

**WELCOME TO THE
158TH ANNUAL**

St. Francis de Paula Fiesta



CELEBRATING

La Promesa Solemne

APRIL 24 & 25, 2026

LA PROMESA SOLEMNE

APRIL 17, 1868

We need your help, we ask your help in this hour.

Dear God,

If you will grant us victory, through thy intercession of thy servant, St. Francis de Paula, we will complete the building of our church and the church will bear the name of St. Francis de Paula and for all years thereafter, the events shall be commemorated by us and all our descendants.

Amen.

Necesitamos su ayuda. Denos su Ayuda en esta nuestra hora.

Dios nuestro, si nos concedes Victoria atraves de la intercession de nuestro siervo, San Francisco de Paola, nosotros terminaremos la construcción de nuestra iglesia, y la iglesia llevará el nombre de San Francisco de Paola, y por todos los años venideros el evento sera conmemorado por nosotros y nuestros descendientes del porvenir. Amen.



158TH ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA FIESTA SCHEDULE

APRIL 25, 2026

12:00-- ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA DANZANTES DANCERS

12:30-- RECITE OF OUR PROMESA BY QUEEN ANGEL KOWATCH

12:35-- NATIONAL ANTHEM SUNG BY 2022 FIESTA QUEEN LAYLA GASTON

**12:40-- PRESENTATION OF PAST FIESTA QUEENS/KINGS, RCIA,
CONFIRMATION, 1ST COMMUNION, BAPTIZED KIDS, MAYORDOMOS, & 2024
FIESTA QUEEN.**

1:00-- ICC MATACHINA'S (17)

1:30-- ICC FOLKLORICO DANCERS

2:00-- TULAROSA HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH CLUB

3:00-- ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA DANCERS

4:00-- BALLET FOLKLORICO GIRASOL DE LAS CRUCES

4:30-- PIÑATA

5:00-- DJ JACOB CHAVEZ

6:00-- GRUPO MALDAD

158th St. Francis de Paula Fiesta Dedication

RICARDO “BUDDY” & HELEN MAEZ GUERRA



On this celebration of the 158th annual St. Francis de Paula fiesta, it is with great honor and respect in recognizing Ricardo “Buddy” and Helen Maez Guerra. This honor comes by their devotion and love for the mission parish of St. Francis de Paula and the community of Tularosa where they lived their entire lives, developed friendships, and raised their family. St. Francis de Paula Church was a central part of their lives from the receiving of sacraments, as well as their involvement in the church throughout their adult lives. Beginning with their marriage on May 12, 1952 they raised four children Guadalupe “Lupe”, Carmelita “Carment”, Eduardo “Eddie”, and David. As parents, they provided their children a catholic school education with St. Francis de Paula church, a major part in their family’s lives. They were involved in the church in numerous ways as well as in the fiesta celebration. Buddy and Helen were mayordomos for four years and they supported their daughter, Lupe, by sponsoring her as a queen candidate.

Buddy was one of the founding members of the Cabilleros, as well as a Danzante (shotgun bearer). Helen found great happiness and enjoyment as well as making lasting friendships as a Guadalupana and a member of the Spanish choir well into her later years.

From their birth on through their passing (Buddy- Aug 07, 2016, Helen- Oct 23, 2025), St. Francis was a major part of how they lived their lives, their spiritual growth and in their devotion to the Lord. As I may quote my Dad in all his wisdom ‘Tularosa, ay mi pueblito, y mi Iglesia.’

May this year’s fiesta be a time of joy, meeting of friends, but most importantly the remembrance of all those family and friends that have passed and especially “La Promesa Solemne” which is our beloved St. Francis de Paula Parish.

In loving memory of Ricardo and Helen Guerra, aka Mamo and Papo.

**2026 ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA
CHURCH MAYORDOMOS**
Jordan Gaston & Jonathan Salazar



**WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR MAYORDOMOS FOR
NOT GIVING UP ON THIS YEARS FIESTA AND KEEPING THE TRADITION
ALIVE!**



This year's celebration marks the 158th commemoration of the Battle of Round Mountain. The battle occurred on April 17, 1868, nine miles east of Tularosa, approximately one half mile west of the base of Round Mountain. 26 Tularosenos allied five U.S. Cavalrymen engaged in a battle with a body of an estimated 200 Mescalero Apaches, at a time when hostilities erupting from territorial disputes were then common. Relevant historical detail, pertaining to the ensuing battle are presented with the Official Report of Sgt. Glass, one of the cavalrymen, the General Orders No. 16 shows the significance of the Battle of Round Mountain.

Significance of the Battle of Round Mountain and St. Francis de Paula fiesta tradition is best described as spiritual, rather than military or strategic sense. Our fiesta is not a celebration of military victory or conquest, but the commemoration of a fulfilled promise, kept alive by the faithful members of the Tularosa community. La Promesa Solemne, (the Solemn Promise), proven genuine, by the faith of the brave Tularosenos and their families. La Promesa Solemne is the foundation of the St. Francis de Paula Fiesta tradition.

Thank you for celebrating and sharing our traditions this year and many years to come!

IN MEMORY

**GREAT PRAISE IS ALSO DUE TO THOSE CITIZENS OF TULAROSA WHO
VOLUNTEERED & RENDERED PROMPT AND EFFICIENT
AID ON THIS OCCASSION.**

CASIMIRO ROMERO

JUAN CHAVARRIA

LUIS VARGAS

TEODOSIO COBERO

DIONICIO GUILUZ

SECUNDINO SANCHEZ

PEDRO CHAVEZ

LUCAS ESCAJEDA

EUGENIO CADENA

MATEO DURAN

JOSE DURAN

NICOLAS DURAN

CERVO CONTRERAS

FELICIANO RAMIREZ

JUAN MIRABEL

CASIMERO BALLE

TRANIDAD CHAVARRIA

YSABEL LOPEZ

NIEVES DURAN

TEODOSIO CARILLO



St. Francis de Paula

Born in 1416 at Paola in Calabria and named after St. Francis de Assisi. Entered the Friary at San Marco, where he learned to read and laid the foundation of the austere life, which he ever afterwards led. At age 15, he occupied a cave in a remote seclusion by the sea. At age 20, he was joined by two other men. In 1436, he laid the foundation of his order. Penance, Charity Humility formed the basis of his rule: Charity was the motto he chose, but humility was the virtue which he inculcated continually on his followers. Fasting, he regarded which bound them to a perpetual Lent, with abstinence not only from flesh but also from eggs and anything made with milk. The new order received the sanction of the Holy See in 1474 changed to the Order of Minims in 1492 because he wished his followers to be reckoned as the least (minimi) in the household of God. He built monasteries for his Friars at Paula, Plessier Amboise and Rome.

Besides the gift of miracles, St. Francis was endowed with that of prophecy. All of Italy was ringing with the praises of St. Francis as a Saint, a prophet and a miracle worker. It happened in 1481 that Louis XI, King of France, was slowly dying, after an epileptic fit. He sent word to Calabria to beg St. Francis to come and heal them. St. Francis refused. Louis XI appealed to Pope Sixtus IV, who instructed St. Francis to go. Louis fell to his knees, begging him to heal him and the Saint replied that the lives of kings were in the hands of God and prayer should be addressed to him. By his prayers and example, he wrought a change of heart in the king, who died in resignation in his arms.

St. Francis passed 25 years in France and died there. On Palm Sunday, 1507, he fell ill, exhorted his brethren to the life of God and to charity. He received the viaticum barefoot with a rope around his neck, as was the custom of his order. He died on Good Friday, at the age of 91. His canonization took place in 1519.

St. Francis de Paula Danzantes



THE DANZANTES PERFORM INDIO/AZTECA RELIGIOUS DANCES IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS. THEY PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE RITUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FIESTA, PARTICIPATING IN THE TRADITIONAL ROSARY AND PROCESSION AROUND THE CHURCH. THEY ESCORT THE CARVED MAHOGANY STATUE OF ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA FROM THE CHURCH WHILE PERFORMING RITUAL STEPS IN VENERATION OF THE SAINT. SOME OF THE DANCE NUMBERS ARE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD. THEIR DRESS, DANCE AND HAUNTING MUSIC SWEEP US BACK IN TIME TO THE DAYS OF MONTEZUMA.



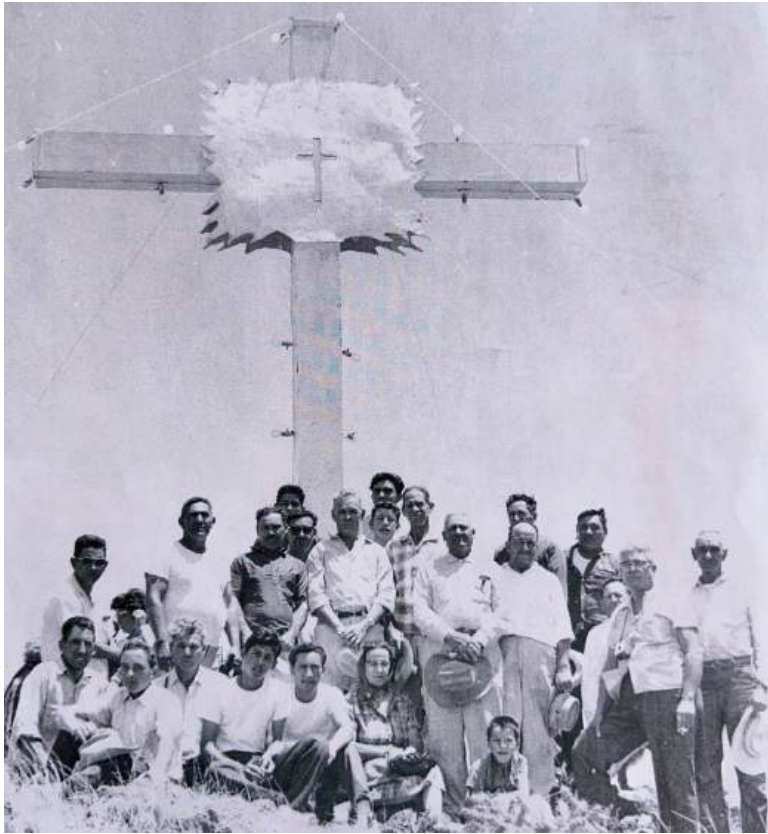
LED BY: FERNANDO LEAL

2024 FIESTA QUEEN

Angel Kowatch



“ I Will Lift My Eyes Unto The Hills ”



As an evidence of the faith they share & to provide a focal point for an expression of that faith, a group of Catholic parishioners of the Tularosa & Three Rivers communities, have set a cross high on a peak overlooking the Little Santo Nino de Atocha Church at Three Rivers, and what a job that was! It took faith plus manpower and sweat to carry the finished 24 ft cross over approximately one mile of the rough terrain up the 3,000 foot slope of El Cerro de Santo Nino.

Faithful parishioners who made the sacrificial lift were Rudy Terrazas Sr., Salamon Baca, Gabriel Sanchez, Mike Salazar, Pete Martinez, Antonio Candaleria, Richard Guerra, Ramon Pino, Don Fidel Sanchez, Charlie Shanta, Juan Padilla, Alex Candelaria, Fortie Ryan, Don Tomas Ryan, Raymond Aguilar Sr., Eddie Abeyta Jr., Tony Baca, David Baca, Frank Portillo, Frankie Portillo Jr., Don Miguel Baca, Julio Gonzales & Frutoso Marrujo.

An aura of deep religious significance accompanied the men's climb with the Cross up the rocky hillside & women joining in the repeating of the Rosary at the 14 stops made along the way--one for each station of the cross. Women who prayed the Rosary are Mrs. Miguel Baca Sr., Mrs. Frank Portillo, Patsy Gutierrez, Priscilla Baca, and Margaret Baca. Children accompanying them were Danny Aguilar, Johnnie Simon Chavez, Viola Portillo, Cathy Portillo, Freddie Portillo, Gregory Klinekole, Cecil Chino, Whitman Shanta, Todd Chico, Maria Luisa Chavez and Barbara Baca. Others that joined include Mrs. Gabriel Sanchez, Mrs. Rudy Terrazas, and several other children.

In Honor of Santo Nino De Atocha



ORIGINALLY ERECTED IN THE MID 1960S, THE 18 FT., WOODEN CROSS IS LOCATED ON A MOUNTAIN PEAK IN THREE RIVERS, NM, TO HONOR SANTO NINO DE ATOCHA, WAS IN A STATE OF DETERIORATION DUE TO THE EVER-CHANGING NEW MEXICO WEATHER ELEMENTS. SITTING AT AN ALTITUDE OF 5,860 FT AND WEIGHING APPROXIMATELY 950 LBS., THE REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF THE CROSS WAS A DAUNTING TASK.

SEVEN HARD-WORKING MEN OF FAITH COMMITTED TO BUILDING A NEW CROSS, AND WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE TASK IN ONLY THREE DAYS. THEY WERE: BILLY ARTIAGA, FRANK M. PORTILLO, FRED PORTILLO, STEVEN PORTILLO, ADOLPH WALTERS, FRANK B. PORTILLO AND ALEX ORTEGA.

ON APRIL 18, 2009, OVER 35 MEN AND WOMEN DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO RAISING THE NEW CROSS, ONCE AGAIN IN HONOR OF SANTO NINO DE ATOCHA. WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE, MANPOWER, AND FAITH, THE NEW CROSS WAS LIFTED TO THE CREST OF THE MOUNTAIN, WHERE IT STANDS TALL, REFLECTING THE BRILLIANT RAYS OF THE SUN ONTO THE SANTO NINO CHAPEL IN THE VALLEY BELOW. SPECIAL THANKS AND GOD'S GRACE TO ALL THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS GLORIOUS EVENT.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!

St. Francis de Paula King & Queens

1956 Ethel Randall Chavez	1989 Annette Guilez
1957 Cecilia Chavez Garcia	1990 Eva Utter
1958 Christine Martinez Torrez	1991 Melanie Voorbach
1959 Bertha Saenz Dominquez	1992 Liza Leal
1960 Helen Flores Savory	1993 Yvonne Mendez Petty
1961 Jesusita Chavez Fairbanks	1994 Esperanza Guerra
1962 Rose Mary Holguin Phelps	1995 Millie Torres
1963 Veronica Saenz	1996 Nicole Marrujo & Richard Guilez
1964 Lydia Mae Castillo Contreras	1997 Vanessa Barela & Robert Sainz
1965 Vicki Telles Escobar	1998 Amy Logan
1966 Ester Vallejos-Bolin	1999 Linda Cavazos Jaramillo
1967 Patsy Gutierrez-Taliaferro	2000 Tanya Sanchez
1968 Gloria Duran Saenz	2001 Alyson Gillen Robinette
1969 Terry Valdez	2002 Ray Sainz
1970 Cecilia Maes Beltran	2003 Britne Artiaga Gillen
1971 Cathy Brusuelas Tyler	2004 Teresa Utter
1972 Margaret Diaz Schrivner	2005 Kristi Aragon Bigas
1973 Helen Gomez	2006 Marena Otero
1974 Cathy Montoya	2007 Kayla Vigil
1975 Teresa Guerra Shields	2008 Carla Rae Rice
1976 Beverly Silva	2009 Brittney Leal
1977 Barbara Sheppard	2010 Bianca Leyva
1978 Patricia Guilez Bednorz	2011 Jackie Lucero
1979 Deliah Duran	2012 Valeria Bustillos-Morales
1980 Janie Marrujo Aragon	2013 Jessica Chavez Banks
1981 Angela Chavez	2014 Veronica Hernandez
1982 Elfida Duran	2015 Destinee Diaz
1983 Yvonne Lopez Becchetti	2016 Angelica Chavez
1984 Priscilla Guerra Chavez	2017 Drianna Chavez
1985 Cyndi Utter	2018 Alexandria Leyva
1986 Naomi Pino Mendez	2019-2021 Ana Perez
1987 Francis Chavez Vigil	2022-2023 Layla Gaston
1988 Rosie Gonzalez	2024-2026 Angel Kowatch

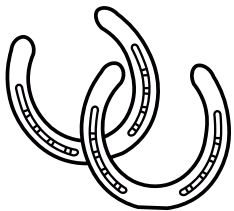
ANNUAL HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT IN LOVING MEMORY OF MICHAEL R. GASTON



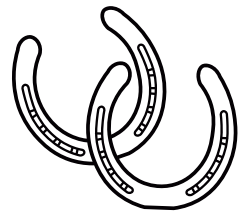
Four years before his passing in 2006, Michael's grandfather, Ricardo "Buddy" Guerra, had passed on the duties of lighting the yunque (anvil) for the fiesta. While performing this task, Michael came up with the idea of starting a horseshoe tournament on the Saturday of the celebration.

He believed it would be a perfect way to involve more members of the Tularosa and surrounding communities in the St. Francis de Paula Fiesta—and he was absolutely right!

After Michael's passing, the Gaston family not only brought his idea to life but has continued the tradition every year in his memory. Today, the horseshoe tournament has become a beloved staple of the fiesta celebration.



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO
LANE PLUMBING, UGLY PIES, AND
SAM & LILLIAN DURAN WHO
SPONSORED THIS YEARS TOURNAMENT!**





St. Francis de Paula



Guadalupanas & Guadalupanos

THE GUADALUPANAS ARE MEMBERS OF THE ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA CHURCH. THEY HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES IN SERVING THE VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE VERY DEVOTED, PASSIONATE AND COMMITTED IN LENDING A HELPING HAND WITH CHURCH FUNCTIONS AND OTHER ASPECTS INVOLVING THE CHURCH.



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

LAURA MARTINEZ, CARMEN RHODES, ANITA SALAZAR, ELENA SANCHEZ, LILLIAN DURAN, THERESA MCKINLEY, IRENE KOWATCH, GILBERT GASTON, BECCA MAES, SALLY CALDERON, DEACON MARIANO, FATHER PATRICK, EUGENIA TORRES, DODIE FRESQUEZ, ROSE BAROZ, THERESA SHIELDS, LAYLA GASTON, & JENNIFER GASTON

St. Francis de Paula Parish Council

...

- Brianna Chavez
- Rosa Baca
- Barbra Reay
- Steve Chavez
- Gabriel Otero
- Rose Barroz
- Juan Romero

CCD 1ST GRADE



CCD 2ND GRADE



CCD 4TH & 5TH GRADE



CCD 6TH GRADE



ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA

1ST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS 2026



ST. FRANCIS DE PAULA

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2026

Confirmation 1

JOSIAH BLAZER

VERONICA BLAZER

AMALIA HOBSON

LOGAN HOBSON

ALIANA MIRABAL

IVAN MUNIZ

JAVIER RAMOS

MODESTO RAMOS

ELIANA SILVA

SAMIYAH WILLIAMS

Confirmation 2

XAVIER AMAYA

DEMETRIO CERECERES

BRYSON GILLEN

HARTLEY GUTIERREZ

ADRIENNE (AJ) JARAMILLO

VIVIANA MAES

ANTONIO MARRUJO

SADIE PORTILLO

ANNALISA STRINGER

GABRIEL VIGIL



**THANK YOU TO INDIVIDUALS WITHIN
OUR COMMUNITY FOR SPONSORING
THIS YEAR'S FIESTA!**



JESUSITA AQUIRRE

SAM & LILLIAN DURAN

JORDAN GASTON

RUTH SANCHEZ

JOANN LOPEZ

MARTINEZ FAMILY

RITA GARCIA

CHRIS COOKSEY

DAVE GUERRA: PEST, WEED, & TREE MANAGEMENT

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO RAN
OUR FIESTA BOOTHS!**

**THE DURAN FAMILY
THE MARTINEZ FAMILY
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
PABLO MENDEZ & SHERRIE PADILLA
KEVIN GILLILAND
BRANDON PADILLA
RACHAEL SANCHEZ
ADOLPH WALTERS
CAIRNS FAMILY
CHINO & VAL CONTRERAS
BECCHETTI FAMILY
BARBARA RAEY
LAKEY FAMILY
STEPH GUERRA
LAURIE MONTOYA
GUADALUPANAS
STEVE & LIZ CHAVEZ
JENNIFER & GILBERT GASTON
CHRIS COOKSEY
CHAVEZ/CARRILLO FAMILY
CAMPBELL FAMILY**