

Day six: 12.11.08

The 11th of December. Our coach awaits and we head for the hills and the beautiful hilly city of Taxco. Its mines continued to produce with today's technology. High up in the town is the town square the dominant feature of which is the fantastic Baroque Cathedral. The outside of this ancient church has just recently been renovated and is a fitting shell for the treasures and art that lay within. The church has a "Wow" factor effect on anyone entering. Our guide Raul tells us that it is one of the three most beautiful churches in Mexico. Unfortunately we will not be able to visit the other two! The church was built centuries ago by the owner of the silver mine. One can only imagine the richness of his mine if he was able to build this piece of art as a single expression of gratitude. The floors, carvings and decorations are original and have stood the passage of time with little or no damage, revolutions and wars notwithstanding.

After Mass and lunch we then toured the many silver shops that surround the square. The place is a veritable treasure trove of magnificent pieces of affordable (and some not so affordable) works of silver. Then we were back on the bus for the trip back to Mexico City stopping in Cuernavaca on the way to visit the Cathedral. It paled in comparison to all churches we had seen so far. On the other hand, its walls reeked of the history of the ages. As we drove along Raul suggested we make a stop to buy Roses for the morrow's festivities. It seems to be the custom and the flowers were beautiful and beautifully bound. Everyone got their bunch and the bus was full of Roses!

It was dark when we arrived back at our hotel. The streets streamed with people walking towards the plaza where they would encamp for the night in anticipation of the tomorrow's festivities. "Hail May, full of grace!"