Industry = Labor Standards Decline

RIVERSIDE - Rapid globalization of the garment industry is producing a decline in labor standards in the United States as a result of increasing internationalization of the industry, said Bonacich. The practice is the outgrowth of fierce competition for the American market, particularly from Asian and Latin American countries, said Bonacich. The situation has led some U.S. clothing manufacturers to turn to low-cost domestic subcontractors whose shops, it turns out, are often typhied by illegally low wages, home work, child labor violations, and unsanitary working conditions, said Bonacich.

Existence of sweatshops is particularly pronounced in the key Southern California manufacturing center, she said, where garment makers rely heavily on immigrant labor that is not only plentiful, but often easily exploited. Bonacich has conducted extensive studies of the garment industry, focusing on finance, immigrant labor, U.S. labor law, and manufacturers and subcontractors, particularly in the Los Angeles nucleus.

She has just been awarded a $70,000 grant under the University of California Pacific Rim Research Program to study the globalization of the industry. In collaboration with Lucie Cheng of UCLA, Bonacich is examining the flow of capital, labor, and trade in the Pacific Rim garment industry to determine precisely how the industry is being restructured, and what is the impact on the U.S. industry.

"We are appalled at labor conditions in some of the shops in Los Angeles and around the world," said Bonacich. "Women are especially likely to be employed by these firms. Our project is concerned with understanding what is creating these dehumanizing conditions and what can be done to prevent them."

Bonacich expects the two year study will confirm that the global garment industry is shifting capital and bases of operation from country to country, pitting workers in one land against workers in another and steadily eroding labor standards worldwide. "We need to understand who is investing where," said Bonacich.

"What is going on is a restructuring of the world economy, which is strengthening the hand of business and weakening the position of working people all over the world," she said. "In our project we wonder whether it is possible that, instead of being pitted against each other, workers everywhere can come together in a unified way."

But the cheaper production costs are not the only motivation for the garment industry musical chairs, said Bonacich. Large Asian exporters, such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea, apparently are establishing operations in the Caribbean and Central America as questions, she said.

U.S. trade and investment laws actually encourage the movement of the industry abroad, and foster the disappearance of the legitimate apparel manufacturing industry in the U.S., she said.

The Pacific Rim Research Program provides support for multidisciplinary research that will contribute to an understanding of the Pacific Rim as a region. Bonacich was one of 24 in the preliminary conference with research grant.

The outcome of these races would have been dramatically different if the unsuccessful candidates had garnered a slightly larger percentage of the Latino vote.

"The Hispanic vote is proving to be a key swing vote in statewide elections," says NALEO National Director Harry Pachon. "In California, for instance, candidate Diane Feinstein would now be governor if she had received the same percentage of the Hispanic vote that Ann Richards received in the Texas governor's race."

In Texas, the closely contested governors' race was decided by only 3.3 percentage points. Gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams would have won the governorship with an additional 12.2% of the Latino vote (see chart). 114 Hispanic candidates in nine states were elected to federally and state-level offices - U.S. Representative, statewide office, state senate, and state assembly - in the November 6 elections. Overall, nearly 70% of Hispanic Republican and Democratic candidates for these offices were victorious in their races. In Texas alone, more than 90% of Hispanic candidates for high-level office ran successful campaigns.

Voters reelected 94 of the 96 Hispanic incumbents facing reelection to high-level positions. Twenty non-incumbent Hispanic candidates were elected to high-level offices in the recent elections. Of these candidates, 13 were elected to state assemblies, two to state senate, and five to statewide offices. In both Texas and New Mexico five non-incumbents ran successful races for state assembly seats.

"With every election we see a steady growth in the number of Hispanic elected officials," says Pachon. "Currently there are 4,004 Hispanic elected officials, and this number will continue to rise in the 1990s."

The Latino Vote In California and Texas Governor's Races (1990)

**California**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>% total Latino vote a</th>
<th>% total Latino vote b</th>
<th>% total Latino vote c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>3,390,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feinstein</td>
<td>73.6%</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
<td>4,777,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>3,390,196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mean percentage of voter exit polls conducted by the Southwest Voter Research Institute and Voter Research and Surveys.

a The mean percentage of voter exit polls conducted by the Los Angeles Times and Voter Research and Surveys.

b The mean percentage of voter exit polls conducted by the Southwest Voter Research Institute and Voter Research and Surveys.

Compiled by: NALEO Educational Fund

**Texas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>% total Latino vote a</th>
<th>% total Latino vote b</th>
<th>% total Latino vote c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richards</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>1,422,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>1,422,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>96,116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mean percentage of voter exit polls conducted by the Los Angeles Times and Voter Research and Surveys.

a The mean percentage of voter exit polls conducted by the Southwest Voter Research Institute and Voter Research and Surveys.
Mary Ann Gonzales works for Betterment of Hispanics

By Roy Saldana

"I feel successful if I am able to put in the maximum energy into projects that I am working on. For me, it's a matter of giving your all in any one situation," said Mary Ann Gonzales, the energetic and diminutive administrative assistant to the director of the Institute for Social Justice in San Bernardino, a community based organization that for several decades has fostered social justice and provided the leadership and technical assistance in the areas of social and economic issues.

Mrs. Gonzales indicated that she continually sets goals for herself, aggressively strives to accomplish the goals and derives great satisfaction when she attains them. She says, "I like to win." It's not uncommon for men to become alarmed when they hear this petite woman assert her beliefs. "In granular, culture and traditions of Mexico. Mrs. Gonzales was recruited to work at the Institute for Social Justice in 1987 as a result of her five years of community work in Barstow. Her position at the Institute gives her great satisfaction and a feeling of purpose. She says, "I like it here because I feel like I have a niche, I have this sense of accomplishment because the Institute's goal is helping people in need and working for the betterment of the Hispanic at every level. However, our performance (the Institute's) is very hard to measure. I feel we do a good job, but there is so much work to do. Conversely, when I worked at the other places I never had this feeling."

She enjoys being a part of the team with Dr. Navarro, Executive Director and Jesse Valenzuela, Research Specialist. "We enjoy it when times are good, when we are bad we come together and try to find a way out of it," she said. She commutes on a daily basis from Barstow to the office in San Bernardino.

Mrs. Gonzales feels that the benefits to having women in the work force is that men learn it is acceptable to be sensitive. Another woman who had a large influence in Mrs. Gonzales' life was a nun, Sister Rosa Maria Zarate. She taught classes on liberation theology at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

"She brought you from a stage of passivity and conformity, showing that change isn't going to happen unless you do something about it," said Mrs. Gonzales.

Mrs. Gonzales has five children, Roland Joseph, 19; Andrea, 18; April, 17; Ryan, 14 and Christopher Thomas, 10. She spends as much time as possible with them, going to the park, mall or movies. The family traditionally goes to a restaurant for breakfast after Sunday morning Mass.

She feels it is important to teach her children the value of the work ethic and that nothing in this world comes for free. As an example, she cites that if one of her children would ask for money, she would give the money but attaches a stipulation such as "you owe me a car wash."

Mrs. Gonzales believes that the Institute for Social Justice is a vehicle for change in the Latino community. She wants to be a part of that change but believes it is up to people.

"ISJ can only give the community the tools to work with, but it's up to the people to apply those tools. She says, "We no longer want to be referred as the sleeping giant."

Her vision for the future is for the Latino community to be able to have true empowerment and equal representation in the political and economic environment.

Dr. Armando Navarro, Director, Institute for Social Justice, states that Continued on Page 6

GENTS ORGANIZATION

GALA NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Monday, December 31, 1990 - 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM

at CITRUS BLDG. National Orange Show Fairgrounds
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Doors Open at 8:00 PM
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Redlands (Frank Rodriguez)... 792-1306
Pasadena (Sister Estela)... 823-9510
Colton (Sister Francis)... 823-9776
Highland (Jim McCall)... 856-1869

Dr. Armando Navarro is the Executive Director & President of Institute for Social Justice
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
1991-92 State Senate Fellowships

SACRAMENTO: Senator Ruben S. Ayala announced today the availability of applications for the 1991-92 California State Senate Fellow Program. The program provides college graduates an opportunity to become full-time Senate staff members working in a Senator’s Capitol office or committee for eleven months. The fellows also participate in academic seminars with Senators, senior staff members, journalists, lobbyists, and state government officials for which they receive 12 graduate credits from California State University, Sacramento.

"The fellowship program offers an excellent opportunity to gain a first-hand knowledge of the legislative process," Senator Ayala said. "Whether your career goals are in the public or private sector, the fellowship program provides valuable training."

Anyone who has graduated from college by June 1991 may apply. There is no preferred major, and there is no need to be a recent graduate. Recent fellows have had majors ranging from agriculture to law to social welfare. Individuals with advanced degrees, or those in mid-career are also urged to apply.

Seventeen fellowships are awarded by the Senate Rules committee in May. Awards are made after an initial screening of applications and a subsequent panel interview. The deadline for submitting applications to the program is February 20, 1991.

Those interested may obtain applications from Senator Ayala’s district offices at 505 N. Arrowhead, Ste. 100, San Bernardino, (714) 884-3155, or 2545 S. Euclid Ave., Ontario, (714) 983-3566.

Santa’s secret phone number is revealed
- Call Mr. or Mrs. Claus at (714) 350-7698

FONTANA - The City of Fontana Recreation Department has a direct phone line to the pre-holiday hideout of Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Mr. and Mrs. Claus are busy overseeing the toy making and grooming the reindeer and so they can only take calls from December 17-23 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Santa is waiting to hear from you and to hear about your special Christmas wish. So call Mr. and Mrs. Claus at (714) 350-7698.

Richardson PREP HI nominated as National Distinguished School

Richardson PREP HI Middle School in the San Bernardino City Unified School District is one of 10 schools from California to be nominated to apply for National Distinguished School status in the 1990-91 Secondary School Recognition Program. Richardson, last year, was named a California Distinguished School.

Principal, Edith Krache, said, "Whether the school wins or not, it is an honor just be have been asked to participate." Krache and her staff are preparing their application packet for submission this month to Washington, D.C. Judging will be by a national panel of educators, parents, school board members, elected officials, the press, and medical professionals. The winning entries will be announced in May and a recognition ceremony will be held in Washington in September 1991.

Judging will be based on several factors, including strong leadership of the school, effective working relationships among the school, parents and the community. Krache says the curriculum and instruction will be looked at along with teaching environment, how staff is evaluated, discipline policies, how the school is fostering the development of sound character, democratic values, ethics and good behavior in its students.

Share the holidays with someone less fortunate
If you’ll be sharing your holidays with friends and relatives, count yourself lucky. You can make the holiday season even more special by welcoming a newcomer into your home, perhaps someone less fortunate than you. A variety of local organizations and associations can help you locate prospective holiday guests. First, try contacting a church nearby. They will probably be happy to search their congregation and put you in contact with "care" facilities with which they work, like senior residences, convalescent centers, nursing and children’s homes. Offices of State and County Social Service Agencies, college and universities may be seeking holiday homes for foreign students. Before you decide to adopt this idea, make sure it has the endorsement of everyone in your family.

Start early, find out if your visitor has any special requirements, in order to avoid a mismatch. Special message for the UCR Cooperative Extension and the Inland Empire Hispanic News.

Homeless Christmas Party Set

The Community Service Department, County of San Bernardino, has scheduled a Christmas Party for the homeless individuals on Tuesday, December 18, 1990, at 2:00 P.M. Santa Claus will be visiting the Party. The Department is soliciting clothing, jackets, shoes, socks, toys and monetary donations, and including food, through December 17, 1990. The Tax deductible contribution may be sent or delivered directly to Community Service Department, 686 East Mill Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0610.

For further information, contact Delia Mendoza at (714) 387-3310 or Carolyn Debevec at (714) 387-2309.

Personal Profile - Gonzales - Cont from page 5

Mary Ann is a person who has a strong and sincere commitment for the betterment of the Hispanic people and its community. She is highly intelligent, very analytical and articulate, in addition to being a hard worker. Her total experience in the area of community involvement and organizational structuring is invaluable. The Institute is fortunate to have a staff person of her caliber. The community is the beneficiary of her talent.

Sage’s Employees Reunion Luncheon
Friday, December 21, 1990
at the Mediterranean Restaurant
1300 E. Highland Avenue
San Bernardino, CA
Reservations Necessary
Riverside - 683-4301
Redlands - 793-2453
Colton - 825-3714
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Carlos Castro  
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Inland Division CHP  
847 E. Brier Dr.  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

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If you or someone you know is interested in a challenging career as a Deputy Sheriff, now is the time to apply.  
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For applications and more information, contact:  
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- Art  
- Astronomy  
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- Biology  
- Botany  
- Business Administration  
- Business Mathematics  
- Chemistry  
- Child Development  
- Computer Science  
- Data Processing  
- Drafting  
- Economics  
- Electricity  
- Electronics  
- Emergency Medical Services  
- Engineering  
- English  
- Esdrna  
- Family & Consumer Science  
- Finance  
- Fire Technology  
- Food Service  
- Foreign Language  
- French  
- Geography  
- Geology  
- German  
- Health Education  
- History  
- Human Development  
- Human Services  
- Inspection Technology  
- Interdisciplinary Studies  
- Legal Administration  
- Library  
- Machinist Technology  
- Marketing  
- Mathematics  
- Mathematics Applied  
- Microbiology  
- Music  
- Nursing  
- Oceanography  
- Office Administration  
- Office Information Systems  
- Philosophy  
- Photography  
- Physical Education  
- Physical Education (Dance)  
- Physical Education (Individual & Dual)  
- Physical Education (Team)  
- Physical Education (Varsity)  
- Physics  
- Philosophy  
- Political Science  
- Psychiatric Technology  
- Psychology  
- Public Administration  
- Reading & Study Skills  
- Real Estate  
- Recreation  
- Refrigeration  
- Religious Studies  
- Respiratory Care  
- Restaurant Management  
- Sociology  
- Spanish  
- Speech  
- Telecommunications  
- Theater Arts  
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Crafton Hills College Registration begins Jan. 24, 1991

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San Bernardino, CA 92401  
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unifying and transcending natural peoples without destroying them. Something similar happened at Guadalupe. Mexicans discovered that they were a new people, reborn.

On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the people come together early in the morning to celebrate the irruption of new life - the dawn of a new humanity. This is the Easter sunrise service of the people. Before the first rays of the sun, they come together to sing Las Mafanitas which is the proclamation of new life. It is the roses of Tepeyac that take place of the Easter lilies of Western Christianity.

Guadalupe was also a Penecost event; it opened the way to true dialogue between Europeans and Mexican Indians. It was a symbol of unity over and above their many and serious diversities. It marked the beginning of the fusion of two mother cultures - the Spanish and the Mexican Indian. Which in turn gave birth to a mestizo culture. La Morentia became the "mother of all the inhabitants of this land." Individuals who found themselves divided and segregated on the basis of human barriers external differences - discovered that they were united in something far more important than what divided them: a common mother. Virgilio claims that Mexico is a very divided nation, and that there is no doubt to anyone working with Mexican-Americans in the U.S. that they constitute a very divided people. But there is likewise "a very strong unity and spirit of familia among this divided people."

Virgilio adds that the symbolism of Guadalupe gives the basis for a much deeper unity that does any class-struggle model. The power of Guadalupe is that it signals a common motherhood for all the inhabitants of the land. As new models of society are proposed and begin to be worked out, as long as they find a way to incorporate the new temple of compassion. The message was two fold: the Indians, in the person of Juan Diego, were to go to the bishop (the church), and the church (in the person of the bishop) was to build a temple among the people.

In her telling the people through Juan Diego "Go to the bishop...." Virgilio says, we can glimpse a reflection of her telling the waiters of Cana "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5).

And what she tells the church is to "build a temple...of compassion" - a way of life in which compassion, mercy, love will reign. In other words, her command, understood in this broader sense, was: "Incarnate the gospel among their people, so that Christ will come as a stranger but as one of them."

Mary's command to the Mexican church in 1531 was echoed by the Synod of Bishops in 1977, when it recognized and stressed the obligation on the part of the church to inculturate the gospel among the peoples of diverse cultures, in order for it to be understood and lived by them. Virgilio Elizondo claims that "without this inculturation - mestizaje - of the gospel into the natural substratum of people's life, the gospel will never truly be implanted and the truly local church will never emerge."

To summarize in a few words what people celebrate collectively on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in, therefore, "rebirth and the promise of new life."

Que viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

San Bernardino Valley college students conduct a silent march as part of a pre-holiday promotion of non-violence. Carrying white balloons and wearing white ribbons as a symbol of their pledge, students first gathered in the Greek Theater to hear speakers whose lives had been personally touched by violence.

Our Lady of Guadalupe
San Bernardino Valley College Demonstration to End Violence

"The quest for love and peace...has to start within."

SAN BERNARDINO - The quest for love and peace, whether in families or on city streets, has to start within. That was the oft-repeated theme of a San Bernardino Valley College pre-holiday demonstration for an end to violence.

Speakers during a noon rally ranged from college president, Dr. Donald L. Singer, to Samir Ghani, President of the Muslim Students Association. Ghani, 25, is confined to a wheelchair because an armed robber shot him in the back six years ago in Chicago.

Students wore white ribbons and carried white balloons in a silent walk over streets bordering the campus after their call for "unity, peace and love!" in the Greek Theater.

An alumnus of Valley College, family counselor Mel Osborne, said that because of abuse in families, abuse is perpetuated through the generations and its severity increases with each generation.

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