

Oldest Parish in Colorado
Established in 1858

April 3, 2018



Our Lady of
Guadalupe Parish

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To Whom It May Concern,

"If we lose our traditions we lose our identity"-Fr. Sergio Robles Cardenas. C.R.

I am Fr. Sergio Robles Cardenas. C. R. Parish Administrator for Our Lady of Guadalupe in Conejos, CO. I am proud to support Ricky Vigil an independent film producer who has spent majority of his life in Antonito, CO. Rick is now working on a series of five documentaries title "" A Story to Tell" on the Catholic Missions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Colorado's Oldest Church. I know Rick Vigil has the experience, expertise, and the commitment to document the rich history of our "Spanish speaking people".

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Conejos, CO was built in the earlies 1840's and was declare as a parish in 1887 by Bishop Lamy. It provided a communal lynch pin for the surrounding sub-communities in the southern part of the San Luis Valley. Our Lady of Guadalupe was the small seed of the Gospel that was planted so that it could spread to the rest of the valley. Those who settled in what is now Conejos County were devout Catholics and they would establish mission's churches to provide religious services in surrounding areas.

The missions chapels that are administrated from Our Lady of Guadalupe are: San Miguel Arcángel (San Miguel, N.M) Sagrada Familia (Lobatos, CO) St. Antonio de Padua (San Antonio, San Rafael (San Rafael, CO) San Juan Nepomuceno (Ortiz, CO) San Isidro Labrador (Las Mesitas, CO)

These missions and sub-communities would grow and practice within the protective shadow of the main church in Conejos.

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For years, children, youth, and adults have enjoyed the oral histories and stories of our elders. What a dream come true if our elders were memorialized on film. Please consider this worthy endeavor. It would mean so much not only to Rick Vigil but also to the many people in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico who love the culture and traditions and present elders.

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Sincerely, Fr. Sergio Robles Cardenas. C. R. Parish
Administrator.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Conejos website
<http://ologp.com>