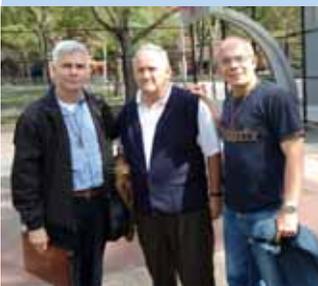




## Comunidad Juan Diego

Br. John Klein, fms  
Br Hector Dessavre, fms  
Br. Santos Garcia, fms



## New Way of being Brothers

A new way of being Brothers! This expression sums up what we Brothers of Arco Norte seek to achieve as we united to form our Juan Diego Community and began our mission in East Harlem, New York City. What we Marists are attempting to do is respond to needs expressed by many Latino immigrants and the Church in this New York City neighborhood. We welcome this challenge of taking on the task of getting to know, to listen and to assist the people we have come to serve.

We've been getting involved with the people we've come to serve by listening to their concerns, an absolutely necessary first step. We introduced ourselves and met with adults in the neighborhood. They've begun to share their needs. With their input we've started English as a second language classes. One of the greatest challenges the pastor of the parish sees is working with teenagers and young people. As a result, we've gotten involved in the Friday night meetings that have been in place before our arrival.

Creating something new means introducing something not seen before, something with a history yet to be made. We are grateful for the trust placed in us to be a part of this mission. We are happily committed to this new and international way of being Brothers.



## Nancy Cabrera

We are delighted that Ms. Nancy Cabrera, MSW, has returned this year as an integral part of ComUnidad Juan Diego. Nancy is the Senior Case Manager for Catholic Charities here in East Harlem. Prior to joining the Catholic Charities staff two years ago she served as a counselor and Supervisor for an Outpatient Program with the Administration for Children Services. She also worked with the families of the victims of the Flight #537 crash in 2001 in the Rockaways.

On Monday mornings Nancy facilitates la Clase de Manualidades (Crafts class) for women. After class, she is available for counseling that ranges from assisting families experiencing financial problems with Con Edison to helping individuals in domestic difficulties to supporting parents in developing parenting skills. Besides her responsibilities here at Our Lady Queen of Angles School, she is also available during the week at her office at St. Cecilia's parish.



## This Is The Way We Bake Our Bread

**“If our values are purely mental, they are not values”**

In this and subsequent editions of our newsletter, we look forward to sharing with you our daily comings and goings in “ComUnidad Juan Diego.” What do we mean by ComUnidad Juan Diego? I would define it as a place, space and time for the three of us to be ourselves in union with others. It is a service program that offers assistance; a shared presence, an encounter, a call. It is a challenge, a constant concern for us as Marist Brothers to connect with families in East Harlem, to get involved in their dreams, to accompany them, to smile and cry with them to understand and to be understood in our rich diversity of cultures and languages. This is not easy to do. How do we “bake our daily bread”?

First of all by seeking to be open to God's spirit so we can grow in faith as a community of Marist Brothers by giving witness to the presence of Christ in our daily lives and theirs. We reach out to and warmly welcome all the members of the Spanish-speaking community in East Harlem, with a special concern for immigrants, the alienated and the poor, with their meager resources to eke out a living. We strive to do this through education (ESL), by meeting in groups for sharing with the area's children and young adults, by tutoring and counseling. We are involved in some of the activities taking place in the combined parish of Our Lady Queen of Angels/Saint Cecilia.

# We help...

...develop English skills



...prepare & celebrate feast days



...bring families together



...distribute food with Catholic Charities

