

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELICS OF THE MEXICAN MARTYRS TO BE DISPLAYED BY DIOCESE OF ORANGE

Traveling exhibit of holy Relics crosses the United States

ORANGE, Calif., (April 19, 2006) – The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange will welcome the historic Relics of the Mexican Martyrs to St. Ann’s Parish Church, Santa Ana, April 28 and 29. The Relics will be displayed during the 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass, a special Spanish language Mass at 9:00 p.m., and a bilingual Mass, Saturday, April 29 at 8:30 a.m. St. Ann’s is the second stop of the exhibit as it crosses North America and is designed to promote understanding of the religious mistreatment endured in Mexico during the 1920’s and the valor of the priest martyrs who sacrificed their lives for their faith.

“The church has preserved and honored the remains of saints and their belongings since the days of the apostles. The Relics of the Mexican Martyrs represent the strength and resolve of our Catholic faith in the face of intolerance and persecution,” said the Most Rev. Jaime Soto, auxiliary bishop of Orange.

During the 1920s, missionaries in Mexico were expelled from the country, Catholic seminaries and schools were closed, and the priests were forbidden the right to vote and to practice religious rites outside church facilities. Priests and laymen were commanded to denounce Jesus and their faith in public. If they refused, they faced torture and death. Many of these priests, however, were willing to be martyred for expressing their faith, often while celebrating mass.

Thousands of other men, many of them Knights, did not bow to threats or renounce their faith and were shot or beheaded. Through it all, the Knights of Columbus in Mexico persevered and gave their lives to protect their Catholic beliefs.

The relics of this exhibit are those of six Mexican priests: Fathers Miguel de la Mora, José María Robles Hurtado, Luis Batis Sainz, Mateo Correa Magallanes, Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Lucero and Rodrigo Aguilar Alemán. All six were among 25 Mexican martyrs canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

Pilgrimage Cities and Dates:

April 23

Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle
1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036

April 28-29

St. Ann Church
1344 S Main St.
Santa Ana, CA 92707

April 30

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels
555 W Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA

May 5-6

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
1530 Logan St.
Denver, CO 80203

May 13-14

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
400 Michigan Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20017

May 20

Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi
131 Cathedral Place
Santa Fe, NM 87501

May 21

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
1860 Griegos Rd, NW
Albuquerque, N.M.

June 3

St. Thomas Aquinas
1719 Morris St.
Philadelphia PA 19145

June 6-26

Knights of Columbus Museum
1 State St.
New Haven, CT 06511

July 23

Holy Name Cathedral
735 North State St.
Chicago, Ill.

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