

## **"La Misión de San Miguel / St. Michael of the Mountain"**

Our Lady of Guadalupe church in Conejos, CO was built in 1858, and it provided a communal lynchpin for the surrounding sub-communities in the southern part of the San Luis Valley. Our Lady of Guadalupe was the small seed of 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 churches to provide religious services in surrounding areas. The Mission of San Miguel is located in New Mexico but still administered through Conejos. Keith Valdez, M.L.S

### **"Spirituality and Its People"**

Is a 24-minute documentary of the communities in San Luis, Capulin, Conejos and San Antonio during holy week. Narrated by Fr. Pat Valdez, Sister Rene Weeks. Participants will have the opportunity to learn of the history, contributions and rituals of the Penitente brotherhood. The documentary includes exclusive interviews by, Hermano Mayor Max Taylor, Hermano Charlie Maestas and other participating community members. In the town of San Luis, the community joined arms together with the help of Fr. Pat Valdez and Huberto Maestas, a renowned sculptor, who designed the bronze statues that are now part of the Stations of the Cross Shrine. San Luis Valley.

### **Larry Apodaca**

Voice Over Talent/Singer and Songwriter

*Rick, your documentary was well done and very inspiring. My birth family is from Antonito but I was adopted in Alamosa by a loving Catholic family 62 years ago. Although I've lived in Rocky Ford, Los Angeles and Denver my spirit is always drawn to El Valle. Your film touched my soul, warmed my heart and lifted my spirit. Gracias*

### **Maria Cisneros**

Technician at City and County of Denver Jobs

*Great documentary. Proud to be from the San Luis Valley, specifically Capulin. I well remember Holy Week and La Morada in Capulin.*

### **Robert Gurza**

Cultural & Diversity Relevance  
Clinical Program Management at Jefferson  
Center for Mental Health.

*Stations of the Cross in San Luis are so beautiful and with so much detail. Rick, this is a touching and intimate portrait of a particular community's religious beliefs and the ways in which their spirituality is expressed in their daily lives. Nicely done.*

**"A Story To Tell" Documentary Film Collection**  
[www.downtoearthmedia.org/films.html](http://www.downtoearthmedia.org/films.html)

**If we lose our traditions,  
we lose our identity.**



## **"A Story To Tell"**

Preserving our historical legacy.

As part of its ongoing commitment to research and cultural preservation, **Down to Earth Media, LLC** has produced a compelling collection of oral history documentary films, each accompanied by original music. These films delve into the **Culture, Traditions, and Spirituality** of the Spanish-speaking communities in **Conejos and Costilla counties**, situated in the **San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico**.

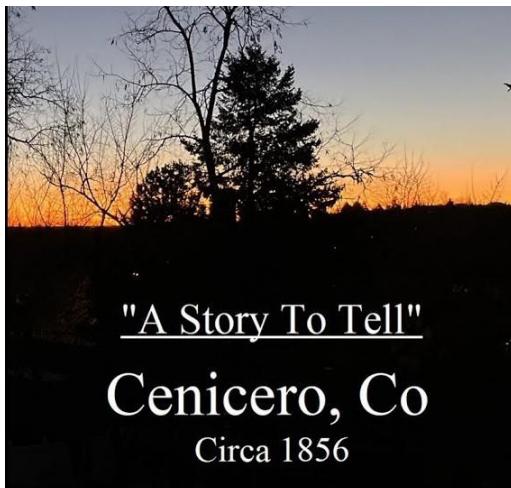
**Our Elders are open books and when they die so do their stories**

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### "Cenicero, Co. Circa 1856"

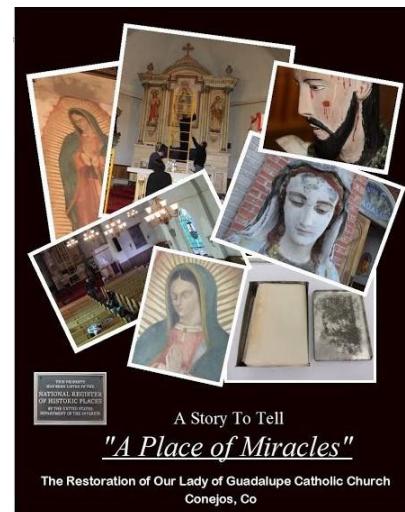
Esperanza "Hope" Lobato-Gallegos has been researching her family's genealogy for a number of years. The names of her paternal and maternal grandparents are "Gallegos" and "Lobato", respectively. On the 10 of July 1751, the King of Spain, granted to Captain Juan Jose' Lobato son of Bartolome Lobato, to take possession of Las Trampas Land Grant. The governor of New Mexico approved the Land Grant for 12 families.

*Wow! Very impressive, Rick!  
Thank you for championing this  
special place, its history, and its  
people.*

*Dr. Ron Maestas, Las Vegas, NM*

### "A Place Of Miracles"

The painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe located right above the altar and the statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary located outside in an enclave were two pieces that received significant restoration. The painting had been discolored from the smoke damage and was very brittle due to its age. The statue was also significantly damaged and faded from enduring the elements outside for almost 100 years. Keith Valdez, M.L.S



### "Fr. Al Muñiz Story"

The story of Fr. Alfonso Muñiz begins in Capulín, a small town in the western part of the San Luis Valley. The documentary highlights what it was like growing up in Colorado's San Luis Valley in the early 1930's.

### "La Placita de San Rafael"

"What good is a hometown when everyone you know is gone?"

John Nichols,  
"Milagro Bean Field War"

The truth is, you never outgrow where you come from. You carry it with you everywhere you go. I was raised in the shadow of the church of San Pedro y San Rafael, not the San Rafael Presbyterian church in Mogote but the Catholic church by the same name. Sufficed to say that since I lived right across the fence from church, I spent a lot of my time there; attending mass, helping in the maintenance and upkeep and even playing guitar in the three-person choir.

*This is such an important record to preserve this history and culture of the Indo- Hispano villages of the Valle de San Luis for future generations. Ronald Rael B. Envd; University of Colorado, M. Arch; Columbia University It is so important to have this kind of history. Dr. Martha Urioste, Denver, CO*

