

*¡Gratis! Una Pelicula Inspiradora!*

*¡60 minutos que podrían cambiarle la vida!*

**DOMINGO, 3 DE OCTUBRE**

**A LAS 2:00 PM**

**EN EL**

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ARTS**

**UBICADO EN 1852 WEST 19TH. ST. CHICAGO, IL**

# Por Esta Causa

*Ningún propósito del hombre se puede comparar con la causa de Jesús de Nazareth. Una causa que no solo lo bendecirá a usted sino que también a toda la humanidad que vive y haya vivido sobre la tierra.*

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# October 3<sup>rd</sup> Spanish Witness Effort

Last spring I worked at the Ashland Swap-A-Rama with Sr. Cristina Filicky. I believe this is the largest flea market in Chicago. Nearly 90% of the vendors and visitors are Spanish. I can place Spanish literature since most of the Spanish public also can speak English, but when Sr. Cristina witnesses there is an obvious difference. I witness to one person at a time. Sr. Cristina draws a crowd. She starts talking to the wife, the kids come back to see what mom is doing, the husband comes back to see what she's so interested in, the mother-in-law or mother comes over to listen, too. It's not unusual for Sr. Cristina to talk to one group after another... one family after another. It is amazing to watch!

One question came up... where do you meet? Unfortunately, our class really isn't set up for Spanish meetings, so one thing led to another and the idea came up to have a public meeting to see just what interest there was in the Spanish community. Chicago has 2,900,000 people. 750,000 or 26% are Hispanic. Only Los Angeles has a larger Mexican concentration of people.

It started very small with Sr. Alys Schneider and Sr. Claudia Tosa (who were working a flea market in Alsip that also has a number of Spanish), my mom, Sr. Joy Kandel, Br. Tom Filicky, Sr. Cristina and myself.

Once the idea of having a public meeting was agreed on, additional brethren started showing interest. Brethren from outside Chicago were also interested. Brethren wanted to participate or support it financially. Sr. Estelle Gill had a Spanish ad for "Por Esta Causa." Sr. Florence Tabac made a special DVD just for this showing. Br. Jeff Mezra adapted the artwork to fit the new information. Sr. Cristina reviewed the translation work. Sr. Alys worked on children's coloring books in Spanish (If Spanish involved their children we wanted to have something for them, too!) A number of brethren passed out tracts and posters. Sr. Laurie checked out newspaper ads and meeting halls. The number involved continued to grow.

The Lord over-ruled to match available time for the meeting hall and Br. Mike Shilling's busy schedule. The common date of October 3, 2010 became the target. Br. Mike Shilling was the unanimous choice for the service because of his experience in witnessing to Spanish in South America.

For literature we ordered 100 of every booklet and book in Spanish from the Dawn. This was on top of 200 Spanish free-bies we used at the flea market. We added 200 Spanish First volumes and over 200 Spanish DVDs. At first we placed an ad in Hoy newspaper, a Tribune Spanish newspaper with a circulation of 275,000 for the 3 days we were going to run the ad. It seemed like a 1/8 page ad would be good enough, until we saw it. It was hard to read. Fortunately, we were able to change the last 2 days and enlarged it to 1/2 page. This was much better.

It seemed like every turn had an added expense, but we have a very rich Father and every obligation was met somehow!

The day before the witness effort a handful of brethren met at the Ashland Swap-A-Rama flea market to tract the cars in the lot. (Tracts and posters were made into a file that all could receive through the Internet. If any wanted to tract or poster, we just had to download and print what we needed. It was simple and cost effective.) There were about 800-1000 cars at the Ashland flea market on Saturday morning.

We split up taking different areas of the lot, expecting to be stopped by security. Sure enough, after 20-30 minutes of tracting two of us were stopped. Another finished all his tracts. Finally the last tractors were stopped, but not before nearly 600 cars were tracted. The balance was placed on cars that were on the side streets until all the tracts were given out. Later on Saturday more tracting was done... handing out as many tracts as the public could bear. It was hard to stop the brethren from their motivation. Even before the service on Sunday brethren went out handing out more tracts until finally it was time to stop. It was impressive to see the determination of the friends. I was tired and they just kept going... and going... and going.

Even though this was not a class project, there were many from the class that helped. The ground work was laid, but details needed help. The PA system, the DVD projector, setting up, the enthusiasm, the effort... it was just a great experience. By keeping it a small group we felt the decisions and last minute changes would be easier to handle. The October 3<sup>rd</sup> target date came and I think we all felt that everything that could be done was at least attempted. It was a good tiredness.

The auditorium was in the **National Museum of Mexican Art** in the heart of the Spanish community of Chicago called the Pilsen area. It is a unique area of homes... old, but well kept. The UIC campus, Stroger County Hospital and Rush Hospital are just blocks away. Everyone seemed to be familiar with this museum. The Museum was beautiful inside and out. It was a great location and the personnel always seemed helpful and accommodating. The gift shop had an unusual theme. It was filled with skeletons and a theme of death. Even cards and coffee mugs along with pictures and dolls all depicted death. This is a holiday theme leading to November 1, All Saints Day, popular among the Spanish in October. There was even a wall with three skulls and a place for people to leave notes to their loved ones that passed away... including their pets and gold fish! It was a good contrast for the message of where are the dead and the truth about hell. It was different.

The program started with Sr. Leah Ruggerillo on the flute and Sr. Sara Whittaker on the cello playing hymns for 30 minutes before the start of the program. It was absolutely beautiful to listen as we waited in the auditorium with muted lighting. We all expected to fill the room with 250 public and even wondered what we would do if more came.

Two people came.

When the hymns started, they walked out! It's hard to describe the feeling that came like a dark cloud... six months of work and the two that came walked out. Mercy.

But the Lord had other plans. The two that left came back. A few more walked in. A few families came. Dad, mom, and 3 very well behaved children. Another family walked in. As the program continued about 44 public were in the audience.

I had never seen **Por Esta Causa**, the Spanish version of **For This Cause**. It's been a long time since I had seen the English version and even though I couldn't follow the narration, I knew generally what was being presented. Those that could understand Spanish said it was very good. Some of the scenes and pictures I hadn't seen before and it seemed a very good presentation. Br. Mike Shilling introduced the program and opened the program with prayer. Only one couple left, but they returned. It was good.

The DVD was followed by a 30-minute intermission. The public could go into the adjoining room, called the *courtyard*, to see the literature, share some of the refreshments and carry on discussions with brethren.

The second session started with a short prelude of more hymns by Sr. Leah and Sr. Sara. Then Br. Mike Shilling began his PowerPoint presentation in Spanish on "How to study the Bible." People were taking notes and seemed to appreciate the message.

As the program came to an end, there were "interest" cards for those that wanted more information, studies, etc. Sr. Cristina said there were 4 families interested in attending studies. The building where the Filickys live has a room that we have since learned the Filicky's can use for studies. Since the Filickys live near the Museum, this is a very convenient location for studies. Sr. Cristina is planning on contacting those interested and setting up a study. Being in the Filickys' building allows their whole family to be with the families who attend, so there will be the added role model of family life as a witness. The Filickys are such a good role model as a family. It will be a dual witness opportunity!

In discussing this with Br. Mike Shilling, he said that Spanish often move as families. Just as in the experiences at the flea market where the whole family would listen to Sr. Cristina, now the study will be an accumulation of families... and the Lord knows where this will go from here.

Looking back, it is far better to have 10-20 interested than hundreds that come and leave, never to return again. The Lord isn't looking for large numbers... a few good responses is good enough. This number is manageable. It's good enough for us, too.

Br Mark Kandel

**I wanted to thank you for all your work on this project - and for thinking of all the big things and the little things - that are easy to miss. The good thing is that we are learning from you.**

**It was fun tracting today - thanks for bringing the tracts. We went back and did some more tracting by the museum. Cristina was handing out tracts to all the Spanish population. It was good!**

**I'm really excited about tomorrow! Praying the Lord will bless the activity in some way - for his purposes.**

**Sr. Claudia Tosa**

***Thank you all for a blessed day!***

***Sr. Rhoda Larson***

*Yes, Br. Mark, it was a blessed day indeed!*

*The people we met in putting out posters and fliers (tracts) seemed generally friendly and receptive, although only about 44 of the public came to the Spanish "For This cause" showing and 18 to the Spanish public talk afterwards. With 4 putting in a request for studies in Spanish it would seem to have been a very worthwhile effort. I believe the majority of those attending the Spanish "For This Cause" showing took with them some of the free literature and DVD's. Most were surprised to find all the literature, even books and DVD's free. Still they seemed to be carefully selective in what they took, that they would be things they would be likely to read or watch. So we'll see after a while how much interest remains, or at least those with enough interest to stay in touch with us. Some may gain a blessing from what they took with them and still not keep in touch with us.*

*I didn't try to take pictures of the public, as they might have felt that would infringe on their privacy or fear that they might be used for some purpose they would not want.*

*Sr. Marge Hagensick*

**“I am very interested to hear about the Spanish Public Witness. I would appreciate if you would share it with me briefly. I wonder if it can done in the Washington Baltimore area.”**

**Sr. Karen Earl**

FYI. We have the room available at our building for the Spanish studies. I spoke with management today and they are happy to give it to us. Next, calling the interested ones from the public and finding out a Saturday that is good for most people.

I was thinking Bro. Mark... No more flea market until the spring? Just checking.  
Sr. Cristina F.

*Thanks for taking the lead in arranging everything for the Spanish public effort. I think it was a great success due to everyone's hard work. Looking forward to the next one.*

*In Him,  
Br. Mike Shilling*

**Thank you again for everything. It would have been nice to fill the place today but when I saw the people that came and after speaking with them during the intermission I realized that those are the ones the Lord is seeking, not numbers but genuine interest in Him and His Word.**

**Claudia and I were thinking tonight... so what do we do now??? It's all over now.... I have a feeling that this just started :)**

**Lord bless!!!  
Sr. Cristina F.**





