

History Sketch of the Mexican Mission

Fr. René Cerecedo, CPPS

Historically speaking, this is the second attempt to found a mission in Mexico . The first attempt to found a Mexican mission was by the Italian Province (Spain). This story is told by Fr. Andrew Pollack in the **C.PP.S Resources Series-26, Historical Sketches of the C.PP.S.** Officially, at that time, it was elevated to the status of the Vicariate of Mexico with the appointment of P. Arrache as Vicar (letter of January 15, 1913). We accepted two churches, one in Monterrey, Nuevo León and the other in Mexico City. When a religious persecution began, all religious and foreign priests were asked to leave the country. Our priests left the United States to work with Italian immigrants, essentially establish an Italian Vicariate there; now the Atlantic Province .

Knowing this history and after working with the Hispanic community (mostly Mexican) in California, Fr. Ron Wiecek, CPPS requested the Provincial of the Province of the Pacific to send him to work in Mexico. Because he had made frequent visits to Mexico City, he knew he had an opportunity to work in the seminary teaching English. He had an interview with the Cardinal in 1988 and was accepted by the Cardinal to teach English in school year 1989-1990. In his letter of appointment, he Cardinal wrote that if the Province of the Pacific would like to expand in Mexico, we would be welcome and given a parish in the Archdiocese of Mexico.

Fr. Wiecek reported to the Provincial Council that it was possible for a priest to survive in Mexico City , but the lifestyle would be different than we are accustomed in the United States.

In 1995, Fr. René Cerecedo was sent to Mexico City and was assigned as parochial vicar in the Parish of San Juan de los Lagos in Iztapalapa. Iztapalapa is one of the poorest regions of Mexico City and many problems of crime, gangs, drugs, etc.. In 1996 he was appointed Rector of Sagrado Corazón, in the same parish. **On October 21, 1999**, taking advantage of the official visit of P. Barry Fischer, Moderator General, and Fr. Genaro Céspedes Vice -Moderator, the Bishop raised Sagrado Corazón to the status of a parish, naming Fr. René as its first pastor.

From our second foundation here in Mexico in 1995, two youths from La Barca Jalisco , Mexico , were invited to come to Mexico City to join the community: Juan Carlos Barajas and Omar Guillermo Cerda. For several years they lived with us in the parish while taking philosophy courses at the Higher Institute of Church Studies (ISEE) of the Seminary of Mexico. Because at the time the Pacific Province was making decisions about their future, the candidates were sent and accepted in Chile. There they studied theology and were ordained priests with the Chilean Vicariate and remain members of that Vicariate.

Sagrado Corazón parish continues to be under the care of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. We have built three chapels within the parish: Santa Maria Reyna, Santa Maria de Guadalupe and Divino Rostro. We are remodeling and extending the rectory and constructing a parish multi-purpose room.

In 2005, with the suppression of the Province of the Pacific and taking into account its historical roots, the attempt to establish The Mission of Mexico was assumed the Province of the

Atlantic. In August 2006. Fr Ron Wiecek was named parochial vicar in the parish of the Sacred Heart and appointed formator for the training of Mexican candidates. Also cooperating for several years in the Mission is Fr. Edgar Jutte, CPPS of the Province of Cincinnati.