Sacred Days

Tonight, Christians from across the world will gather to begin the three most holy days in the Christian tradition. Some will kneel and wash another’s feet, an imitation of Jesus who washed the disciples' feet on the night before his crucifixion. Others will watch the lights slowly dim as they listen to the story of love, betrayal, denial and death. All will listen to Jesus' words once again, "A new command I give you: Love one another." And "There is no greater love than this, but to lay down one's life for a friend."

Across Guatemala, thousands of people will kneel for hours crafting elaborate "alfombras" or carpets made of flowers and colored sawdust. Carpets laid in the streets, offerings over which, at dawn on Good Friday, the procession of solemn bearers will carry Jesus as he carries his heavy cross. Offerings in gratitude for the one who laid down his life for all.

Solemn services and ceremonies of mourning. And, acknowledgement. Acknowledgement of what we are called to do each and every day. To love one another. To lay down our lives for others. A burden. A cross. A joy made complete. A life fully lived.

To love one another, simple and yet so easy to forget. So many of us return to Guatemala year after year to be reminded of this simple truth. Not because we go there to serve or bring medicines or provide surgeries. But, rather because of what we see in the poor of Guatemala. How they love each other. How they lay down their lives for each other. How we can learn from them as they kneel before each other and wash each others’ feet.

Carlos is 14 years old and came to be evaluated for surgery by the Huebner team. This boy, nearly a man, had a cleft palate. His parents
The Thompson Village Team and the Huebner Surgical Team returned home Saturday after a week-long mission trip. The Tom Davis and Chenault Teams depart on April 6. Please continue to pray for our teams as they serve the Guatemalan poor.

Sacred days filled with pain, loss and darkness. Sacred days filled with joy, new beginnings and new life. Sacred days filled with the challenge and commandment to love one another. Sacred days - - each and every day of our lives.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President and Chief Executive Officer

Blessings as together we celebrate the Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ Jesus.