

December 2011

Dear Friends,

In Chiapas, this is a special time of preparation for Christmas. While the church calendar portrays the scriptural preparation of the Incarnation, the Christian Mayans celebrate the concrete persons who sacrificed to make the event possible. Special emphasis is placed on the role of Mary, the mother of Jesus. December 8 with the Immaculate Conception and December 12 with the Virgin of Guadalupe show a very simple, faith filled and determined young woman who accepted a special participation in the coming of the Messiah/Savior. Her love for her people and her faith in God impelled her to say yes. With the Guadalupe experience, Mary was determined to make clear that her role was not the exception but the rule. All God's people, beginning with the most insignificant indigenous, are called to be a part of the transformation of the world, the building of the Kingdom of peace, justice and love.



The scholarship students have chosen December 9 as the day for their pilgrimage in honor of Mary. It is the Feast of St. Juan Diego, the indigenous campesino who was invited to take the gospel message to his own people and to all of Mexico. Our students will process down the mountain from the Boys' Ranch to the parish church in town with banners, prayers and hymns. They will be acknowledging in a public way that their education is a gift from God that includes them in the process of service to those most in need. They will celebrate Mass in church for all our sponsors and donors, thanking the Lord for others in a faraway land who also believe that a better world is possible through education.

Thank you for being one of those people in a faraway land who are called to be a part of the transformation of the world and who believes that a better world is possible through education.

May you have a blessed Advent!

The Volunteers of MTF