

BIOGRAPHY OF FR. MIGUEL ALVAREZ

Regional Missioner.

I was born in Jalupa, Tabasco (Mexico) on January 12th, 1960. Jalupa is a small town in the province of Jalpa de Mendez. At the age of twelve, I moved to Villahermosa City, capital of the State of Tabasco. I lived with my only one sister. There, I was learning how to repair cars and studying piano lessons. When I was sixteen, I moved to Las Choapas, a town that belongs to the State of Veracruz. I got a job at the “Sacred Heart” Roman Catholic Church. I was hired to play the organ of the church, sing the songs during the celebration of masses and to accompany Fr. Jesus Esqueda, who was in charge of the parish, to visit some missions of the parish. Fr. Esqueda was 67 years old. I remember that, to arrive the farthest mission, we took almost a day, leaving in the morning from the church and arriving in the evening at the mission. We used three means of transportation: first, we traveled by truck, second, we continued by boat along the river and, finally, we rode on horses. It was an exciting experience. We went once a month to a different missions where we met many poor people. An evening, while I was taking a rest I felt the God’s calling to serve Him as a priest. I was eighteen. It was a strong calling; immediately, I responded to His calling and entered the Minor Seminary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Andres Tuxtla, Veracruz. After finishing High School at the Minor seminary, I decided to become a missioner. My bishop recommended me to enter the Major Seminary of the Guadalupe Missioners’ Institute. This Institute was founded by all Mexican bishops to prepare missioners and send them to foreigner missions around the world. That was the reason, I had to move to Mexico City. I studied Philosophy and Theology at the Intercontinental University. I got Bachelor Degree in Philosophy. Having completed my studies, I was sent to South Korea to study Korean language and culture and serve at the Guadalupe Missioners’ Missions during four years. It was a wonderful experience sharing part of my life, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Korean people. My missionary vocation became stronger, I developed my spirit of service and my spiritual life. I thank God for having chosen me to dedicate my entire life to serve His people. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to have my family (my wife

and my son) who now are sharing their lives with me at the missions in the Diocese of Western North Carolina.

Five years ago, we arrived to North Carolina coming from the Diocese Episcopal of Nevada. We are blessed by our God in this beautiful place, feeling His presence through His creation (mountains, trees, rivers, rains, clouds, animals, silence, tranquility towns, fresh water, fruits and vegetables, great weather, etc.). I am engaged with God and with His people. I will do my best, especially, for hispanic people who are thirsty and hunger of God, immigrants-indocumented people. They are waiting for someone who can teach the Good News of salvation, encourage them and hear a hopeful word, most of them will become followers of Jesus Christ. I want to thank all the people who have made it possible that we are here. I want to give special thank to bishop Porter for opening the door of his heart and the door of this diocese and now, bishop Jose for supporting the latino ministry. I thank Fr. Cisneros for being a good friend of me and having invited me to come to this diocese. Thank you so much to St. John's community lead by Fr. Richard Rowe, for their kindness and for sharing their lives with me and my family. Now, I'm so happy to make a great team with Fr. Oscar Rozo, diocesan missionary.

I have especial thanks to bishop Jose and Rev. Augusta for trusting me La Capilla de Santa Maria in Hendersonville as a Vicar. I think it is a great congregation. There are a lot of things to do there. I promise I will do my best with the grace of God.

To finish this, I only want to say:

“Heaven is not far for us if we are connected with God and with our neighbors”,

“Salvation is very possible if we love each other how Jesus taught us”,

“Eternal happiness is possible is if we do God's will”.

Fr. Miguel Alvarez, Regional Missioner.

