



Charitable Work done by the Delegation of Mexico

Continuing almost a thousand years of legacy, the Order of Saint Lazarus supports in Mexico three clinics specialized in the treatment of leprosy; additionally assisting people in need with related medical assistance and food supplies as well as psychological treatment.

The work of The Order would be impossible without the generous and essential funding of the Grand Priory of America, which stands for more than sixty percent of the cost of maintaining the clinics and personnel. Until today, more than 10,000 persons have benefited from the philanthropic work of the Order in Mexico.



Our Clinics



Almost 20 years have passed since the Mexican Delegation opened the first clinic in Morelia; this clinic was possible due to an extraordinary donation authorized by Dr. Hans von Leden, former Grand Prior of America, who was especially happy collaborating with the charitable work of the order in Mexico.

The Clinic in Morelia has a laboratory for clinical analysis, a general medical office and a specialized dermatological center. Additionally, we have a center for distributing food and other supplies to those who need it and providing religious and psychological assistance to our patients and their families.

Later on, in 1995 the Mexican Delegation entered into a joint venture with Dr. Juan José Salazar, a member of the Order, who had operated an altruistic clinic in Irapuato that served and assisted people from the city and close villages; this clinic became the *Instituto Dermatológico Guanajuatense de San Lázaro*. Our third clinic, La Barca, opened in 2008 and has been growing in number since its opening.

We are lucky in having the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary help us in our charitable work in Morelia and Irapuato, who gladly assist – with a smile in their faces, those people and families that suffer from Hansen’s disease. All our treatments are provided free of charge to the sick and their families.

Nonetheless, all this was not enough to cover the actual needs of the country. Due to cultural issues, extreme poverty and lack of information, people infected with leprosy tend to be socially stigmatized and suffer from their condition.

When a family member is under the suspicion of being infected with leprosy, the common procedure in some villages is to lock the person down in a room to avoid the entire village realizing that the family is under the burden of Hansen’s disease. If the words spreads out that someone is infected, the entire family is often ostracized and could eventually lead to work termination for family members to the detriment of the household's income

As a consequence, in most of the cases the infected persons do not receive adequate treatment until the disease has left definitive scarring and deformation.

With the help of the Grand Priory of America and a kind benefactor, the Order acquired three vans some years ago, which dramatically increased the scope of our charitable work by allowing us to visit several villages every week to find those people in need of medical assistance.



Today, we are able to cover 10 municipalities (counties) around Morelia, 12 around Irapuato and 10 around La Barca, which is a total of 32 counties. With an average trip of 90 miles a day, the Order in Mexico can reach many villages, bringing a light of hope and peace to people and families that suffer continuously.

In a nutshell, the work of the Order can be summarized for 2013 as follows:

Patients (leprosy):	303
Total benefited people:	1,400
Medical consultations:	2,615
Curative sessions:	953
Lab tests:	2,000
Miles traveled every day:	90

It feels wonderful to see that there are people whose work is to cure the injured, feed the hungry and assist those in need. Today, the Order upholds the purpose for which it was conceived centuries ago by assisting the sick and vulnerable. This would not be possible without the help of the Grand Priory of América, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and all other generous donors who contribute to our work.



Atavis et Armis

