



SISTER PARISH, INC. IGLESIAS HERMANAS

Sister Parish Administrative Update
30 June 2009

Greetings from Sister Parish, Inc.,

To my dear Sister Parish family,

Today is my last official day as the Executive Director of Sister Parish, Inc. Words alone are not adequate to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have been part of my own journey these last seven and a half years, who have shared this important mission, and who will carry it on.

It has been a real privilege for me to be part of your journeys as well. We have grown together and experienced the wonder of God's graciousness and love.

My family and I are ever grateful for the way that you have welcomed us with open arms on our trips north. We will pray for you and ask that you do the same as we resettle in the US.

This is not a final good-bye, but an "until we meet again." Blessings and peace,
Shannon, Luis, Liam and Diego DeLeon-Lockhart (email: guateshan@gmail.com)

*The board is currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the ED position.

2009 Northern Assembly of Churches Meeting and Walk In Solidarity

The annual Northern Assembly of Churches (NAC) meeting will be held at First United Methodist Church in Decorah, IA August 7-9, 2009. This meeting is a great opportunity for churches to network, discuss their hermanamiento relationships and to provide direct feedback to the Sister Parish staff and BOD members. Contact Kathi Mitchell (kmbovine@acegroup.cc) for more information, or to register. Please consider sending representatives from your church!

The Second Annual Walk in Solidarity will be held in conjunction with the NAC on Saturday, August 8th. If you would like to participate and collect pledges for the walk and need a pledge sheet please email Mary (maria@sisterparish.org). Last year several other churches hosted Solidarity walks outside of the NAC event for their local communities. If you would like to organize a Walk In Solidarity for your local church / community please contact the US office and we can help you!

2009 Delegations

Now is the time to plan a delegation trip! It's not too late to travel this year, or too early to book dates for next year!

The following delegations are currently on the schedule for 2009.

June 30-July 9: Potrerillos, Chalatenango, El Salvador to Decorah United Methodist Church, Decorah, IA

July 25-August 3: Tierra Nueva 2, Chinautla, Guatemala to St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN,

August 4-12: Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Baltimore, MD to San Juan Sepalau, AltaVerapaz, Guatemala.

September 21-28: UPAVIM to Downers Grove First United Methodist Church

October 21-30: Solidarity Delegation open to all! To UPAVIM, Tierra Nueva 2 and Chichipate, Guatemala.

December 5-12: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND to Seritquiche, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.

*If your church would like to travel this year, please contact your Sister Parish staff liaison soon. If you have dates that you would like to hold, please remember to send in your \$500 deposit, with the dates, to PO Box 5202, Fargo, ND 58105-5202.

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Solidarity Delegation – Mark the Date

The dates for the first ever Solidarity Delegation have been set for October 21-30, 2009. Participant will visit UPAVIM, Tierra Nueva Dos and Chichipate; and will experience home stays in two of the communities. During the trip, delegates will learn about Guatemalan history and current events, as well as the issues that have affected each of the communities visited. The trip is open to alumni, current and potential members (you are not required to be a part of a current Sister Parish linkage). The cost for the delegation is \$1025 per person, this includes all in country expenses (food, lodging and transportation) – airfare will be the responsibility of the individual. This is a great opportunity to revisit old friends and make new ones, and to create a true network of Solidarity. Contact Mary DeCoursey (maria@sisterparish.org or (314)223.8778) soon if you are interested.

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to the wonderful supporters who have already given so generously in response the match challenge that was issued at Easter! Thanks to the extra efforts of our Board and volunteers, and the generosity of so many the challenge was met and matched. While we continue to struggle with funding – like so many non-profits – this was a successful campaign because of the strength and commitment of so many to the Sister Parish vision and mission.

Please stay tuned for more updates from Sister Parish, Inc. We are constantly posting new stories, articles, and videos on the Sister Parish blog (<http://sisterparish.typepad.com>) and the Sister Parish website (www.sisterparish.org). So please send us your news and check-in to see what else is happening in Sister Parish committees. We also have a group on facebook, where we are also a Cause that can be contributed to!

Peace,
Shannon and Mary

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