



Alborada, a Lively Place!

by Fr Waldo Gómez Pacheco, sdb

I came to Mérida Yucatán just eight months ago, where I found Alborada Oratories 1, 2 and soon to be 3 (the future Xotlán College). It was all so different to what I had imagined, like another country, another people, other customs, a different climate, different ways of speaking. There is always something to learn; to be truthful, I have little time to spend lying around doing nothing!

Alborada is so varied in its activities: there's indoor and outdoor soccer for boys, girls, old and young; there are workshops, fashion and design and culture activities, air-conditioning and refrigeration repair, pastry-making, electrical trades, adult education courses, English, computers, a symphony orchestra, guitar groups, improvement courses. In Alborada 2 there are fewer courses at present but this is growing. Alborada 3, the school, will start with its first primary classes in 2012.

Like everywhere else the Salesian mission

here is full of challenges, since kids are the same anywhere with their dreams, challenges and aspirations. The teenage girls tend to let their hair down at their mothers' bidding, as a sign of growing up as they enter secondary school, and the boys are, well, as rowdy as any kids are in 2011!

Our work consists of giving Good Morning or Good Night talks in the workshops and another of 10 or 15 minutes before games. Alborada is also known as the Mary Help of Christians Chaplaincy, for all intents and purposes a parish with 6 chapels, groups of all kinds: lay ministers, liturgy, marriage and baptism prepa-

