

Traditions and Stories from Bolivia



CONFETTI

Bolivians throw confetti as a way of expressing joy and congratulations for the person involved in a special celebration. This usually happens at weddings, where the newlyweds are showered with confetti on top of their heads. When a priest is ordained, he is also covered with confetti, since ordination is a life-changing sacrament and a cause for celebration.

PHOTO: Fr. Abraham Alvarez greets his mother after his ordination at Santiago Parish in Calamarca



BONFIRE ON HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT

The bonfire is lit on Holy Saturday night at the beginning of the Service of the Light. From the bonfire, the Easter candle is lit. It is a symbol of Christ risen from the dead who has conquered the darkness of sin and death by his rising from the dead. Gradually, the candles of every other person are lit as the light from the Easter candle is shared. By baptism, we are called by God to walk as children of light.

PHOTO: Fr. Bob Menner and our St. Louis priest missionaries stand before the bonfire at Maria Reina Parish in La Paz



EASTER VIGIL ON HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT

The Easter Vigil is the most appropriate night for celebrating the sacrament of baptism, particularly of adults or children of catechetical age. The Church has baptized adults and others at the Easter Vigil ever since the beginning of its history. The catechumenate process lasts a long time, but reaches its high point with the initiation of adults on Holy Saturday night.

PHOTO: Newly baptized adults at Maria Reina Parish



FR. FRANZ JAUREGUI

Fr. Franz Jauregui, featured in our 2011 collection brochure, worked as a seminarian at Cristo Rey Parish. That is the first parish founded in Bolivia by St. Louis priests back in 1957. It took some time after their arrival in Bolivia in 1956 for the first three missionaries to actually found the new parish. Fr. Franz was assigned to Cristo Rey Parish during his seminary formation. It is also where he celebrated his first mass as a priest following his recent ordination. Since he truly was an orphan – having no parents who claimed him, and no siblings, nor extended family, the parish family of Cristo Rey accepted him with even more of their kindness and affection than perhaps they might have given to someone who became a priest who was not an orphan.

PHOTO: Fr. Franz Jauregui was ordained in May at Maria Reina Parish in La Paz



MOUNT ILLIMANI

The mountain on the cover of our 2011 collection brochure is called “Mount Illimani”. It is over 21,000 feet above sea level and dominates the skyline of La Paz, Bolivia. The name “Illimani” means “the All-Powerful One” in Aymara, a native language of Bolivia. Mount Illimani is the highest of the Andes Mountains region near La Paz.

PHOTO: Mount Illimani and the city of La Paz



THE ARCHBISHOP OF SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA

Bishop Morgan Casey is pictured with Cardinal Julio Terrazas Sandoval, the Archbishop of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. He is the only member of the College of Cardinals in recent years from the country of Bolivia. The Archdiocese of Santa Cruz is located in the eastern part of Bolivia. Santa Cruz is now the second largest city in Bolivia after La Paz.

PHOTO: Cardinal Julio Terrazas Sandoval (left) and Bishop Morgan Casey