



■ Bienvenidos a Cuernavaca!

Highlights from Rev. Monica's Spanish Language Immersion Course

Instituto de Español de la Iglesia Anglicana de México (IDIAM)

July 29 - August 12, 2023

¡Bienvenidos a Cuernavaca! Cuernavaca is about 90 minutes south of Mexico City. It is often referred to as the city of Eternal Spring.

Arriving at IDIAM



All of our classes and meals were held downstairs at Instituto de Español de la Iglesia Anglicana de México (IDIAM). Upstairs were our dorm rooms, restrooms and showers.

Stop and smell the roses.
Watch out for falling sausages!



The campus was set up like a compound with high walls, barbed wire, and large locked metal doors. During breaks we would walk in front of and along the side of the building to enjoy the roses and shade. But watch out for the heavy sausage-like fruit.

Front entryway & hall to classroom



The gathering spaces were decorated with beautiful hand-painted floral edging.

Chapel @ IDIAM



We met for Morning Prayer and Compline in the Chapel, taking turns leading the service, or serving as Lector en Español. We also sang hymns from the Catholic Spanish language hymnal, *Flor y Canto (Flower and Song)*.

Daily Neighborhood Walk @ 6:30am



Each morning a group of us met @ 6:30am for a neighborhood walk . . .

Children's play area



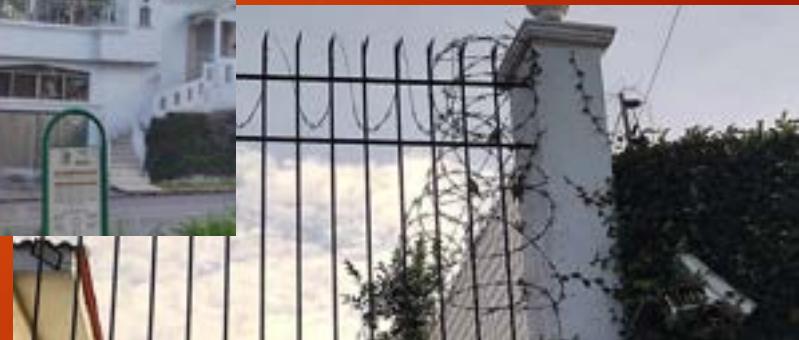
... that took us up to an exercise path with beautiful views of the city.

Popocatepetl volcano from the exercise trail



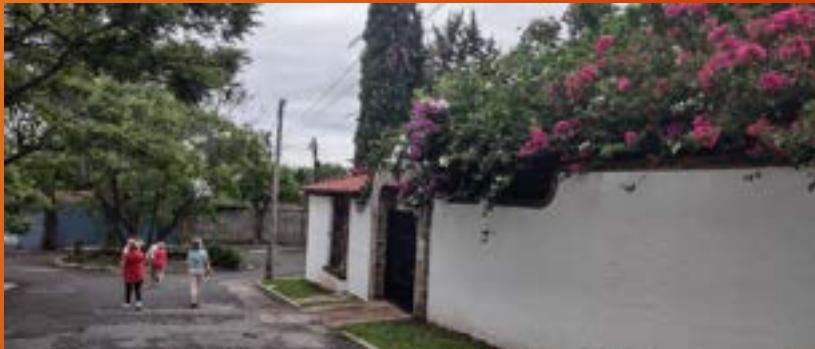
On some mornings we could see Popocatepetl volcano erupting in the distance. Look to the right of the Sun.

Living among fencing, walls & razorwire



Like our compound, homes were protected by high walls, metal doors, electronic security systems, and razor wire. But the birds found a way to remain free.

Returning through the neighborhood



The tower on the right is supposedly used to monitor traffic, but it didn't seem like anyone worked there. The only workers we saw were men who swept the exercise path for cash donations, or washed cars in the parking lot.

Jesus & St. Francis with beautiful stonework



Some of the walls were decorated with icons and beautiful stonework. One neighborhood had banners put up during COVID announcing that the gates to their community were locked because of thefts, kidnappings, and murders. This year, the banners were still up, but the gates were opened during the daytime.

Catedral San Miguel y Todos Los Angeles



On Sunday, we went to the cathedral, where Canon Anita served as preacher and presider. The congregation hosted us for lunch.

Notice the decorative floral edging along the walls.

Catedral San Miguel y Todos Los Angeles



The outer wall had been a place for graffiti, so the community decided to commission a beautiful mural of God, as Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier.

Waiting for our Tour Bus



On most days, we had grammar and conversation classes in the morning through early afternoon, and a field trip in the late afternoon. Our first field trip was cancelled when the police closed down an area where we were to meet our bus to tour the city.

Museo Robert Brady



Since our tour bus couldn't pick us up, Canon Anita took us to the Robert Brady Museum where we got a private tour by her friend just before closing time.

Museo Robert Brady



Robert Brady was a 20th century American artist and collector who studied art in Chicago and Philadelphia.

Museo Robert Brady: The Mask Room



He traveled for much of his life, collecting art from around the world.

Museo Robert Brady



During one of his visits to Mexico, he fell in love with Cuernavaca and in 1961, made his home in La Casa de la Torre, a 16th century building that used to be part of the Roman Catholic cathedral. In the photo on the right, notice the man with the horse to the left of the crucified Jesus.

Museo Robert Brady



The museum is now home to over 1,400 artifacts that made up his private collection.

Museo Robert Brady: Kitchen



Brady was friends with such luminaries as Diego Rivera, Peggy Guggenheim, Rita Hayworth, John Cage . . .

Museo Robert Brady: Josephine Baker



Josephine Baker...

Museo Robert Brady: Frida Kahlo



...and Frida Kahlo. BTW, PBS is showing a three-part series on Frida for Hispanic Heritage Month

Museo Robert Brady: Frida's Room



Frida would stay here for a couple months every year, so Brady created a room for her.

Museo Robert Brady



Artifacts represent many faith traditions and cultures . . .

Museo Robert Brady: More Josephine Baker



. . . and are even found in his bathrooms.

Robert's Room



Robert's room includes several mirrors discretely placed so that he could check out his attire from all angles. How do we know this? An area rug is well-worn in a particular place in front of his closet.

Museo Robert Brady



The two images on the left were made with hummingbird feathers.

Museo Robert Brady



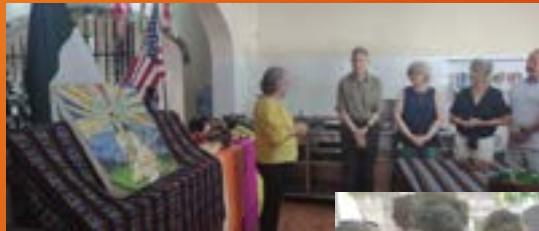
Both Robert's and Frida's rooms looked out on the grassy courtyard and swimming pool. There were no screens on the windows; just carved wooden bars.

Museo Robert Brady



Brady died of cancer in 1986, and was buried in the garden next to his dogs.

Learning to make tamales



Our cultural events were not always offsite. One afternoon our instructors taught us how to make tamales. Did you know that some are made sweet with fruit, nuts, cinnamon, and dulce de leche?

Learning to make tamales



Lunch at Jardines de México



¡Yes, it seemed like we were always eating! One afternoon we went to the Jardines de México for lunch and a tour of the gardens.

Lunch at Jardines de México



The chefs were able to accommodate some of our dietary needs, and all of the food was delicious. Soup without and with tomato base, steamed fish and Spanish rice. Dessert on top was dairy based with chocolate inside, so a few of us were given a dish of fruit.

Walking the Jardines de México



We walked off our lunch on what turned out to be a very hot afternoon.

Walking the Jardines de México



But much of the tour was in the shade. The Japanese Garden is one of seven sections of the largest floral theme park in the world.

Walking the Jardines de México



There were lots of incredible outdoor sculptures . . .

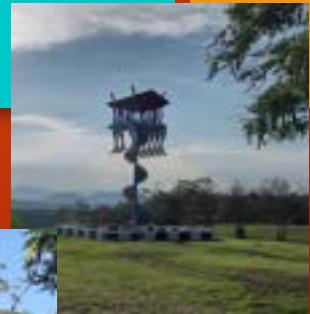
Walking the Jardines de México



Walking the Jardines de México



More Garden Sculptures

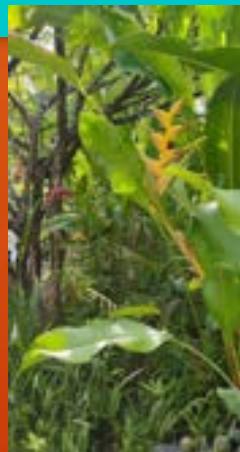


Honey Bee Cultivation



. . .an air-conditioned building where honey bees were cultivated...

Tropical Flowers



...a garden area with tropical flowers ...

Tropical Flowers



... and humid greenhouse nursery for tropical flowers ..

Desert Landscape



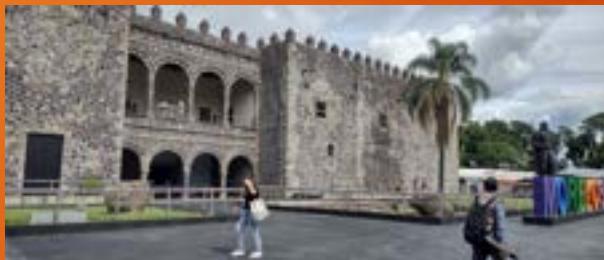
And a desert landscape ...

Desert Landscape



...with a nursery for cacti protected from the weather by shade canopies (right photo).

Museo Regional de los Pueblos de Morelos (Palacio de Cortés)



On Friday, we went to the Palacio de Cortes, the first civil work in this part of the Americas after the European invasion. The museum was closed after earthquakes in 2017, and was reopened in March 2023 and renamed as the Regional Museum of the Peoples of Morales.

Upstairs views



The medieval architecture has the appearance of a palace-fortress.

Cultural and Natural Diversity



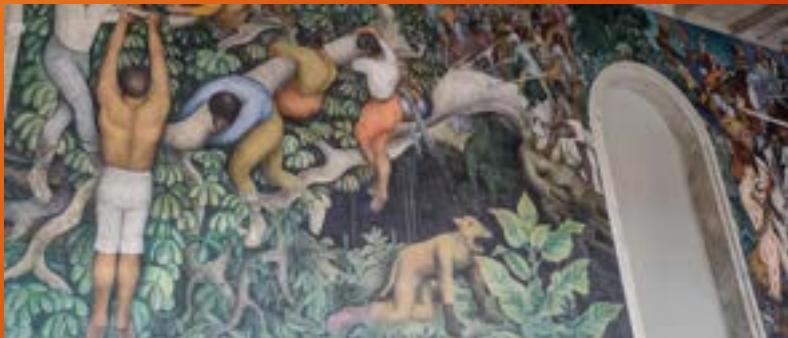
Artifacts reflect the cultural and natural diversity of Morales.

Diego Rivera Frescos



A large mural triptych by Diego Rivera on the eastern terrace tells of the history of the state of Morales, including conquest and revolution.

Diego Rivera Frescos



Remember the horse drawing in the Robert Brady Museum? You can see that it was used in this mural by Diego Rivera.

Diego Rivera Frescos



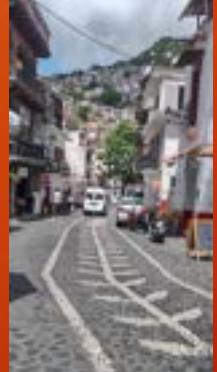
An image of Frida Kahlo is said to have been painted in the fresco on the right. Woman carrying fruit on head?

Female Street Band y Mercado



As we waited for our taxis, we enjoyed the sounds and scents of the street musicians and mercado . [Video of women musician performing.]

Daytrip to Taxco, Guerrero, México



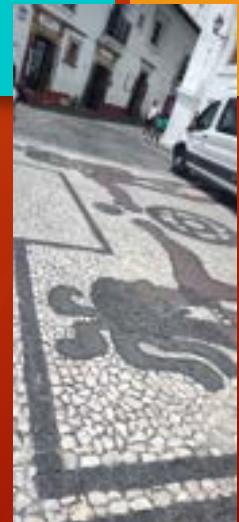
On Saturday, we took a day trip to Taxco, a pre-Hispanic silver mining town. We had a guided tour by a local docent who often followed the narrow cobblestone streets, conveniently decorated for the small vehicles with vine imagery.

Ave. Pres. JFK | Casa Rosa de Frida Kahlo



Many famous people vacationed here including Frida Kahlo. A Holiday Inn was built atop one of the hills for President John F. Kennedy's visit.

Decorative Walls, Doors & Streets



Many of the walls and streets were embellished with decorative stonework.

Local churches



We visited a couple local churches . . .

Former convent San Bernardino de Siena c. 1592



... including a 16th century former convent. I think the men on the right are dressing a mannequin in preparation for Transfiguration Sunday.

Iglesia Santa Prisca de Taxco



The most impressive was Iglesia Santa Prisca, located adjacent to the central plaza where we were greeted by street musicians and local vendors.

Iglesia Santa Prisca



Built in the 18th century, the architecture and interior is of the new Spanish Baroque style.

Santa Prisca preparing for Transfiguration Sunday



We arrived on the day before the Sunday of the Transfiguration, so a couple of the churches were preparing for the feast day with life-sized scenes of Moses and Elijah appearing to Jesus in a cloud with Peter, James, and John witnessing the theophany.

View of Taxco from the restaurant



We had lunch at a rooftop restaurant with breathtaking views of the city. [Video]

Ready to Serve at Various Churches



On Sunday, we split up and served at different churches. My roommate, Rev. SuEllen (far right), and I served at a home for elderly people who have no family to support them

Tamales & Chocolate Atole before Church?



But first, Fr. Victor Hugo – yes, that's his name - took us to breakfast, but we had already eaten.

Casa Hogar Las Palomas & Neighbors



When we arrived at Casa Hogar, we were greeted by three barking dogs.

Fr. Victor Hugo sets the Table



Fr. Victor set the Table with his traveling Communion set.

..

Seminarian practices songs to residents



... while his wife, Seminarian Christina, practiced songs with the residents. Rev. SuEllen and I served as lectors (en Español) and helped administer Communion.

Saint Michael & All Angels Church



In the afternoon, I assisted Fr. Victor at Saint Michaels & All Angels Church, which is located next door to IDIAM.

Saint Michael & All Angels Church



Three young girls, who are preparing for Confirmation, led the Prayers of the People and the Nicene Creed. They also helped me find the Psalm in the Prayer Book. Fr. Victor's parents are in the front row on the right.

Pottery Studio



On Monday, some of us visited a local pottery studio where we painted pre-fab ceramic objects.

Pottery Studio



Artists and their artwork



My piece is the cala lily tile in the center.

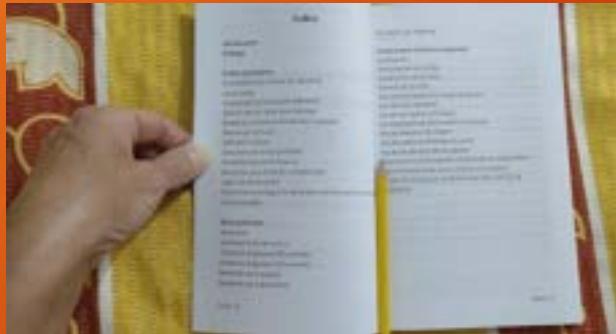
Diocesan Clergy Gathering with
The Rt. Rev. Enrique Treviño Cruz, Primate & Bishop of Cuernavaca



The Rev. Dr. Judith Jones, presenter
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon

On Tuesday, Bishop Cruz hosted a clergy gathering in which Rev. Judith led us in a discussion about theologies of grief.

Canon Anita gifted us a new liturgical resource



¡Canon Anita gifted us a new liturgical resource to use for special occasions, such as Grandparents Day!

Sandwiches and water for families in the ER



On Wednesday, we prepared sack lunches to offer families who were waiting in the Emergency Room at one of the state-funded hospitals.

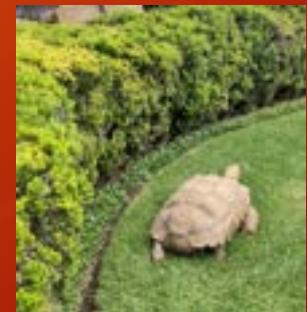
Offering Bag Lunches and Prayers at the Hospital



**URGENCIAS
SALA DE ESPERA**

This is reportedly a slow day at the hospital.

Dinner at Las Mañanitas with peacocks, parrots & tortoise



On Thursday night, we had dinner at Las Mañanitas . . .

Dinner at Las Mañanitas



. . .with Bishop Cruz and his wife, Maru (far right).

Dinner at Las Mañanitas



Dinner at Las Mañanitas



!Mariachi Dawn Serenade!



On Friday morning were awoken by a mariachi serenade, which apparently is a common time of day for celebrating. [Video]

▫Yes, we were dancing at 6:30am!



The music continued for an hour with many of us singing and dancing. [Video]

Graduation Day - “¡Super, Mega, Wow!”



It was also graduation day, so we honored our instructor, Lety, with a crown decorated with her favorite encouraging phrase, “¡Super, Mega, Wow!”

Final presentation en Español & Certificate of Completion



My final presentation (en Español) was about serving on Sunday at Casa Hogar & St. Michael and All Angels.

Graduation Luncheon



Lunch included chicken mole, Spanish rice, and tequila.
¡No, thank you. Too early for me!

▫Ballet Folklorico!



The celebration continued with dancing by Ballet Folklorico. [VIDEO]

Traditional dances from different regions of México



The group performed dances from different regions of Mexico.

More Dancing with both young and “old”



Closing Eucharist



We ended the day with a Closing Eucharist. Deacon Lauri read the First Reading and I was invited to read the Gospel [en Español]. When it came time for the Eucharist, Canon Anita surprised me with an invitation to administer the Chalice. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, I had glanced at the Spanish words a few seconds earlier! Deacon Lauri said that happened to her last year. “La sangre de Cristo, cáliz de la salvación.”

▫Demos gracias a Dios!



El fin.