

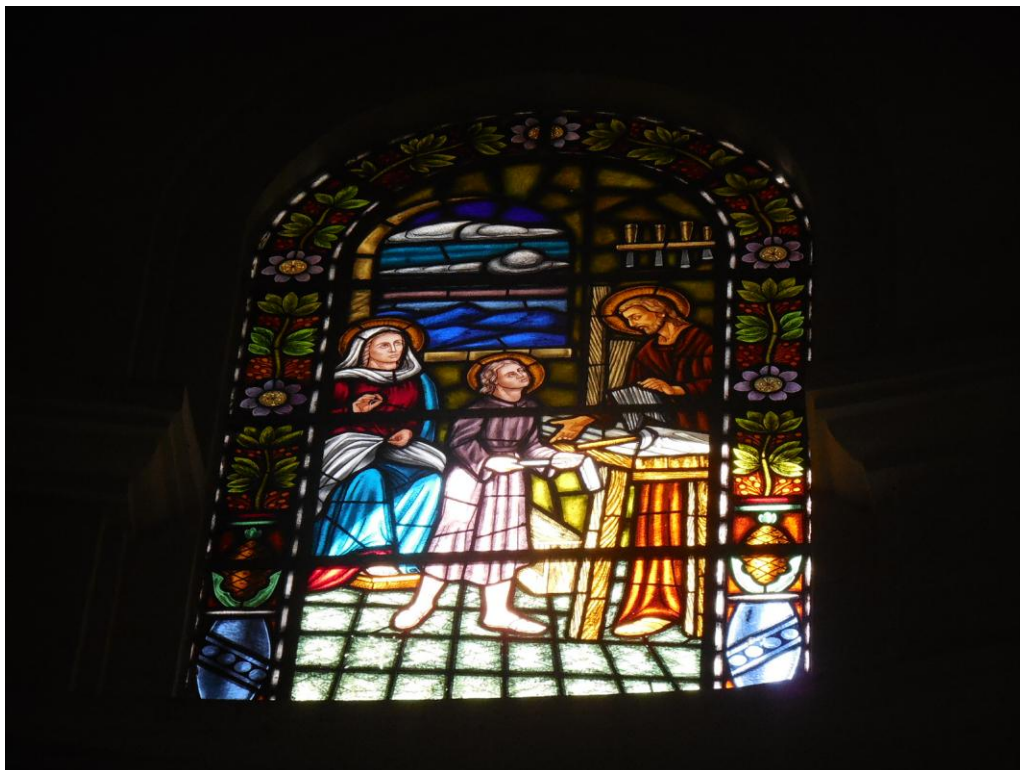
There were stained-glass windows around the domes. Dome to left of nave: (1) God (with triangle aura) with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.



(2) Angel with Flaming Sword sends Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.

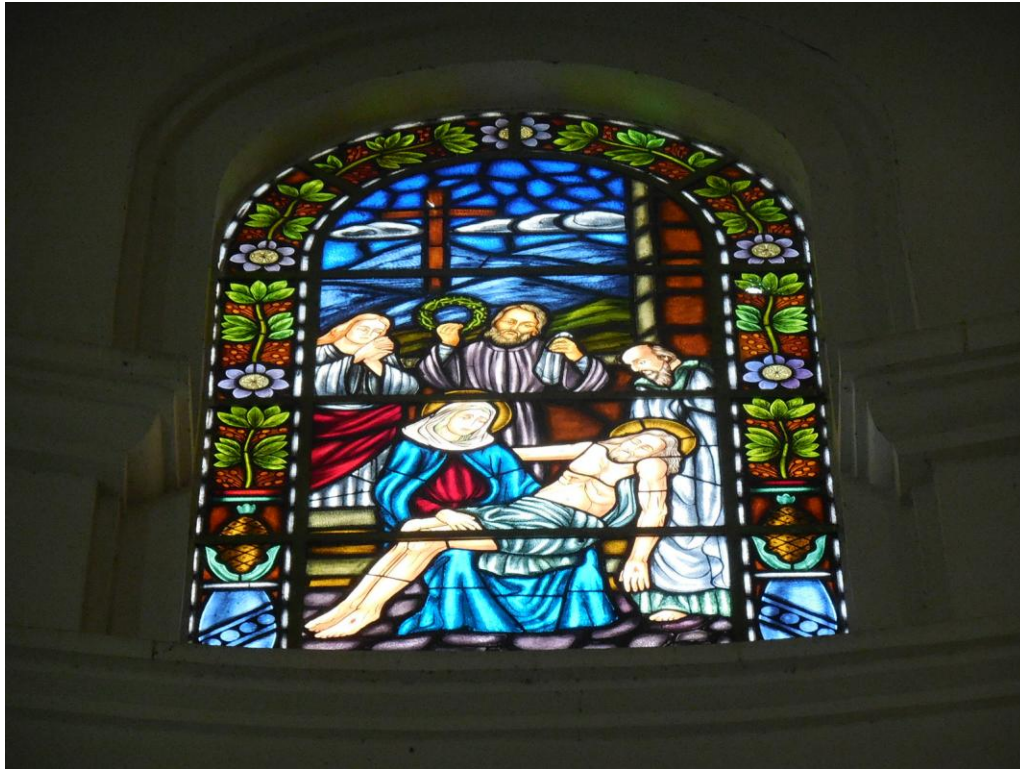


(3) God gives the 10 Commandments to Moses.

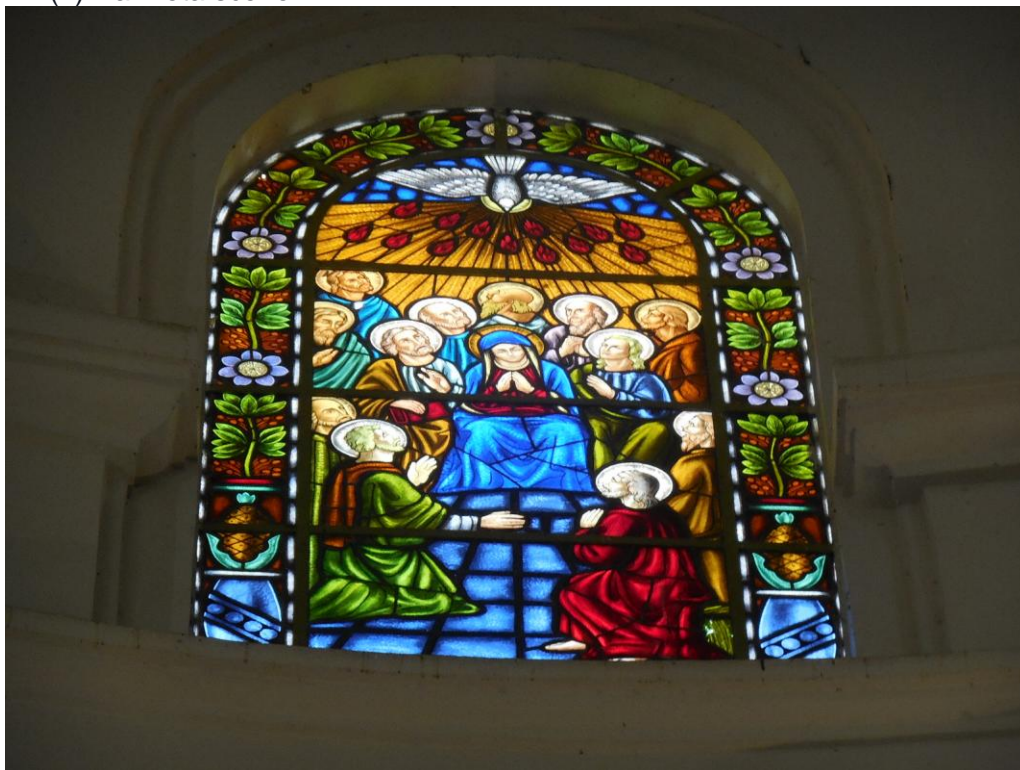


Dome to the right of the nave: (1) Jesus as a boy in the carpenter's shop.





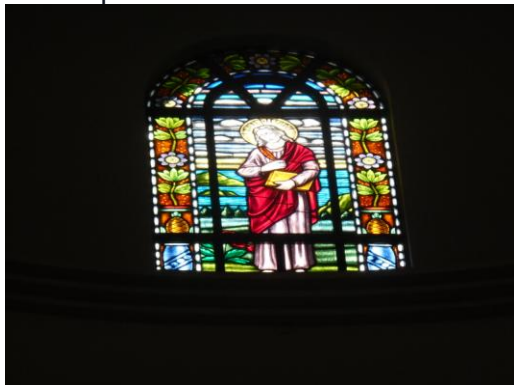
(2) La Pietà scene.



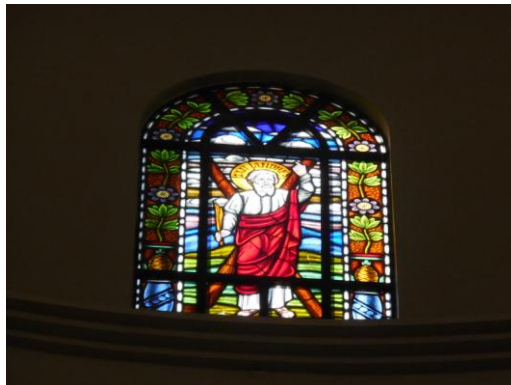
(3) Pentecost – the Holy Spirit appears as a “Dove” and tongues of fire descend.



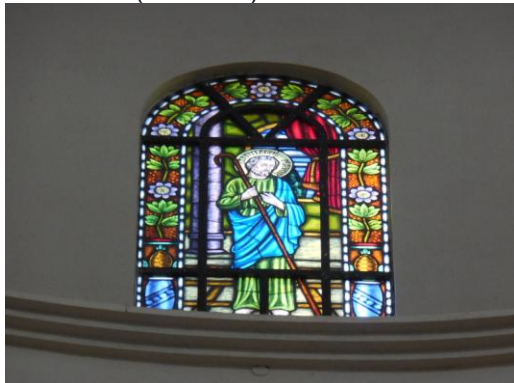
The dome at the center of the basilica had 12 stained-glass windows containing images of the 12 disciples.



San Juan (St. John)



San Andres (St. Andrew)



Santiago Mayor (St. James, greater)



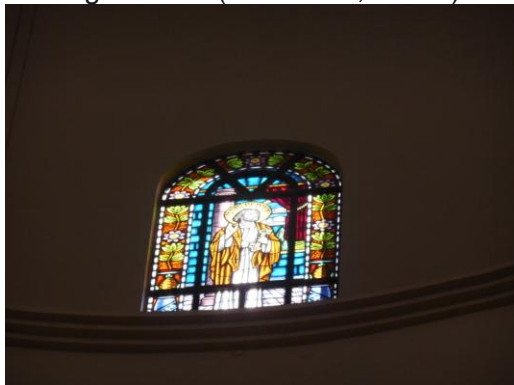
San Felipe (St. Philip)



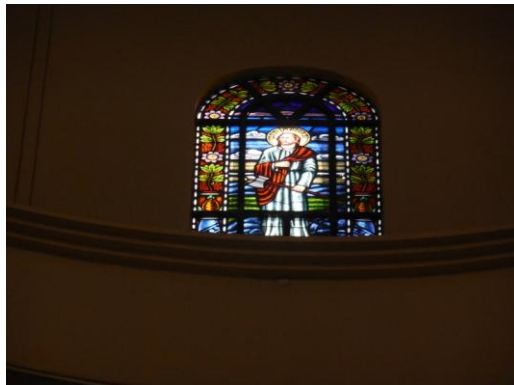
San Bartolome (St. Bartholomew)



Santiago Menor (St. James, lesser)



San Pedro (St. Peter)



San Matias (St. Matthew)





When I finally turned to leave the basilica, I noticed a large stained-glass mural in the back of the church depicting the legend of the Virgen de Caacupe. A Guaraní sculptor received protection from the Virgin Mary, so he sculpted her image out of a tree.



The Santuario Virgen de los Milagros de Caacupe – a name based on the legend that her wooden statue was saved miraculously from a flood – is truly a great pilgrimage site.



Susie gives a couple of girls standing outside the church a few guarani coins.



In the evening, we went as a group to witness a Mass (service).





Elsa and Susie skipped out of the Mass (service) midway. They went to visit the nearby Well of the Virgin, a sacred site (that was actually a natural spring) called Tupasy Ykau (Guarani = "Water Hole of the Mother of God"). Later the next morning, Susie returned to touch "the Rock."

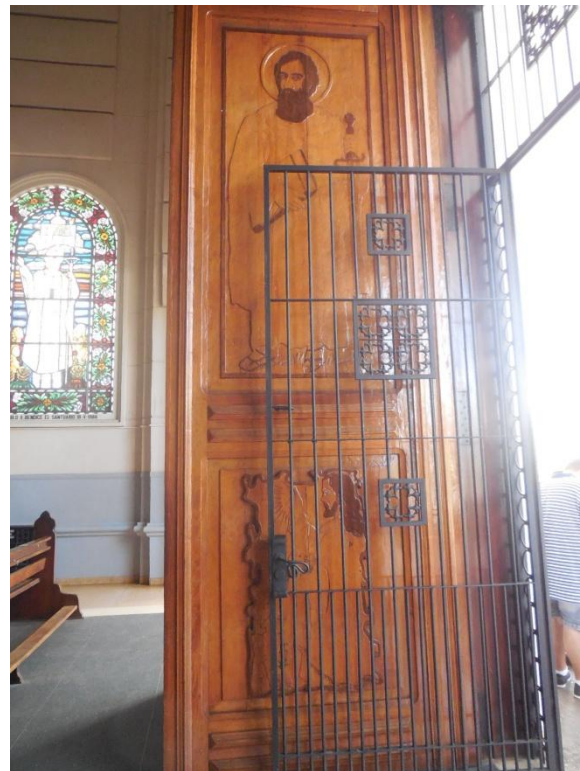


Nick liked the statue of a priest holding a book titled, "Virgen Conquistadora" (The Virgin Conqueror). The book most likely showed how Marian devotion captured the hearts and minds of Paraguayans, and also Latin America.





I took one last look at the Virgin of Caacupe as I left. I also glanced at the stained-glass windows that depicted the life of Mary.



As I walked out of the basilica through the central doors, I took a closer look at the doors, which had images carved into them. The center doors had images of St. Peter and St. Paul.

The side doors had the 4 Evangelists with their representative symbols: Matthew (winged man, Aquarius), Mark (lion, Leo), Luke (ox, Taurus), and John (eagle, Scorpio).







Guarani writing on a plaque near the entrance of the basilica.

- [http://cheresaypororohape.blogspot.com/2008\\_12\\_10\\_archive.html](http://cheresaypororohape.blogspot.com/2008_12_10_archive.html)

Mba'e he'ise ñandéve ko Tupasy Caacupé róga imarangatuetéva.

**Ko Tupao marangatuete** oñemopu'ava'ekue. Tupasy María rekopotiete ...

Mensa je

Del Santuario de Caacupe

este sancutario esta dedicado a la pura y limpia concepción de la Virgen Maria, madre de Jesus y madre nuestra.

Ella pide que hagamos lo que el nos diga Juan 2:5

Y nos llama a una sincera conversión.

**MESSAGE FROM THE SANCTUARY: This sanctuary is dedicated to the Pure and Clean Conception of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother.**

She asks us to do what He tells us (John 2.5), i.e. to put into practice the word of the Lord. That brings us to conversion: to live a clean and uncorrupted personal and social life.



The Virgin of Caacupe made a lasting impression on my mind, heart and soul.