

Monday with Mikey: April 24, 2017



¡Hola de España! Esta semana, FMJ (primer compañera Jocelyn) y yo están viajando de Barcelona a la Mijas-Costa  en el área de Málaga de Andalucía.

In (American) English, please!



Hello from Spain! This week, FMJ (First Mate Jocelyn) and I are traveling from Barcelona to Mijas-Costa in the Malaga area of Andalucía.

We lived not far from here when we were stationed in Spain with the US Navy. Our traveling companions are our dear friends, Clark & Amy, who were our next-door neighbors for a little over a year. They say that military friendships “grow fast and stay strong” – and that’s certainly has been the case for the four of us – and our children – over the last nearly 30 years! We have been on many adventures and escapades, and we are known collectively as “TFWC” for “the Family We Choose.”



Barcelona as a city is slightly smaller in population than the Greater Tampa Bay Area, and it – like our home – is quite cosmopolitan. Two languages are prominent: Spanish and Catalan , the native language of the original inhabitants of the area. French and Bosque are also spoken frequently here.



The Costa del Sol is the path of our “Bob and Bing go to Malaga” trip. We are in a rented SEAT SUV (pronounced “SAY–ott,” which was once the Spanish version of Fiat – but apparently nowadays owned by Volkswagen).

As we trundle along, sampling the scenery, cuisine (“cocina”) and wines of this nation, I am continually reminded of the things we in Florida share with people of this region. It’s warm most of the year, our economies are funded largely by tourism, and we have lots of folks from “other places” who visit us on a seasonal basis.

But there’s something deeper, more visceral, more fundamental in Spain that does not escape my notice: Kids. “Niños.”

For over three decades, I have observed – in Spain, in Spanish-speaking nations in North and South America, and in Hispanic communities all over our own nation - that “SOMEONE’S CHILD IS EVERYONE’S CHILD.” In restaurants, marketplaces, parks, and homes – it is the unwritten responsibility in the ethos of the community to protect, nurture, and help to raise children. This strikes a special note with me in this Rotary Month of Maternal and Child Health.

Here are some sights:



Barcelona’s signature landmark, the Cathedral of the Holy Family



iPDG Will Miller’s most memorable landmark, the “Castle of the Three Dragons”

Hasta el próximo semana, déjenos que todos mantienen en *“Hacer Bueno, Divirtiéndose!”*
(Until next week let’s all keep on *“Doing Good, Having Fun!”*)

Mikey

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PS – Check out the “My Rotary Show” on You Tube!