

El Dia De Los Muertos

THE DAY OF
THE DEAD



**El Dia
de los
Muertos**

11.1.15







OFRENDAS ANTIGUAS
ANCIENT ALTARS
LOS AZTECAS
THE AZTECS













Inside the courtyard for the church in Mixquic, Mexico there is an altar full of human bones. The bones are brought to the church when locals find them while building or farming. Priests have created this honored spot for these remains.



Inside the courtyard at the church in Mixquic, Mexico a statue of Miquixtli stands near the altar of bones. Miquixtli is the goddess of life and death. Visitors throw coins into the pool in front of the statue.





LAS OFRENDAS ALTARS



1. **LAS FOTOS** del muerto
2. **LAS VELAS:** candles
3. **LA COMIDA FAVORITA:** favorite foods
4. **LOS FLORES:** flowers
5. **PAN DE LOS MUERTOS:** bread of the dead
6. **COMIDA FAVORITA**
7. **LAS CALVERAS:** skulls and skeletons









Día de los Muertos: November 2, 2009 in the Tzintzuntzan, Michoacán Cemetery

Graves decorated for *Noche de los Muertos* (Night of the Dead) in the Tzintzuntzan, Michoacán *panteón* (cemetery). These recent graves lie within easy sight of the *yácatas* (Purhépecha pyramids, mid-center in the photograph) just across the road. The *yácatas* were formerly both a priestly burial site and the site of ancient Purhépecha religious ceremonies.



This little car, decorated with *cempasúchil* (marigold) flowers, fruits, and *pan de muertos* (bread of the dead) in the shape of human figures, is the cemetery *ofrenda* (altar, or offering) for a baby born in October and dead in November 2005. Tiny white baby shoes are on the car's hood, along with a baby bottle. Click on any photo to enlarge it.







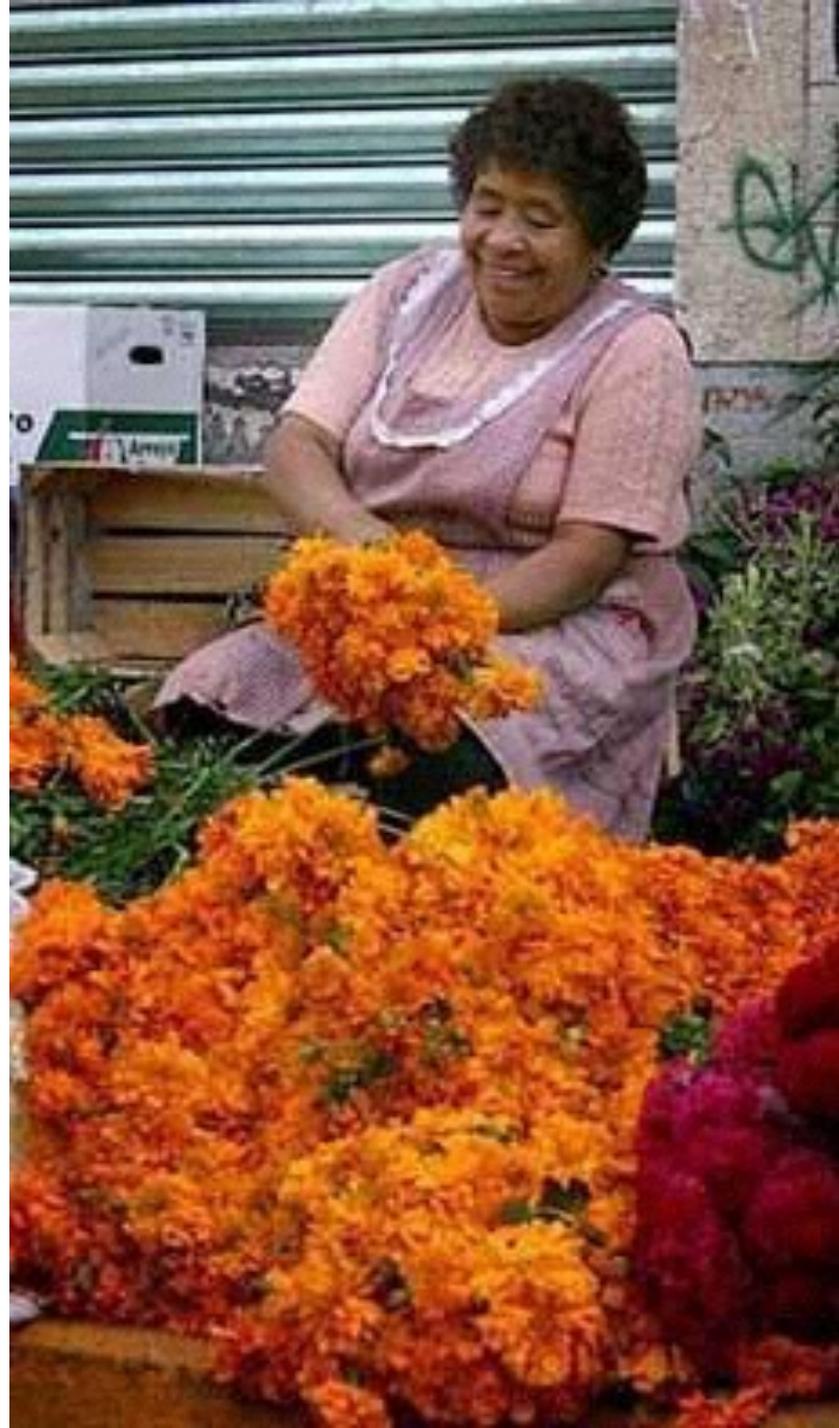




Flowers, which symbolize the brief life of man, are used as an offering on the altars. Alter builders must rely on a network of relatives and neighbors, or purchase flowers for their display.

Yellow marigolds, known as "the flower of the dead," and other fragrant flowers are used to communicate to the spirits the richness of the offering. Sometimes paths of marigold petals are created by families to aid the souls in finding their way home.

-- *The Day*



















UNA CELEBRACION

Celebrating El Dia
De Los Muertos



Es una celebracion divertido; no es triste: es una fiesta!





















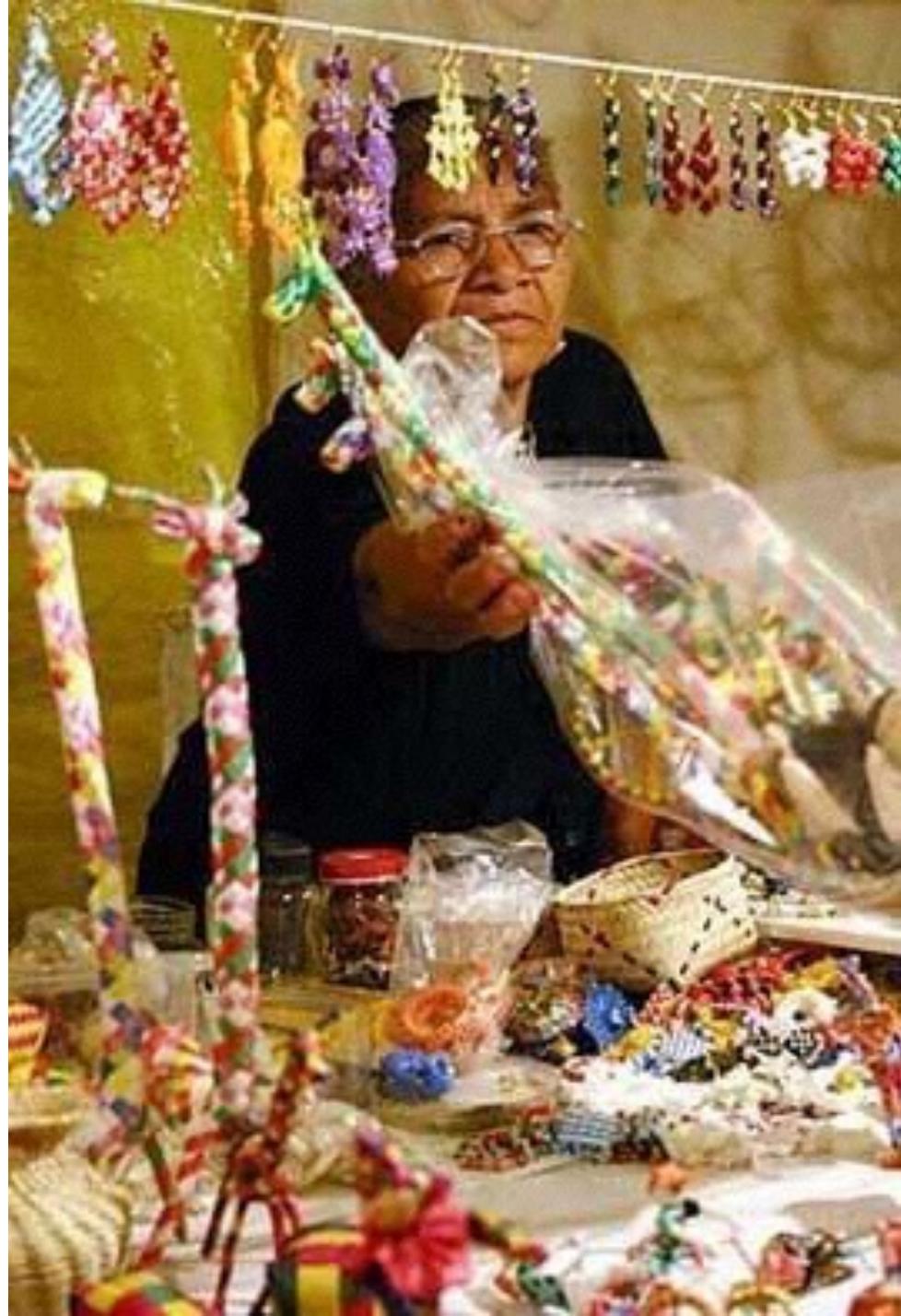
































LA PREPARACION

PREPARING
FOR EL DIA DE
LOS MUERTOS



















The church graveyard in Mixquic, Mexico before the Day of the Dead celebration.

Maria Fowler



The church graveyard in Mixquic, Mexico before the Day of the Dead celebration. The graveyard surrounds the church and has been used by the village for hundreds of years.

Maria Fowler



The flowers are dead and graves unadorned in the church graveyard in Mixquic, Mexico. When the celebration begins, these graves will be full of candles and flowers.

Maria Fowler



The church graveyard in Mixquic, Mexico before the Day of the Dead celebration. The flowers are dead and graves unadorned. Relatives of the dead will come to the graveyard to clean the graves and decorate for their loved ones when the celebration begins.

Maria Fowler



Relatives come to the graveyard to clean the gravesites before they decorate them. This man sweeps away dust with the remnants of dead flower stems.

Maria Fowler



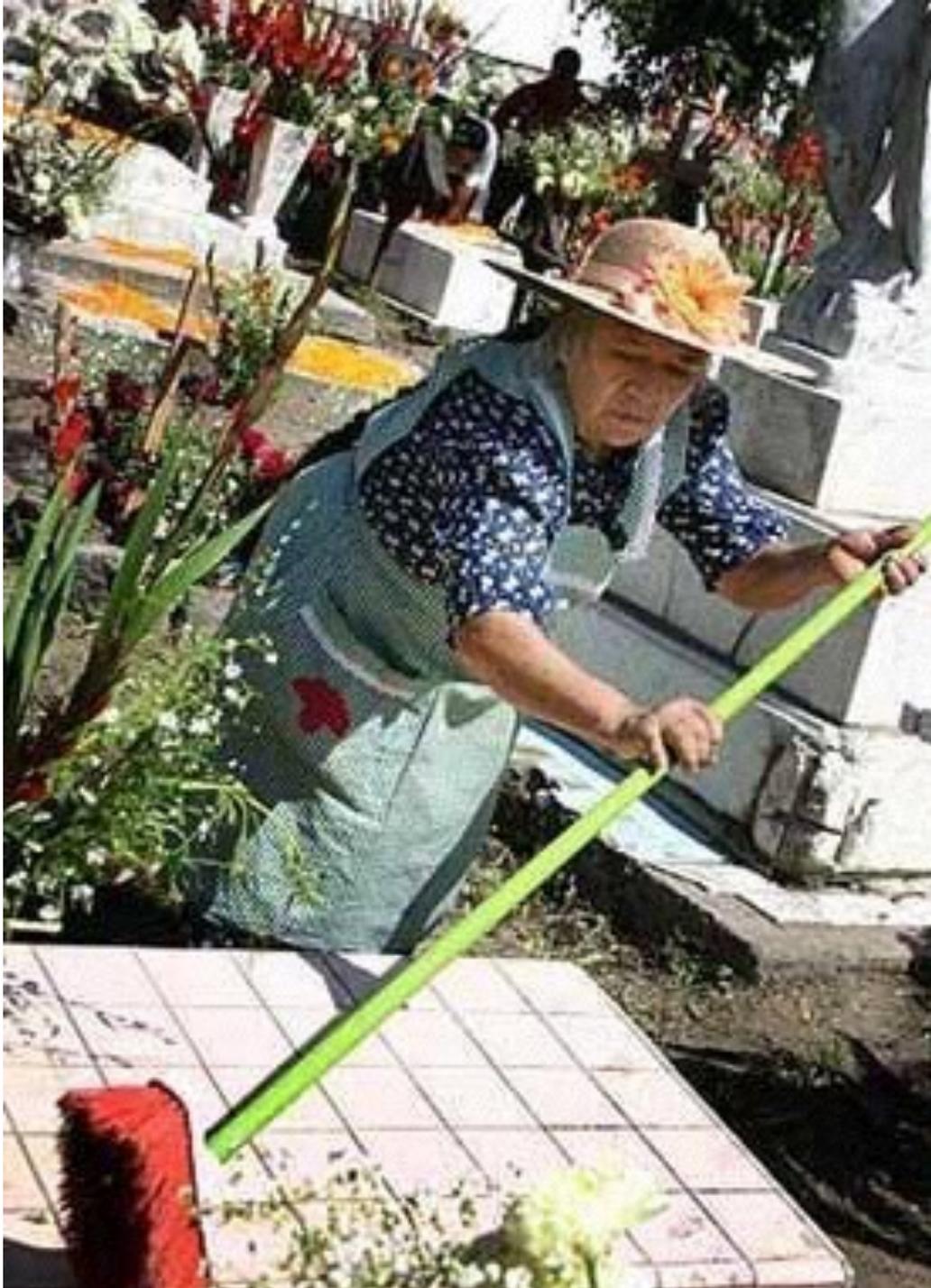
Relatives come to the graveyard to clean the gravesites before they decorate them. This is a time for the elders to teach their children about honoring their loved ones.

Maria Fowler



After cleaning the graves, relatives arrange flowers and candles on them for decoration.

Maria Fowler



A woman cleans the tiled gravesite of a loved one



Marigolds are very important to the celebration. This man uses the petals to create a special mosaic design on a gravesite.



Flower petals are often used to create elaborate mosaic designs on gravesites.

Maria Fowler



During the Day of the Dead celebration, the graveyard is filled with flower petal mosaics. The graveyard in Mixquic is filled with people working at the graves.



Even the graves that are a part of the churchyard itself get decorated by villagers.

Maria Fowler





During the days of preparation no gravesite is missed. Families working on neighboring graves will lend a hand when relatives are unable to attend to a gravesite for some reason.

Maria Fowler



LAS ESCUELAS
SCHOOLS IN
MEXICO
CELEBRATE EL DIA
DE LOS MUERTOS











