

DAMAS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ORGANIZATION

BIOGRAPHY:

The origin of this organization dates to the year 1928 when a mission church named "St. Peter" which was sponsored by St. Patrick Parish was formed to minister to the Spanish-speaking Catholics of the City of Galveston. The Missionaries of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate were selected as administrators. Upon this congregation the need to assist the missionaries assigned to shepherd them began with the meeting of members of this mission church to raise funds to support the needs of the mission. With regard to the devotion held from the immigrant congregation to Our Lady of Guadalupe the membership of this mission soon formed the organization of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Men and women worked together to provide funds and labor to maintain the wooden church and its missionaries. After much labor from the congregation, funds were obtained by the sale of authentic "tamales" handmade by the members of the organization. This enabled for the wooden church to be replaced by a modern building. Soon the new church was labeled "the church that tamales built!" The Juan Diego Hall was built also in this fashion. Eventually the mission was renamed to coincide with the patroness of the Americas. And when the "Our Lady of Guadalupe" mission flourished and the membership increased, the Diocese of Galveston-Houston declared that Our Lady of Guadalupe mission had completed its purpose and could be independent of its sponsor. The change was made to name it as Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. And eventually the organization was renamed "Damas of Our Lady of Guadalupe" and the men of the parish continued with their support to the women of this organization. When the Parishes of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Patrick Church were consolidated in 1992 the organization of The Damas of Our Lady of Guadalupe continued its unconditional support to St. Patrick Parish.

PURPOSE:

The Damas of Our Lady of Guadalupe through their devotion to their Patroness offer their long standing traditions and labor of love primarily to support the Holy Family Parish by raising funds which are made available to the parish as the need arises. These funds are accomplished by the sale of Mexican dinners and social / fundraising events that offer the community entertainment and culinary flavor.

Secondly, the Damas have concerns for the social, pastoral and camaraderie of its membership. This in turn is shared with the parish family and beyond.

Eventually, the diversity of the Holy Family Parish is demonstrated in the efforts of this organization.

MEETING DATE & TIME:

The Damas of Our Lady of Guadalupe meet on the second Sunday of the month after the 8:00 am mass which the membership attends in a group. The monthly meeting is held in the cafeteria located at the Parish Life Center. A specially prepared breakfast is enjoyed prior to the business session. The meeting is conducted in the English language and Spanish translation is readily available.

Guest are welcomed to attend meetings if interested in joining.

REQUIREMENTS:

Membership is open to all young adults of high school age and up, as well as, to all men and women of the parish. Membership is not restricted to only those of Hispanic origin. The main requirement for membership to the Damas of Our Lady of Guadalupe is that candidates must be registered members of the Holy Family Parish.

CONTACT:

Mrs. Vera Mendoza – President

409-370-7638

Mrs. Toni Orozco – Membership Chair

409-762-0766