



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT  
September/October 2016**

**San Andrés Itzapa, Chimaltenango, Guatemala &  
Christ Episcopal Church, Blacksburg, VA, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

**Last Visit:** September 18, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Scholarship students of Chay Balam have completed the school year and are enjoying their break until the start of classes in January 2017. The committee of San Andres is preparing for the Southern Encounter that will take place in Chontala, Chichicastenango in the month of November. Christ Episcopal has officially invited 6 delegates to visit them in Blacksburg, VA in 2017, which is very exciting for all the members of the committee in San Andrés. October 29, however, marks a very sad day for all of the Sister Parish community, North and South, Juan Iscaya passed away due to health complications. We ask that everyone pray for his family and soul.

**Budget for Visit:** Approximately \$13

**Tierra Nueva I, Chinautla, Guatemala &  
Faith Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

**Last Visit:** October 11, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Three out of the five people from Tierra Nueva 1 that applied a second time for visas to visit West Fargo received visas this round. December 1-8, 2016 Tierra Nueva 1 and Faith Lutheran will have a three-person delegation. The delegates are excited to be able to see snow and experience West Fargo and its culture. Tierra Nueva 1 meanwhile, is preparing for their annual vacation Bible School organized while the children are on vacation from school in the month of November.

**Budget for Visit:** Approximately \$15

**UPAVIM, La Esperanza, Mezquital, Guatemala City, Guatemala &  
First United Methodist Church, Downers Grove, IL, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

**Last Visit:** October 3, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** The UPAVIM linkage committee the past month has organized Saturday breakfasts for the wider UPAVIM community in an attempt to foster more participation in its linkage activities. In coordination with First United, UPAVIM hopes to be able to have a 2017 delegation. In October, the children attending school at UPAVIM finished their school year and will have a well-deserved break until the month of January 2017.

**Budget for Visit:** Approximately \$15

**Las Margaritas II, Ixcán, El Quiché, Guatemala &  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Raleigh, NC, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

**Last Visit:** July 16-17, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** After its July delegation St. Francis committed to donating to the LM2 church construction project. The construction project is around 45% complete and continues to involve all of the LM2 catholic community. The community is more than grateful for their support and hopes to have another possible North to South delegation in 2017. The scholarship students are inspired more than ever to become more active in the linkage activities in their community.

**Budget for Visit:** Approximately \$50

**Chichipate, El Estor, Izabal, Guatemala &  
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IN, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian "Alejandro" Tyler

**Last Visit:** October 5-6, 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** In October St. Thomas and Chichipate were able to celebrate the finalizing of the computer lab project. The project will be open to the public as of January 2017, when students go back to school. St. Thomas is talking about a possible North to South delegation in 2017 or 2018. People in Chichipate are hoping that with the opening of the computer lab, the municipal government will be more willing to support community efforts financially. This support would allow for their projects like the community store and the computer lab to be more sustainable.

**Budget for the Visit:** Approximately \$80

**St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** October 23, 2016

**Next Visit:** December 2016

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities are busy planning for two delegations in 2017 and the committee in TN2 is working hard on reports and proposals for all annual projects supported by St. Joan of Arc. On November 14, the Sister Parish Open Delegation will visit TN2. Sister Parish board members and friends, including three people from St. Joan of Arc, will participate in the Open Delegation and this year's progressive Solidarity Walk with visits to different SP communities in Guatemala and El Salvador.

**Budget for the Visit:** \$18

**San Antonio, Cunen, El Quiche, Guatemala &  
Danville Congregational Church, Danville, CA, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** June 12-13, 2016

**Next Visit:** October 2016

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities are still discussing potential dates for a 2017 delegation. The communities continue to exchange prayers and ideas about potential future joint projects. Both communities are interested in supporting youth and solar energy. San Antonio also continues to hope that one day they will be able to build their own church. The Catholic Community there is currently using a building that is owned by the community of San Antonio and shared with other local groups. The Catholic Community would like to own their own piece of land and a church someday. All of the projects are under discussion, but so far, the Catholic community in San Antonio has preferred to exchange knowledge and dreams for the future without requesting funds from Danville Congregational Church.

**Budget for the Visit:** Approximately \$27

**Guarjila, Chalatenango, El Salvador &  
Wallingford United Methodist Church, Seattle Washington**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** September 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** United Methodist Church of Wallingford and Guarjila, El Salvador continue to hold a very strong and wonderful sistering relationship. In October Guarjila received the formal invitation from Wallingford United Methodist Church for 6 people from the Guarjila community to visit Seattle in September 2017. The community of Guarjila is excited and happily accepted this invitation. Also the Wallingford community has reaffirmed their commitment for

continued support for the scholarship program in 2017. In October the Guarjila community celebrated the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their return from the refugee camps in Honduras to El Salvador. The celebration brings both good and bad memories from the time of the armed conflict and also at the same time highlights the strength of the people of Guarjila and their love for life.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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| <b>San Antonio Los Ranchos, Chalatenango, El Salvador &amp;<br/>First Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minnesota</b> |
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**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** September 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** First Lutheran Church of Duluth and Los Ranchos strengthened their relationship with their recent South to North delegation that took place from September 27 to October 6. The delegation helped the linkage reach another important goal. The delegation helped to show once again the love and friendship that have marked this relationship for so many years. The delegation has brought new life to the relationship and has reenergized both communities. During the delegation, the delegates had the opportunity to participate in worship, share music with the church pre-school class, learn about social justice work in Duluth, and bond with committee members. The group also had the chance to talk about the future of the relationship and some possible next steps in terms of communication, education in the North about immigration, and potential projects in Los Ranchos.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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| <b>Potreros, Nombre de Jesús, Chalatenango, El Salvador &amp;<br/>First United Methodist Church Decorah, Decorah, Iowa</b> |
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**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** July 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** United Methodist Church of Decorah, Iowa and Potrerillos continue to have a very strong relationship. Access to new technologies in both in the northern community and the southern community has facilitated more frequent communication, allowing the members of the two communities to stand together and accompany each other sharing their love for one another through prayers and greetings over WhatsApp and Facebook.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

**San José La Montaña, Chalatenango, El Salvador &  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Newtown, Connecticut**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** October 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2017

**Status of the Relationship:** Trinity Episcopal Church was pleased to receive three delegates from San Jose la Montaña for their first South to North from October 21 to October 30. Since it was the first time San José la Montaña was able to send people to visit their sistering community in the U.S., it was very special. The members at Trinity Episcopal Church shared the beauty of their congregation and community and the delegates got to see lots of Halloween traditions and decorations. The two communities were also able to renew and discuss their future commitments during the delegation visit.

**Budget for Visit:** \$12

**ACOMUJERZA, Zaragoza, La Libertad, El Salvador &  
People of Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** October 2016

**Next Visit:** January 2107

**Status of the Relationship:** People of Hope and ACOMUJERZA hold a very strong, energetic and loving relationship. The Prayer Partners program has been very successful at raising awareness of the importance of relationships in both communities. The program has made more people want to listen and learn more about the Sister Parish relationship.

**Budget for Visit:** \$0

**CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Meeting Date:** October 29

**Next Meeting Date:** January – February 2017

**Meeting Notes:** On October 29 CCR held their annual general assembly meeting that took place in Chalatenango City. The meeting included reports on the work carried out this year. The reports were presented to all 113 representatives of the communities where the CCR has a presence. During the assembly, elections for the new Board took were held. The new elected board will take office and start work in January 2017. Congratulations to the new CCR Board of representatives.

**Budget for Visit:** N/A