

**St. Mark the Evangelist Parish
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
Tierra Nueva 2**

**Brothers and sisters
St. Joan of Arc Church:**

We are one in Jesus Christ, one body, one church and today, we are all hurting after the physical loss of our dear brother and friend Bob. The hope of our faith is that he has been resurrected with our Lord Jesus, and finds himself beside our celestial father. Bob is already with them, enjoying the divine presence of those who have gone before him.

We send our condolences to Jean, his children, grandchildren and the rest of the family, to you, our brothers and sisters in the Sister Parish committee, and to the wider St. Joan of Arc community recognizing the unconditional support provided by this new discovery, the linking of hearts from two different cultures, together in the love of Jesus. Bob was one of the founders, living with so much joy and hope in becoming a better person that acts with different vision for a full life. In this way, he contributed to the continuation of the Kingdom of God, standing in solidarity with those most excluded by policies that the unjust powers of our societies imposed. Bob identified with these struggles for justice, leaving us a legacy and an example to follow.

During the Eucharist at the morning and evening masses on Sunday, August 8, Father Isidoro Njibu Kaumbu gave thanks for Bob's soul and asked for strength for his wife Jean and the rest of his family.

Our heartfelt condolences
from your sister church Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tierra Nueva 2
Sister Parish Committee

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Brothers and sisters

St. Joan of Arc Church:

PEREGRINOS 2

On Monday, August 9, we met in the evening at Aury and Paul's house, specifically to pay homage to Bob. Marleny started, telling us about her experience visiting Bob in hospice, being present with Jean and Miriam. Bob had been with Peregrinos 2 only a week before and he was sorry he couldn't accompany the delegation. Miriam told us that they took him the prayer shawl made by the delegates and members of Peregrinos 2 and the SJA Sister Parish Committee. While they made the prayer shawl, they spoke of their requests, prayers, wishes for Bob, as well as their good memories of Bob. With this gesture, they stood in solidarity with Bob to show him that he is not alone on his journey, that the appreciation, love and presence of God are with him. Those present remembered the day he had to bring the candle order and his suitcase broke, sending the candles bouncing around everywhere. The people nearby helped him, running after the rolling candles, while he joked that they were bombs, but at the same time, they laughed with him. We also talked about his humanity, his enthusiasm, and his life experiences, like when he was imprisoned for participating in a protest calling for the School of the Americas to close. This shows us one concrete change he made in his life, since he had served in the military at the time of the Vietnam War.

We prayed the Holy Rosary, giving thanks for Bob's soul and asking for strength for his wife **Jean and his whole family. We named our brothers and sisters that have gone before us, taking their place beside the Creator: Father Alfonso Stessel, Enrique Morales, Efraín Juárez, María Pichilla.** Aury started, Marleny said the first mystery, Otto (11 years old) the second, Johanna (16 years old) the third, Lilian (13 years old) the fourth, Patty the fifth, and Miriam the litany.

Concluding with comments that each person made, those who knew Bob personally and those who did not:

We cannot fill the void of pain that his wife Jean now faces, much less put something else in its place, since Bob is one-of-a-kind. God created him that way and he is also one-of-a-kind because he dedicated himself to the well-being of others, because of his humanity, because he stood defending the poorest of the poor. He is one of the chosen, called by the Creator. Bob fulfilled his mission. He will no longer suffer. He is already enjoying his eternal rest, the infinite love of God and the mercy of our redeemer, God's son Jesus. He is already part of the chorus of Angels in heaven.

Jean, we will pray for you and your whole family and for your acceptance. We also thank you for being Bob's wife, for not leaving him alone, and for all of the care you gave Bob. We admire you for your strength while facing this painful illness. We hope that God will allow us to give you our condolences in person some day and that the story of this man, with his virtues and imperfections, causes us to question ourselves, to be able to overcome and transcend in this world, always searching for the common good, participating collectively in the transformation of this unjust world, in which, in one way or another, we all collaborate in its potential destruction. It is not easy, but Bob held this hope firm until the last second of his life.

Johanna did not know Bob, but from what she has heard about him, he has left us a great example of courage and perseverance, and showed us that illness is not an unsurpassable obstacle to fulfilling your goals. She asks God to give strength to Jean and hopes that Jean will continue to be involved in the sister parish community.

Brothers and sisters of Peregrinos 2, we apologize for our negligence and for not sending our reflections. We are going to make an effort to fulfill this part of this beautiful experience.

We'll be in touch soon.
Your brothers, sisters and friends,
Peregrinos 1