

Good morning. Today I am writing to the members of our parish with an invitation. Over the years, those of you who know me have probably met my fiance, Ana. Ana is Mexican-American, and her family are indigenous Totonac from the Mexican State Puebla. The Totonac are one small group of North and Central America's first-peoples, like the Nahuatl (whom most of us would think of as Aztecs). Recently Ana was contacted by a Nahuatl plantation owner named Daniel, based out of the mountain region of Cuetzalan del Progreso (neighbouring Ana's family's small village). This region is largely dependant on subsistence farming and tourism, both of which have been hit hard by Covid-19 restrictions and responses. Cuetzalan is home to one of Mexico's oldest pyramid complexes (coined by colonialists as the “greek” pyramids for their unique greek-key stone work), and what I understand to be the world's oldest soccer field (incorporated into the courtyard of the pyramids).

Daniel's plantation produces a number of goods for sale, most notably coffee and chocolate, and not only employs, but subsidises the lives of many of the indigenous members of the regional communities. According to the people I know whom have tried it, Daniel's coffee is some of the best available, certainly Ana's family swears by it (her mother brings back as much of both coffee and chocolate as possible when she can visit home). Daniel had a modest request, searching for a larger market for their products, in an attempt to help his community deal with the impacts of Covid-19. When I heard about this, I decided that if nothing else I could attempt to organise a mass purchase of coffee from Daniel (the proceeds from which are going back to his community to feed elderly and under-employed indigenous members). Due to the pandemic, our parish has not been selling coffee for proceeds to Development and Peace; so my invitation to you, is to join this coffee order. I will accept requests for products, and arrange import to Canada, in exchange you will receive, direct from the grower, coffee, in support of indigenous lives.

Anyone who is interested in helping, either with a purchase or a donation, is welcome to contact me for more details. Most of his products range from \$7-\$10 per kilo, an excellent price even compared to buying from a Canadian grocer. I understand that Daniel's mother tongue is Nahuatl, his second language is Spanish, as such Ana and her family have agreed to translate (Ana's family's native language is Totonac, though obviously she speaks Spanish and English).

If you would like to see more about Daniel; his plantation, products, or community, feel free to look him up on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CafeCuezali/>

In the meantime, feel free to contact me to participate in our order:

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