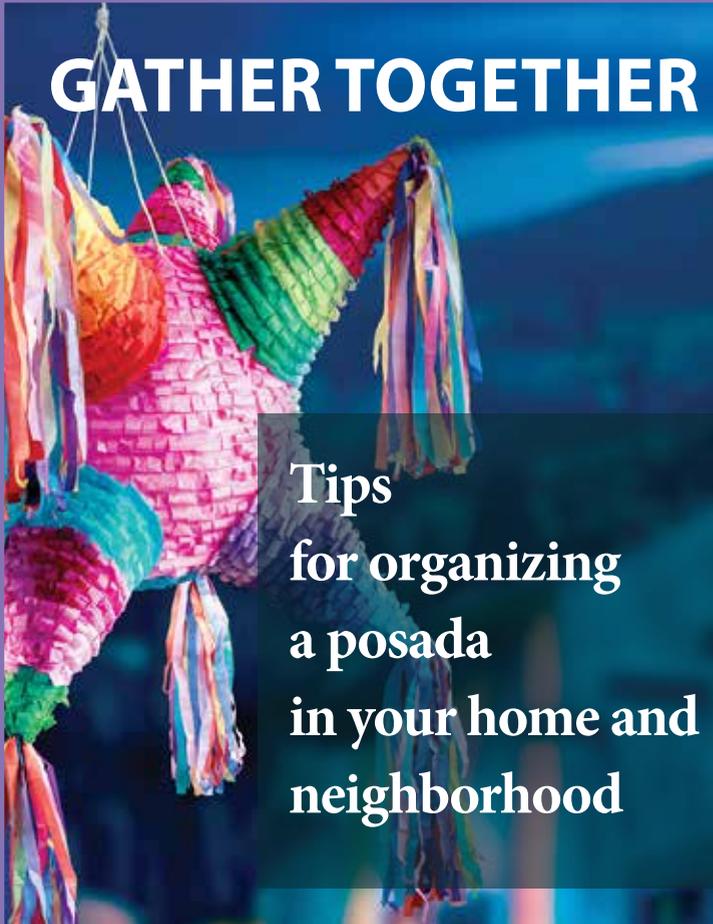


GATHER TOGETHER


**Tips
for organizing
a posada
in your home and
neighborhood**

The days leading up to Christmas present us an opportunity to connect with neighbors, with people in our community who we may not have time to visit with often.

1. Reach out to your neighbors and invite them to participate.
2. Set a date and time, invite your family and friends.
3. Prepare the prayers, get some candles.
4. Select the songs. Remembering this is a time of joyful expectation.
5. Celebrate the Christ child whom we are awaiting in these final days leading up to Christmas.

(You can keep it simple with hot chocolate and pan dulce or invite people to bring a potluck dish.) It is also fun to have a piñata for the children.

**CANTO
PIDIENDO POSADA**

**AFUERA:
PEREGRINOS CANTAN**

En el nombre del cielo,
os pido posada,
pues no puede andar
mi esposa amada.

No sean inhumanos,
tengan caridad,
que el Dios de los cielos
se los premiará.

Venimos rendidos
desde Nazaret;
yo soy carpintero
de nombre José.

Posada te pide,
amado casero,
por solo una noche,
la Reina del Cielo.

Mi esposa es María,
es Reina del Cielo
y Madre va a ser
del Divino Verbo.

Dios pague Señores,
su gran caridad
y los colme el cielo
de felicidad.

Todos
(*mientras se abren las puertas y entran los peregrinos*)

Entren Santos Peregrinos, Peregrinos,
reciban este rincón,
aunque es pobre la morada, la morada,
os la doy de corazón.

Entren Santos Peregrinos, Peregrinos,
reciban este rincón,
aunque es pobre la morada, la morada,
os la doy de corazón.

**ADENTRO:
HOSTELEROS CANTAN**

Aquí no es mesón,
sigan adelante
yo no puedo abrir
no sea algún tunante.

Ya se pueden ir,
y no molestar
porque si me enfado,
los voy a aplear.

No me importa el nombre
déjenme dormir
pues ya les he dicho
que no voy a abrir.

Pues si es una reina
quien lo solicita
¿cómo es que de noche
anda tan solita?

¿Eres tú, José?
¿Tu esposa es María?
Entren peregrinos,
no los conocía.

Dichosa la casa
que alberga este día
a la Virgen Pura
la hermosa María.

Walking with Mary and Joseph



Anticipating the arrival of Baby Jesus

By **BRENDA NETTLES
RIOJAS**
The Valley Catholic

Nine days before Christmas, beginning on Dec. 16, many parishes and families organize posadas in their communities to walk as pilgrims with Mary and Joseph, recounting their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem as they looked for a place to stay.

The Mexican tradition dates to the 16th century as an initiative of Augustinian missionaries to catechize, utilizing the customs of the indigenous people and adapting them to tell the story of Mary and Joseph. Originally it started with the celebration of nine Masses, one each day leading it up to Christmas. It has since grown to include the procession of pilgrims seeking shelter followed by celebrations in joyful anticipation.

Deacon Luis Zuniga, director of the San Juan Diego Ministry Institute, said the posadas remind us also that it is not just Mary and Joseph who are looking for a place to stay. "It is the Baby Jesus who is knocking at

our hearts. He is looking for a place to be born, and it starts in our hearts," he said.

The posadas, where groups are divided into those who are representing the holy couple and those who are the innkeepers, are infused with lessons. Deacon Zuniga said they tell us of the rejection of the world toward faith, of the coldness and indifference of people to the vulnerable. "There is a chorus on repeat, 'I don't have time.'"

No me importa el nombre / déjenme dormir / pues ya les he dicho / que no voy a abrir. (I don't care about the name / let me sleep / because I've already told you / that I'm not going to open.)

If you follow the song used of for the posadas, he said you also find a moment of conversion. "We go from not having room in our homes or our hearts, to recognizing who is knocking on our doors, our hearts."

¿Eres tú, José? / ¿Tu esposa es María? / Entren peregrinos, / no los conocía. (Is that you, Joseph? / Is your wife Mary? / Enter pilgrims; / I did not recognize you.)

"The posadas are a reminder to welcome Jesus in our hearts and in our lives," said Deacon Zuniga.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores asked during a staff posada: of the two groups, who's the most

worried?

Part of us take the role of Mary and Joseph, looking for a place that will receive them, and some will take the role of those who have a chance to let them come inside.

He said the ones who are indoors are likely the most worried. "We don't have room," they say. "They invent excuses not to let them (the Holy Family) enter."

He adds, "We can find a lot of reasons to be preoccupied, and most of them have to do with finding reasons not to let Jesus in. They don't have room in their worried minds, to make room for somebody else who might need something."

Los más libres son José y María. The least worried are Joseph and Mary. They trust. "God will take care of us. The ones who are freest, trust the Lord. There is great faith in Mary and Joseph. They know God will provide something. They just don't know where."

Bishop Flores said, "We need to be like Mary and Joseph, confident that Jesus will open the path before us. *Diosito va a abrir el camino.*"

"My invitation (as we participate in the posada) is to see yourselves on both sides of this."

He added, "Try to be on the side that is less worried; the side that trusts Jesus will alleviate our preoccupations."