

"Hunger and Thirst for the Living God"

By Patti Snyder

The 16th Annual San Lorenzo Women's retreat was held February 18-20. This is the first time I attended the retreat. As we were welcomed on Friday night, I was surprised to see the joy among the women, from many different cities, renewing friendships formed during past retreats. When Father David Beaumont welcomed us in the chapel during a Taize service, I thought, "He has the look of Christ". As we enjoyed the hymns, we reflected on those things in our life that we hunger for can be summed up as love, and God gives the perfect love to us!



"Go Out and Serve!"



Dining with Love

After Mass and breakfast, we listened as Father David shared stories of his life in Mexico, relating the mystical powers of some women to, "Really listening to God." Challenging each of us to create sacred places of prayer where we can be attentive to the messages sent by God, and prepare to act on those messages. Father interspersed biblical quotations and words of the saints to emphasize his message. Today he spoke of St. John of the Cross-who said, "God is unknown so we must be ready to experience the unknown".

Our third session Father David focused on the second commandment: Love thy neighbor. Reminding us of Christian love, Agape, as love for other persons, because they are children of God. As he spoke, each of us could feel the intense love that he has for the people of Mexico. His stories are filled with compassion, and joy.

On Saturday night, the focus was on the Mission of the Church today and Father connected his mission stories by reminding us that we are all called to serve. We can serve by praying, being a religious or lay missionary, or financially supporting the missions. It was interesting to learn that St. Francis was the first to found an order with, "Go out and serve" as part of the vows. Prior to him, the religious orders were monastic.



Joyce Love, Mary Jane Wulfange, Fr. Alejandro

On Sunday, after Mass, we met for our farewell to Father David. We all had a feeling of grace, renewal, and a common desire to help Father David fulfill his mission dreams. Many pledged to help raise \$25,000 to build a chapel for the Guarijío tribe of Los Estrados in Sonora. It was hard to say good-bye to the priests who participated in the weekend including Father Matt and Father Alejandro. We had shared delicious meals, stories, Mass, Taize, the rosary, and confession in the beautiful setting at San Lorenzo, and will carry fond memories till we meet at the next retreat.



"We must be ready to experience the unknown."

When the retreat began I felt I was looking at a man who looked like Jesus, but on Sunday I left knowing I met Jesus in Father David Beaumont.

Patty Snyder
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San Lorenzo's Beautiful Country



Sonia Deluna, Fr. David, Mabel



Clean-up and dishwashing help



Kathy Corcoran & Br. Lance Love



Thank you Lord for this bountiful meal!



*You have not chosen me,
I have chosen you!*



God's Creation



*Walking the path &
sharing their stories*



The day's work is done