

LITURGICAL WORKSHOP

In February, we had visitors from a number of different Latin American countries who came together to work on liturgical resources. They form part of an organization called "Red Crearte": "Red" means "network," and "Crearte" is a compound of the Spanish words "crear" and "arte," which mean "create art." I participated in the workshop along with several of my students.



We worked together on different themes and wrote hymns, prayers, confessions, affirmations of faith, symbolic liturgical gestures, and other liturgical resources. Many of these will be used at the 2013 Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which will meet in South Korea under the theme "God of life, lead us to justice and peace."

This kind of development of liturgical resources is something that has become increasingly popular in many of the Latin American churches. It makes for some very meaningful worship services. It is amazing how creative people can be once they get involved in workshops of this sort.

**VISIT OF SLOVAK LUTHERANS TO MEXICO**

From February 2-4, a group of 50 Slovak Lutherans came to Mexico City, led by Rev. Dr. Miroslav Hvozdara of the Lutheran Theological Faculty in Bratislava, Slovakia. Some of you may know that my father is of Slovak background and served as pastor of several Slovak Lutheran congregations in the U.S. and Canada. I am able to speak some Slovak and have been to Slovakia several times, visiting relatives and some of the Lutheran churches there. At the group's request, I accompanied them throughout their time here, which was very enriching and enjoyable.



In addition to visiting the Teotihuacan pyramids with them and showing them some of the other sights in Mexico City, I took them on the subway to the Slovak Embassy, where they met with the Slovak Ambassador Jaroslav Blasko, who is a friend of ours from many years ago.



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