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For Immediate Release

Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders,
 a project of the Center for Traditional Music & Dance,
 in collaboration with the St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery,
 presents six days of traditional celebration for the Day of the Dead.
 From October 28th through November 2nd, 2005.

St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery (East Yard)
 10th Street and Second Avenue in Manhattan

New York, NY, October 21st, 2005. Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders, invites you to participate in events and workshops to celebrate the traditional **Day of the Dead** in the church of St. Mark's in the Bowery from October 28th to November 2. All events are free and open to the public.

The **Day of the Dead** has been one of Mexico's most important festivals since pre-Hispanic times. It is a time for families to gather and welcome the souls of the dead on their annual visit home. *Cempasúchil* (marigold) flower, burning copal incense, fresh *pan de muertos* bread, candles, sugar skulls, photographs and mementos of the departed adorn special altars. In Mexico, the **Day of the Dead** is celebrated over an entire week with the preparation of altars, foods, dance, music and special offerings for people who have died in accidents, as well as children and adults. Mano a Mano has organized a series of events including altar-building, workshops, dance, poetry and music.

Here is our calendar of events:

Friday, October 28th: The Altar

11:00 am Installation of an Altar for the deceased in the East Yard of the church.
 5:00 - 8:00 pm Inauguration of an Altar, dedicated to those who have died in accidents. Free workshop in paper cutting (*papel picado*) and paper flowers. This year, our altar includes a special dedication to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Saturday, October 29th: Las Calaveras

10:00 am - 9:00pm The Altar is open to the public.
 6:00 - 7:30 pm Free workshop in making *calaveras* (sugar skulls), used to adorn Mexican altars.
 7:30 - 9:00pm Reading *Calaveras* (traditional satirical poems which poke fun at death). We invite all poets and poetry lovers to participate with their poems.



Sunday, October 30th: Day of the Dead Bread

10:00 am - 9:00 pm The Altar is open to the public.
 5:00 - 6:30 pm Free workshop in making the traditional bread for the Day of the Dead.
 6:30 - 8:00 pm We welcome the procession of Aztec Dancers from the American Indian Community House.

Monday, October 31st: La Llorona - The Weeping Woman

10:00 am - 8:00 pm The Altar is open to the public.
 4:00 - 6:00 pm Free workshop in paper cutting (*papel picado*) and paper flowers. We will prepare two altars - one in honor of children and the other for adults.
 7:00 pm Mano a Mano will participate in the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade with a representation of the legend of La Llorona and the music of the popular group, Semilla.

Tuesday, November 1st: Velación - Candlelight Vigil for All Saint's Day

10:00 am The Altar opens to the public.
 5:00 pm - 8:00 am The Concheros Citlaltónac, led by Antonia Guerrero, invite the public to participate in an all-night *velación* inside the church. There will be altar-building, singing and prayers to accompany the souls of the departed. The Concheros dance has survived through the centuries after the Conquest of Mexico, perpetuating the wisdom of the ancient Mexicans into contemporary times.

Wednesday, November 2nd: Closing Celebration - All Soul's

The Concheros will finish their *velación* (candlelight vigil) at dawn.

10:00 am - 7:00pm The Altar is open to the public.
 7:00pm Closing celebration with mariachi music while the altars are taken down.

How to Get There:

Subway: #6 to Astor Place, L to 3rd Avenue, F to Second Avenue, or any train to Union Square.
 Bus: M8, M15, M101, M102, M103

For more information concerning this event and for a calendar of other Day of the Dead events, please visit: www.manoamano.us, call 212 571-1555 x35 or email: info@manoamano.us.

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