



Those who knew Jim Papp will always recall his deep and infectious laughter, his booming voice. Though Jim trained many years to be a cantor in the Catholic Church he ended up teaching junior high school music in Connecticut. His students must have loved him; I know he loved them.

I met Jim when he and Zenaida, a fellow educator from CT, first purchased a home in Xochitepec. Over the years I, like many of you, was fortunate to spend many, many hours in their home and garden. Jim loved his home, his animals and Christmas... especially decorating the Christmas tree with the beautiful ornaments he inherited from his family.

Jim was an important member of the Saint Michael's choir. He handmade and embroidered vestments for all the seasons of our church. Jim even wrote liturgical music that we still sing. Though he decided to attend a Spanish-language Anglican church he remained a member of the

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community by frequently attending the Tuesday Library Tea. It was always a joy to see him, talk to him, there.

He and Roberto fell in love and married while he was attending Saint Michael's. They were married in the US and have had a wonderful union together for these past ten years as Jim became fully integrated into Roberto's large extended family in Chalcatzingo. Roberto is still working and so when surgery was necessary Jim chose to go to a hospital in that city. I do not have the details of his medical treatment but it became very complicated and ultimately it was determined that Jim's condition was terminal. Yesterday Jim was taken out of the hospital and to his home in Xochitepec for what will almost certainly be his final hours. Roberto and the beloved Rosita (assisted by nursing care) will be with him until the end.

Father Doug and I were planning to go to the hospital early Wednesday morning. On Tuesday I asked Tamara to reach Bishop Treviño. She reached Madre Anita and learned the Bishop was aware of what was happening. I learned later that night that the good Bishop was going to be at the hospital at 8AM. Jim recognized him and according to Roberto was very happy to see him. Bishop Treviño had long-served as the priest in Jim's Spanish language church. Roberto is so grateful Jim had this closing visit.

Roberto has incurred huge expenses for two surgeries and private hospitals. And, now, additional expenses for the ambulance to take him home and the nursing care to keep Jim free of pain for his last hours. I hope you will find it in your heart to help defray some of these costs. You can make a transfer to **Roberto Carbajal Romero, BBVA, 4152 3137 3369 4628 or account #11-48-68-61-30**. I will also be able to accept cash donations Sunday at church.

Father Doug and I are going to visit Jim this morning (Friday) at 11 to both support Roberto and to say our goodbyes. I will be sure to tell him how beloved he is by the choir, by his library friends, and the many other people at Saint Michael's who remember him so fondly. Hearing is the last sense to leave us and so I will hope and trust he will hear our prayers and know our love for him as he passes into the closer presence of the God he loves.