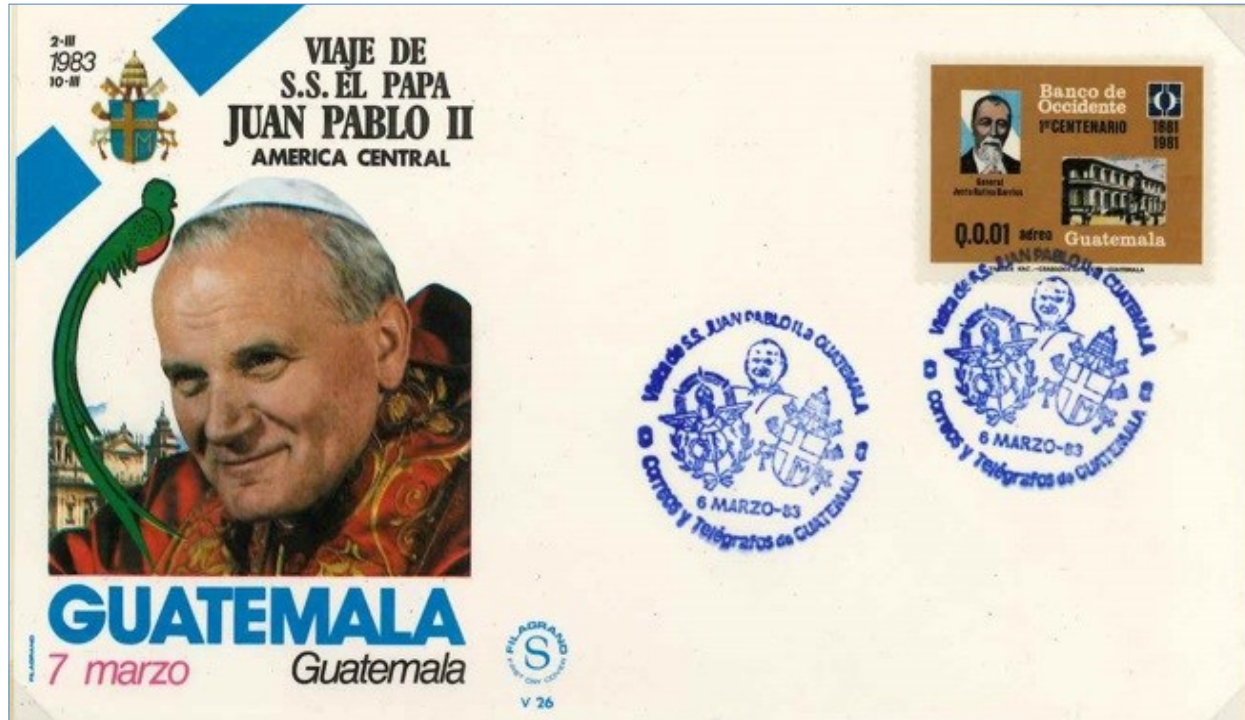


THE VISITS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II TO GUATEMALA AND CANONIZATION OF THE HOLY BROTHER PETER OF SAINT JOSEPH OF BETANCOURT

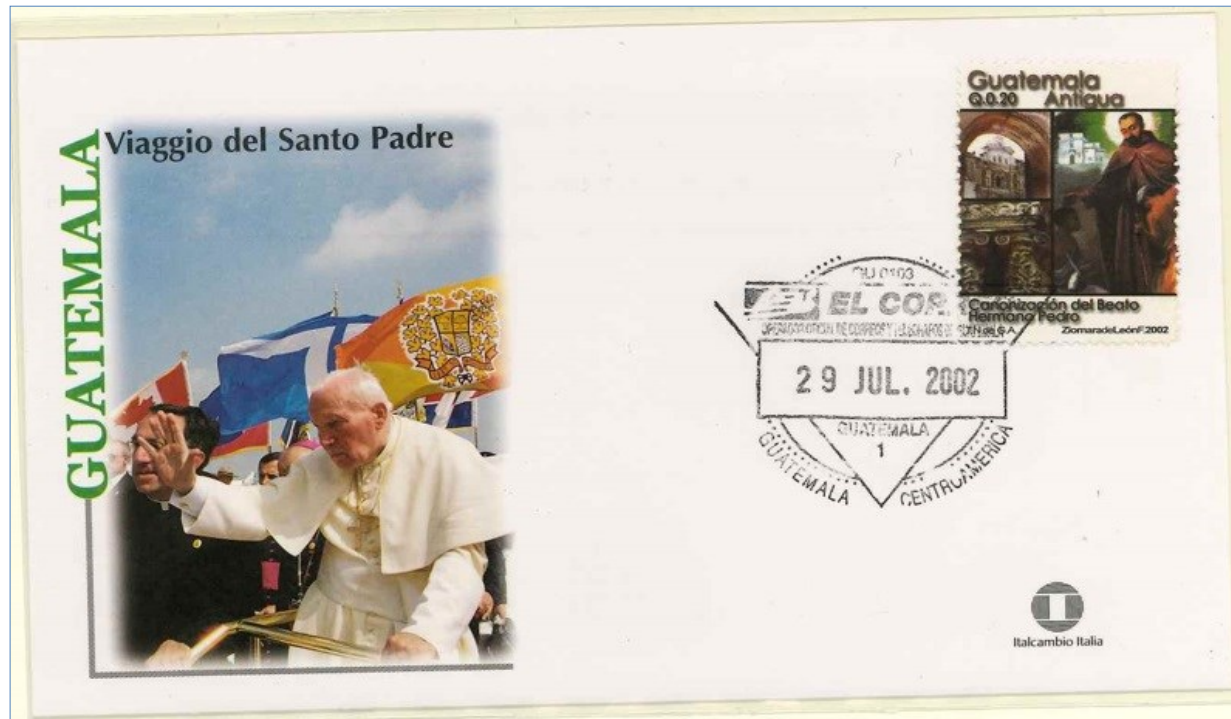
Romeo Estuardo Gramajo Leal - Guatemala C. A. / regramajo@gmail.com

Pope John Paul II visited Guatemala three times during his pontificate, My One-Page Exhibit shows how influential his visits to Guatemala were in order to secure a long lasting peace between the government and the guerrilla movements and to reinvigorate the Catholics in the nation.

FIRST VISIT: March 6-8, 1983. Guatemala was experiencing a difficult period under the military regime of Efraín Ríos Montt, with an ongoing civil war and social and political tensions. **Central Theme: RECONCILIATION AND PEACE.** The Pope called for national reconciliation and highlighted the need for social justice for the poorest and most marginalized, especially indigenous peoples.



Commemorative Cancellation 1st. Visit of His Holiness John Paul II on the stamp of the **REGULAR AIR POSTAL ISSUANCE 1982, Bank of the West Centennial**, of Quetzaltenango, where in his 2nd. visiting day he crowned the Virgin of the Rosary.



Cancellation of "El Correo" on the stamp of the **REGULAR AIR POSTAL ISSUE 2002, 3rd. Visit of Pope John Paul II and Canonization of Blessed Brother Peter, first Saint of Central America.**

Beatified Brother Peter of Saint Joseph of Betancourt in Rome, Italy in 1980.



Cancellation First day of Circulation
REGULAR AIR POSTAL ISSUE OF 1983, BLESSED BROTHER PETER



Cancellation First day of Emission
REGULAR AIR POSTAL ISSUE OF 1984, I ANNIV. FIRST VISIT OF H.H. JOHN PAUL II

THIRD VISIT: July 29-30, 2002. This was his last visit to the country, at a time of greater stability after the Peace Accords.

Central Theme: SANCTIFICATION OF THE FAITH.

Miniature sheet containing the 7 stamps of **POSTAL ISSUE 3rd. Visit of Pope John Paul II**

All materials in their original size

SECOND VISIT: February 5, 1996. This visit occurred at the end of the armed conflict, when the Peace Accords were being negotiated (signed in december of that same year). **Central Theme: PROMOTION OF PEACE AND FORGIVENESS.** The Pope insisted on the importance of mutual forgiveness and the need to build a society based on respect and human dignity. He called for strengthening faith as a path to lasting peace.



Cancellation of "Correos" of the first day, on stamps of the **REGULAR AIR POSTAL ISSUE OF 1996. 2nd. Visit of His Holiness**

