

## HOLY WEEK IN BENQUE VIEJO DEL CARMEN 2023

### “CALLED TO BE ARTISANS OF SYNODALITY”

*Benque Viejo, Cayo District, Belize, March 14, 2023.* **Semana Santa** in Benque Viejo del Carmen will officially open with the traditional *Viernes de Dolores Via Crucis* on Friday, March 31, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. around Centennial Park with the image of *El Nazareno* being carried on shoulders of devout men. **Palm Sunday** will feature the triumphant entry of Jesus, the servant-king, into the holy city of Jerusalem with *la Procesión de Ramos* at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance of Benque Viejo, coming from the border to culminate with the celebration of the Mass at Mount Carmel Church. Prior to the opening of the *Triduum* on Holy Thursday, two traditional processions are held, *la Procesión del Silencio* on Monday at 7 p.m. which has the faithful reflect on the seven sorrows of Mary, and *El Encuentro* at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday which commemorates the encounter of Mary meeting Jesus on the *vía dolorosa*. The floats of Jesus, Mary, and John, the beloved apostle, are carried in procession.

**The Easter Triduum will follow the schedule below:**

**Holy Thursday, 6:00 p.m.** - Solemnity of the Last Supper & ceremonial

of the washing of the feet; procession to the Altar of Reserve

**Good Friday, 10:00 a.m.** – Drama of the *Via Crucis* through the streets of the town (begins at John Paul II Junior College in Santa Cruz Area and ends in front of Mt. Carmel Church)

***Creation & Display of sawdust carpets along processional route commences at 5:00 AM***

**3:00 p.m.** – Liturgy of the Word & the veneration of the cross

**5:00 p.m.** – Procession of *El Santo Entierro* through the streets of the town

**Holy Saturday, 9:00 p.m.** – Easter Vigil at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

***Note: All men wishing to carry the float of El Santo Entierro on Good Friday can contact Jimmy Leslie at 633-5050. Ladies can register with Belia Javier at 634-9338. Dress code applies. Deadline: Friday, March 31, 2023.***