

International Mission Overview

Ahuazotepec, Puebla, Mexico

Mission Youth has been serving in Ahuazotepec, Puebla since 2012. Ahuazotepec is located in the northern mountain range of Puebla, 2 hours northwest of Mexico City. It is part of the Archdiocese of Tulancingo.

Mission Youth works within the pastoral plan of the Diocese, collaborating with the pastor of the Parish of *San Nicolás de Tolentino* in sacramental regularization for his Parishioners and partnering with *Mejorando un Hogar, ABP* (a ONG which builds sustainable housing) in order to build a house for a family in great need.

During a week-long mission trip in Ahuazotepec, a group of 15 missionaries is able to build a cement house for a family, working for about 8 hours for 6 days. They also host a kids camp in afternoon, in which about 25 kids from the town participate and share in the Celebration of the Eucharist every evening with the townspeople (this is a very special celebration, since they only get Mass once a month; when missionaries are present, there is daily Mass celebrated in Spanish by the mission chaplain).

In broad strokes, the mission trip looks like this. The missionaries are asked to fly into Mexico City by 3:00 pm. We leave the airport in a professional coach bus and start the mission by visiting the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where we have our commissioning Mass and are able to visit the *Tilma*. Then we go to Ahuazotepec, which is about two and half hours away. Upon our arrival, we have dinner and go to "bed". The days of the mission are pretty regular: Breakfast, morning prayer, 4-5 hours of work in the construction of the house, lunch, nap, 2 more hours of construction work and/or kids camp, Mass with the locals, dinner, night activity in which we share the experience of the day and night prayer. The last day, we leave the town early in the morning and visit the Pyramids of Teotihuacán on the way to the airport. Once during the mission trip, usually on Sunday, we visit Ahuazotepec and experience a bit of the simple life in a small Mexican town. We also accompany the locals in the celebration of the Sacraments – there's usually at least one Baptism and one Wedding during the mission; this is only possible because of our presence there.

For the school cycles 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 the cost of the mission is \$580 (\$50 application fee + \$530 mission fee). Above this, each mission team is asked to fundraise the cost of the house, \$6,000. This allows us to get the materials for a 3 room cement house with a proper roof, hire a mason that does the foundation before we get there, transport the materials to the town and have a professional foreman who leads us in our work, along with the necessary tools.