

United in Christ | Unidos en Cristo

Support the Salvatorians

At the Salvatorian-led parish of Mother of Good Counsel (MGC) in Milwaukee, Wis., implementation of a Spanish Mass more than two years ago helped attendance take off, as well as a meaningful Hispanic ministry.

Fr. Reed Mungovan SDS serves as the administrator at the parish, and has an affinity to the Spanish language that started back in middle school. However it was in seminary school that he received the push he needed, when his mentor, and fellow Salvatorian, Fr. Raúl Gomez capriciously signed him up for a minor concentration in Spanish. "Despite my hesitation, I was being an obedient servant," he said with a laugh. "So, I just did it!"



Fr. Reed, Marco Melendez, Novice Liam Helms and Dcn. Sergio celebrate with Maria at her quinceañera at MGC parish.

A Salvatorian priest for ten years, Fr. Reed's early assignments often placed him in bi-lingual parishes with a high rate of Spanish speaking members. Even when he moved into the role of novice master for the Society, he still found time for "help out ministries" in the community, including offering sacraments and Mass to Spanish speaking Catholics.

There was not a formal Hispanic ministry in place, at MGC, when Fr. Reed was assigned there. During a conversation with the parish council president, and with Lay Salvatorian Dick Mason SDS, discussion about the growth of Spanish Masses at parishes in the area raised the possibility for development of a Hispanic ministry at MGC. With the blessing of the parish, Fr. Reed was asked to start this initiative. It began slowly with a sign on the parish lawn advertising a Spanish Mass, through word-of-mouth and on Radio Maria, an international radio show, with a local feature: Fr. Reed serves as a regular guest speaker on Radio Maria.

In just two years, this ministry has taken off! Successes include:

- Over 60 people now regularly attend the Spanish Mass: more when there is a death, anniversary or baptism.
- Religious education at MCG has grown more than 50 percent with the addition of the Spanish Mass.
- Inception of a children's choir at the Mass in Spanish.
- Quinceañeras Masses have grown with many choosing to continue the celebration in the MGC parish hall.
- Dick Mason SDS, who also speaks Spanish, attends the Mass regularly to welcome people and answer questions about religious education and the sacraments.
- Fr. Reed incorporates a Spanish message in his bulletin column, and the parish is working to integrate additional weekly Spanish content.
- Dcn. Octavio Trejo-Flores SDS serves at most of the Masses and Salvatorian novices, Ricardo Gutierrez and Liam Helms help as well. Fr. David Cooney SDS is available most Sundays.
- Catholic singer and evangelist, Gela performed a very well received, live concert in September.

Coming soon

- Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration on December 12th to include a special Mass followed by a tamale dinner.
- Marriage and family ministry to support our Spanish speaking parishioners.

“I’m really pleased with how well our Mass in Spanish has been received,” said Fr. Reed. “We are growing as a site of Hispanic ministry on the northwest side of Milwaukee. I hope we continue to grow and reach more and more people through ‘All Ways and Means.’”

