



The Altar, in its center, shows a nest of pelicans. (An old legend says that the pelican opens up their chest and feeds its chicken with its own blood). Like the legend Jesus Christ, feeds us with his body and his blood, in the holy sacrament of communion. It inspires us to call Christ our "Divine Pelican". The, "Divine Pelican", feeds and shelters us, and thanks to his infinite love, the sun shines a new light in the immense ocean of human suffering giving origin to a new creation, that began with the Resurrection of the Lord. That appears in the upper part of the painting that is in the altar (it is necessary to bend down in order to see it). It guides us toward the dynamism of Passover and Lent transforming everything and arriving at its fullness.

The Word of God, takes place on the Altar, there, Christ speaks to us; Impetuous currents of living waters in abundance that comes from the sky will not return there without fertilizing the earth, water that purifies and gives life.

La Sede, (Host), is the presidential place of the celebration. He who occupies it presides, in the name and person of Jesus. Christ is the Word, Christ is the nourishment.

The Taíno Indian, on its knees, receiving the Paschal candle (symbol of the Resurrection of Christ) expresses the union of the Taíno Indian Culture, enriched by our faith in Jesus Christ, Father of history.

Finally, the vegetation, the water, the animals, especially the coquí, which we see in more than one place, is a song to nature and an invitation to their love in order to praise God, our Father. The temple is a product of our effort as nature is in its creation.



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH LUQUILLO, P.R.



THE ALTARPIECE AND PLACES OF CELEBRATION

*With faith... culture is preserved,
with our celebration of faith...
our culture is established.*

With the celebration of two hundred years of life the San José Parish in Luquillo, affirms the Christian and cultural values of our town.

The Altarpiece represents a great landscape of **el Yunque**, whose majestic crests are seen in the culmination of its work. **El Yunque**, (rain forest) comes from the word **Yukiyú**, which means protector of its people against the bad god, **Hurricane**. **El Yunque** serves as a frame to the **Cross of Christ**, which was built with [taíno] signs taken from the Mayan culture. It represents the realization of the goodness of God and the love of his people, a sign of the **Emmanuel**, the God with us, in the mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

In this symbolic (taíno) image of **Our Lady of the Divine Providence**, Patron of Puerto Rico maintaining once again the humanity of God in Christ



giving the Puertorrican people the dynamic affiliation of the motherly love of our **Sacred Mother Mary**.

The Beach Grapes and the Royal Palm Trees on both sides of the upper part of the altarpiece, crowned with paths of **Puertorrican parrots** (in danger of extinction) making the sign of the cross, are a song to the love of life.

The Coconut Palms, which were brought by the Spaniards, coming from Africa, curved by the force of the hurricanes, carved with (taíno) signs and placed on the ends of the altarpiece, symbolizing the hardships of life, foreign dominance and infamous slavery that blacks were subjected to. The image of **Jesus Christ** (crucified)-(center of the

work), stands out, illustrating his mission as liberator and Savior, Lord of history demonstrating his agony for human suffering. The **San José**, image, patron of our town, makes allusion to the original name of the town "**San José de el Loquillo**", and that of **Our Lady of Carmen**, patron of the fishermen.

The Replica of the Current Temple, which houses the sacred oils and the image of previous temples, are a song to our ancestors Natives, Blacks and Spaniards. They are considered as our brothers in their praise to God in these 200 years. The **Last Supper** represents the celebration of the mass. In this replica of "The Last Supper", Leonardo Da Vinci, presents the Holy Sacrament as the center of Christian life.

