

The Lord of Miracles



The Lord of the Miracles

In the month of October, Peru celebrates the biggest religious event of the American continent: The Celebration of the Lord of the Miracles. The clothing in October consists of the purple habit, white belt and scapular placed next to the heart. The month is called “The Purple Month”, and Peru is dressed in purple in honor of the Lord of the Miracles, who watches his children from above with infinite kindness. Thousands of faithful pray for miracles, because the Lord does not fail and has been listening to the pleas of the people of Lima and all Peruvians for more than 300 years.

This is the reason why the whole town believes in Him and walks with Him through the streets of the city. During the procession days, Peru lives a celebration of faith, hope, and love. It is estimated that no less than a million people walk with the “Cristo Moreno” in each of his outings.

But October is not only prayers and incense, it’s also the smell of anticuchos and picarones, mazamorra morada and turrón Doña Pepa, typical food offered by the street vendors that walk with the Lord. It’s also the sound of the guitar and cajón, and the party that takes place. Peru transforms itself in October.

We, the Peruvians in North Carolina do not forget our origins and traditions, and especially our religious beliefs, and that is why during the month of October, since a few years ago, we get together to celebrate our Cristo Moreno and we hope you join us in this tradition.

A Brief Historical Summary

The story states that during the middle of the 17th century (1650), a mulatto whose name is unknown, painted the image of the Crucified Christ on a clay wall now known as The Lord of the Miracles, which is now kept in the Nazarenas Temple (Lima, Peru). In the year 1665 an earthquake destroyed Lima, but the wall remained intact and forgotten by all. 15 years later, in 1670, a noble Spaniard named Antonio de Leon, saw the painting of the Crucified Jesus on the wall, which was still standing as if nothing had happened. Surprised by this event, Antonio de Leon fixed the place, built an altar and had to stop its construction because of a strange illness. Healed miraculously, he went to honor the image with a harp, cajón and musicians.

In 1671, more than one hundred people got together to praise the Lord with their songs and celebrations. Because of the noise they made, the authorities ordered the wall to be destroyed, but with surprise noticed many incredible events that made it impossible for the image to be destroyed. On September 14 of the same year, the day the Church celebrates the Holy Cross, the first Mass took place next to the image. During these years, the images of the Virgin and St. John were added, as well as the Eternal Father and Holy Spirit. On October 20, 1687, a reproduction of the image was made to take out in procession. On October 28, day of the main celebration, more than one million people came before the image, which had the Lord of the Miracles on one side and the Virgin of the Clouds on the other side.

The Lord of Miracles Brotherhood - Raleigh, North Carolina (Hermandad del Señor de los Milagros)

In October 2003, a group of ladies led by Father Marcos León-Angulo, summoned the Peruvian community residing in North Carolina, to honor and venerate the Lord of Miracles.

On October of 2005, a ceremony was held at the Cathedral of the Diocese of Raleigh. This event had a large turnout of faithful devotees, which exceeded expectations. Subsequently, a small group of people decided to form the Lord of Miracles Brotherhood of Raleigh, North Carolina.

For more than eleven years, on the fourth Saturday of the month of October, the Brotherhood of Raleigh has had a celebration in honor of The Lord of Miracles at different churches of the Diocese of Raleigh.

The mission of the Brotherhood is to share this religious tradition with the community, encourage solidarity, and promote charity. It is our wish to contribute with the mission of evangelization that Pope Francisco has entrusted to us Catholics.

This year the celebration will take place in St. Thomas More Church on October 27 at 11 am.

We will have the Holy Mass, followed by the procession and gathering.

We invite all parishioners to praise and honor our “Lord of the Miracles”.

We thank St. Thomas More Church for all its support.