



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT**  
**July / August 2018**

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Brian “Alejandro” Tyler

**Last Visit:** April 8, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** San Andres and the scholarship students of Chay Balam are entering into the final stretch of the 2018 school year. The scholarship students send letters of thanks to their northern sponsors and hope to have the opportunity to meet them in Guatemala on a future North to South delegation. San Andres is also assisting in the relief efforts for the victims of the Fuego (Fire) Volcano eruption in June.

**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:** July 30, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Tierra Nueva I continues to help in relief efforts for the victims of the June Fuego Volcano eruption on the southwest coast of Guatemala. The community has been supporting victims’ families monetarily and emotionally. Members of the St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in TNI have visited victims more than 5 times since the eruption. Faith Lutheran has also played an important role in supporting relief efforts as well. TN I has discussed the possibilities of visiting the relief effort sites when delegates from Faith Lutheran visit Guatemala in 2019.

**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:** July 30, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** [UPAVIM hosted a group from the ACOMUJERZA cooperative in El Salvador](#) – the cooperative is also a member of Sister Parish and is linked with People of Hope in Rochester, MN. The visit was a powerful one for both cooperatives. UPAVIM is looking forward to sending its representatives to El Salvador for the Sister Parish Southern Encounter in November. The community of La Esperanza continues to ask the wider Sister Parish community to keep all the women and their families in their prayers.

**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 14-23, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** July was filled with smiling faces as [six St. Francis delegates visited Las Margaritas II](#). The North to South delegation coincided with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the relationship between Las Margaritas II and St. Francis. There was a wide variety of activities planned during the delegation, such as participating in women’s tea time, making slime, popping popcorn, roasting s’mores, and gathering for a retreat at the beautiful Laguna Lachua. The delegation was a powerful time to re-connect and grow in our faith.

**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:** May, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** St. Thomas is hard at work with fundraising and raising awareness in its church on issues that affect their sisters and brothers in Chichipate. Chichipate is also preparing to have a round of interviews to highlight certain topics that St. Thomas will present to its congregation. St. Thomas is also featuring a monthly “Sister Parish Connection” article in the church newsletter. The June issue featured a [report-back on the Guatemala-style breakfast](#) organized for the Sunday school children and the September issue featured [a reflection by recent delegate Caroline Hewitt](#). Chichipate and St. Thomas are very excited about the new prospects that await their linkage.

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

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Tierra Nueva II, Guatemala  
& St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN, USA**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** Delegation August 10-20, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Tierra Nueva II and St Joan of Arc were both thrilled to participate in the August North to South delegation. Nine members of St Joan of Arc visited Tierra Nueva II with a full agenda for their two weekends there. Delegates met with the women's group, the youth group, the scholarship students, the Bible study group, the committee, and even participated in aerobics classes. The delegates also visited scholarship students' homes and found this to be an incredible powerful way to get to know the students better. Between the two weekends, the group visited Lake Atitlan with two people from TN2. At the end of the last mass of the delegation, [youth delegate Daniluz gave a beautiful speech](#) about what the experience meant to her.

**Budget for the Visit:** \$28

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Carrie Stengel

**Last Visit:** April delegation in 2017

**Next Visit:** Suspended temporarily because of local conditions

**Status of the Relationship:** The two communities continue to explore ways to stay connected while visits are suspended. DCC will be hosting [a speaker](#) in the fall that will talk about her work at the Richmond Community Foundation to ensure economic opportunities in Contra Costa. The DCC Sister Parish committee has enjoyed linking the local and the global whenever possible. DCC's annual report will also feature a story about a young woman from San Antonio who received a full scholarship to finish high school and is currently taking the university entrance exams. We ask the wider community to join us in prayers that she find a way to go to college next year.

**Budget for the Visit:** \$40

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** July 6-9, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Wallingford United Methodist Church and its sister Parish committee have confirmed their planning for a February 2019 North to South delegation. Soon Wallingford committee members will meet with potential delegates. The Sister Parish committee in Guarjila is happy about the news and hopes that the process of recruiting delegates in Wallingford goes well.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

**San Antonio Los Ranchos, Chalatenango, El Salvador &  
First Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minnesota**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** July 6-9, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** The students in the scholarship program supported by First Lutheran Church are preparing letters and news from the community to send to the community of Duluth. Also, in August, Los Ranchos celebrated the annual corn festival. They ask for prayers for abundant crops for the farmers this year.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

**Potreriillos, Nombre de Jesús, Chalatenango, El Salvador &  
First United Methodist Church Decorah, Decorah, Iowa**

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** July 6-9, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Communication has been challenging recently, but both communities remain very committed to their partnership. The committee in Potrerillos will keep the church in Decorah in their prayers during this time of transition for their leadership. Potrerillos asks for prayers for everyone in their community, but especially for the long term member of the community and of Sister Parish, Marta de Monge, who has been diagnosed with cancer again.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** July 6-9, 2018

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** San Jose La Montaña and Trinity are pleased that the scholarship and education project is moving forward. This will be the linkage's first joint project. Trinity has approved the project and sent the funds, so the committee in San Jose La Montaña should be able to disburse the scholarships soon. The two communities believe this will help to strengthen the relationship that they have.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** August 1-5 travel to Guatemala for exchange with UPAVIM

**Next Visit:** September 2018

**Status of the Relationship:** Members of [ACOMUJERZA traveled to Guatemala](#) in August for an exchange with the UPAVIM cooperative. Both cooperatives are members of Sister Parish and decided to plan this exchange in order to learn best practices from each other and find ways to grow their cooperatives. ACOMUJERZA's partner congregation, People of Hope, provided financial support for the exchange as part of their commitment to strengthen the relationship.

**Budget for Visit:** \$0

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| <b>CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador</b> |
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**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Meeting Date:** N/A

**Next Meeting Date:** N/A

**Meeting Notes:** No meeting to report for Jan-Feb.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15