



missionary testimony: Our Lady of the Pillar

Matt. 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

The Story of Victor and María Elena as told by Gerardo Soria

Victor and María Elena, they met on the bus that takes them from their house to the “maquila” factories where they work.

Victor, from Durango, and Maria Elena, from Oaxaca, were married under civil law 14 years ago, and have four children.

At the request of María Elena, they came to the parish to enroll two of their children in the local parish school of religion program to make first communion. The Coordinator of the program is Victor’s coworker.

When they began the program, Victor sometimes went with his children when María Elena worked. Through his children’s study Victor began to learn more about the truths of his Catholic faith, giving him the desire to learn more.

Through the program Victor learned that the parish has a full time evangelizer who can help him learn more about the Catholic faith.

Victor comes to me and we start talking. He tells me he is ashamed his parents never taught him about God. He never was baptized and they never took him to Sunday school.

This experience was Victor’s first calling to God; we see God moving in Victor!

Once a week Victor has one-on-one catechesis, starting with the Gospel’s and the catechism for adults. Victor, has been so excited and wanted to learn everything very quickly, but I tell him that it’s much better go slowly, and to put into practice what he has learned. My motto is: “don’t eat too quickly, or you won’t be able to digest.”

Victor doesn’t miss any of his catechesis class or Mass with his family, because he wants to be a good example for his children.

Approaching his son’s first communion, Victor felt a great desire to also receive the Eucharist.

We talked with Maria Elena, who is waiting for Victor’s decision to marry her in the Church, who was full of joy. They want to be married the same day their children receive first communion but I tell them it’s not possible because they must do Pre-Caná. The first chance they got Maria Elena and Victor planned to enroll in the marriage course.

Before they could begin marriage preparation they had to be baptized and receive the sacraments of initiation. They happily finished their preparation and began to go to the marriage classes.

They realized their dream, María Elena never lost the hope of getting married in the Church and Victor’s example has shown me how God always comes to meet us where we are.

There we were one Saturday at noon celebrating their wedding at Our Lady of the Pillar. Now the whole family has received the sacraments and never miss Mass, thanks be to God.

Also, Victor has brought more people to the ETCs to join the Church.

