

**This year's trip
August 13 – August 18**



All Saints' Church, Chicago 2014 Trip to Santa María Virgen, Xalapa, Mexico



Trip Highlights

- Celebrate the Fiesta of the Virgin Mary
- Live with and get to know a Mexican family
- Share with our Mexican brothers and sisters in prayer and discussion
- Visit the sights of the beautiful city of Xalapa, including the amazing Museum of Anthropology
- An optional visit to the Pre-Columbian ruins of El Tajin

For more information contact:
Dave or Karen Howe, (773)539-1124 or
howe_dk@sbcglobal.net



2014 Mexico Trip Santa María Virgen



An Invitation from Padre Byron Chanchavac

On behalf of the people of Santa María Virgen, I would like to invite you to Xalapa this August for our celebration of our patron saint, Saint Mary.

Our goal is to promote intercultural and inter-religious understanding between Santa María and our American friends through getting to know each other and sharing each others' realities.

We want to raise consciousness to transform the world through solidarity, mutual respect and dignity.

Why go?

Santa María Virgen

Our community experience in Xalapa is a dynamic retreat with our companion parish, Santa María Virgen. SMV offers us a heady mix of prayer, immersion in their culture, making new friends and joining the celebrations of their patron, Saint Mary. Learn what we have in common with, and what differentiates us from, our brothers and sisters in Mexico. Be open to surprises. Be ready to meet a variety of people dedicated to building an Anglican force for change in Xalapa. Jim Hanna called his experience "life-changing."



Location

Xalapa is a lovely colonial city with numerous attractions, including one of the best anthropological museums in Mexico. If you are interested, we are tentatively planning a two day side trip the pre-Columbian El Tajin ruins or you may wish to spend additional time in Mexico City.

Details

Travel Arrangements – It is most convenient to fly from Chicago to Mexico City and then travel by first class bus directly from the Mexico City Airport to Xalapa. If you arrive in Mexico City on August 13, we will travel with you to Xalapa.



Accommodations - One of the highlights of our visit is to stay in the home of a parish family, getting to know them and truly experiencing their culture (and great home-cooked food!). The option of a hotel stay is also available for those who would prefer it

Language - Spanish is not necessary; there are people who can translate (and who would love to practice their English with you). This is, however, a great place to learn some Spanish or improve yours.

Weather - Because Xalapa is in the mountains (4500 ft.) it never gets oppressively hot. It is relatively humid and rains frequently.



Cost – Transportation is, of course, your biggest cost. Round trip flights to Mexico City run about \$550 per person. Your expenses in Mexico will probably be around \$300 for a five day trip. If you are staying with a family, we suggest a donation of \$30 per night (which they frequently pass on to the church). Hotels are more expensive and range from about \$40 and up per night. Other than that you will need a little money for taxis (cheap), souvenirs and incidental expenses.

Food and water – Drink and brush your teeth only with bottled water (which is what Mexicans do anyway) and you will have no problems. Your food will be provided by your host family or by the church community. It's great – enjoy it with only a very few caveats

Safety – No place is completely safe (think Chicago), but Xalapa is far from the dangerous border zones and we have always felt perfectly safe there. You do want to stay with people from Santa Maria or the All Saints' group.

