



Sister Parish

Annual Report 2024





Our Mission

Sister Parish exists to foster mutual understanding and commitment to peace and justice among people in the United States and Central America. This objective is pursued through intentional linking of parishes or groups in the United States with parishes and faith communities in Central America. Delegation travel to the North and South with homestays is an essential aspect in enhancing awareness and understanding and in nurturing closer relationships.

Our Vision

We believe the Kingdom of God is already present but not complete, and the liberating Gospel calls us to work together to build this Kingdom through:
Consciousness-raising, Solidarity, Reconciliation, and Ecumenism.

**PO Box 5202, Fargo, ND 58105
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Letter from the Executive Director

We end 2024 with uncertainties in our world. What do we have?

We have our sisters and brothers, our siblings, who pray daily for us, who live every day in our minds, who are present with their support to our young people, women and children through the projects. We are fully bound by love, crying, joy, celebrations, and more. Despite these difficult years we are still united.

Having Celebrations of 25-year and 30-year anniversaries of Sister Parish relationships was truly a triumph in 2024. This is the result of everyone's effort and the perseverance of each one of you!

Let's keep walking and let's continue changing our world and our communities for the better. Let's continue to be instruments of change from wherever we are. We have been able to do this for decades and we will continue to be agents of change!



Thank you so much to our board members, to the committee members of each church, and to everyone who supports our work on this path less traveled.

Let's celebrate 2024 and continue working for a better life.

With a grateful heart,

-Ruth Garrido
Sister Parish Executive Director

"I've become more aware of the suffering that American consumerism creates. But there's also a larger, deeper growth in my understanding of being human, what my values are and why they are that way, is there another way I want to live my life; all these things are developing."

**-Delegate to Guatemala
Saint Joan of Arc - Tierra Nueva 2 delegation 2024**



2024 Letter from the Board

Linda Main, Sister Parish Inc. Board President in 2024, shares with us her experience while traveling on a delegation to their partner community UPAVIM. This experience is a glimpse into how important sistering relationships are and how rewarding it feels to be part of this beautiful family.



"This year, 2024, I was privileged to experience a mini delegation to my hermanimiento, UPAVIM. We went to some of the same places that I had been to before, yet I learned new things at each one. There were only three of us as delegates so instead of us staying with families, the three of us stayed in the apartments on the fourth floor of the UPAVIM building. Staying with a family enables you to learn about and develop a closeness with one family. Staying in the apartments allowed us to socialize with multiple people. We had meals together. Many members of UPAVIM stopped by to visit if they had a few minutes. One evening many of them stayed late and we all "hung out" together. We taught them how to make s'mores, shared stories, laughed, ate snacks and sang together. It was a beautiful time of comradery with multiple people. A slightly different version of developing solidarity that I believe was equally as successful as home visits. That is what it is all about!"

-Linda Main

President of Sister Parish Inc. Board of Directors, 2024.

2024 Sister Parish Inc. Board of Directors

United States

Linda Main

Cathy Burrell

Kate Casserly

Patricia Cespedes- Schueller

Jan Heikes

David Scott



“When we had the first delegation, all the women felt different. They were grateful to see that someone appreciated them even though at home they did not give them the value they deserved. The first time they told us, ‘YOU ARE SPECIAL’ we felt very good and, little by little, we believed it and we continued fighting for our relationship and for UPAVIM.”

**-Conchita
UPAVIM**





Financial Report 2024

Income

Contributions	\$ 47,044.64
Grants	\$ 16,754.00
Delegations	\$ 24,436.01
Community Projects	\$ 59,838.79
Membership Dues	\$ 9,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 60.00
Investment	\$ 1,626.00
TOTAL	\$ 158,759.44

Expense

Personnel	\$ 61,904.85
Community projects	\$ 58,417.75
Delegations	\$ 16,231.32
Communications	\$ 21,83.59
Publications	\$ 1,589.16
Administration	\$ 9,019.12
Operations	\$ 5,614.71
TOTAL	\$ 154,960.50







Thank you to all who donated time and in-kind gifts
to the Sister Parish mission.

Special thanks to Gary Larson for his accounting support.

Thank you to the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa
and Thrivent Choice for grants to Sister Parish, and to those
who direct donations through these programs.



Sister Parish Member Communities

Christ Episcopal Church

San Andrés Itzapa Episcopal Community

Danville Congregational Church

San Antonio Catholic Church

North Dakota Committee

San Marcos Evangelista, Tierra Nueva I

First Lutheran Church of Duluth

San Antonio Los Ranchos

FUMC & UCC of Decorah

Potreriillos

Downers Grove FUMC

UPAVIM

Wallingford United Methodist Church

Guarjila

East Orrington Congregational Church

Virginia

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church,
Tierra Nueva II

St. Thomas Lutheran Church

Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Chichipate

Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi

Las Margaritas II

And the communities of:

Chontalá / San José de la Montaña / Zaragoza



Thank you for being part of our Sister Parish community. May we continue to open our hearts and our communities to transformation.