

The Posadas of the Colonias

The Posada celebrations among the poor have begun. Watching a Posada on a dirt street of the colonias is watching the spirit of Christmas.

Only two families are aware that tonight is 'the night' for the procession. Members of one of those families dress as Mary and Joseph. Often a burro is on-loan to help, sometimes not. The costumed Mary and Joseph go to a neighbor's door and ask for shelter. The neighbor's face often breaks into a quickly vanishing smile and then the neighbor tells Mary and Joseph to move on because there is no room for them. As Mary and Joseph walk to the next house, the first family that rejected them follows along. The process is repeated and a procession is formed. Each family brings something: a few tortillas, some soup or perhaps some chips or a decoration.

The last house that is visited were the second family that was aware in advance that 'tonight is the night' and have prepared their yard and house for the party. The parties are simple. The children often seem to be having their own party as they run and play.

Tonight is the night for our little Posada.