



**SISTER PARISH BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT  
November/ December 2018**

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

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

**Last Visit:** October 14, 2018

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:**

San Andres and Christ Episcopal are beginning a new chapter in the scholarship program. Last year 17 students graduated meaning that 17 students will be replaced with new scholarship students this year. Both communities are very proud of the scholarship program and go to great lengths to strengthen it every year. Hopefully in 2019, both communities can begin to plan for the next delegation. San Andres continues to think of ways to broaden their reach and involve new members. Next year will be very important for both communities as they redefine their identity as a linkage.

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

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

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

**Last Visit:** October 1, 2018

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:**

Tierra Nueva I have been busy helping out with relief efforts responding to the volcano eruption earlier this year. Tierra Nueva I has done a great job keeping Faith + Journey Lutheran Church informed of their efforts, as well as the work of other communities in Guatemala that are supporting the victims. Tierra Nueva I hopes to be able to share their experiences with their brothers and sisters from the north during the 2019 delegation planned for June. November was a pivotal month for the youth in the community with the vacation Bible school, which has been a great success so far. The community sends many thanks to those at Faith + Journey Lutheran Church that continue to support this program. Faith + Journey continues to recruit new members to come to Guatemala to share an experience of solidarity with Tierra Nueva I.

**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:** November 5, 2018

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:**

UPAVIM has experienced yet another death of a community member near the UPAVIM building. We ask that you share your prayers with this community during this difficult time. The community of UPAVIM continues to be an inspiration to others with their example of how to conquer fears and uncertainty in times of adversity. First United Methodist Church continues to be a pillar of support and solidarity for UPAVIM. For the coming year, First United hopes to plan a delegation to Guatemala. Although the delegation is not confirmed, both communities are excited about the possibility of expanding their long-standing relationship.

**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:** November 7, 2018

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:**

Las Margaritas II continues to work on the construction of their new church. The church is a testimony to the strength of the community and the will of the people. St. Francis is very proud of the progress on this project and continues to support LM2 with their prayers. St. Francis is dedicated to planning a 2019 delegation to visit their brothers and sisters once again in Guatemala. The hopes of the future delegation are to expand the reach of the linkage to others in the community outside of the Catholic Church. Both communities are in an exciting stage for growth this year.

**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:** November 8, 2018

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:**

Chichipate's computer lab continues to assist many of the youth in the community in meeting their academic requirements for graduation. The community is very grateful for the opportunity to share their vision of development with St. Thomas Lutheran Church. St. Thomas Lutheran Church is excited to be able to assist Chichipate in reaching the academic goals set for the youth. Chichipate had the pleasure of sharing

their experiences and ideas with their neighbors and other Sister Parish members in El Salvador during the Southern Encounter in December 2018. If you would like to see what participants did please visit, [our blog](#) at sisterparish.org.

**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:** December 2, 2018

**Next Visit:** January or February 2019

**Status of the Relationship:**

The two communities are starting to work on the upcoming South to North delegation. Tierra Nueva II is currently selecting the delegates that will apply for a visa and we ask for prayers that their visas are granted. St Joan of Arc and TN2 are also exploring new ways to organize their annual craft project. The pen pal project originally started with grade school students may expand to include adolescents.

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

**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:** Danville Congregational Church will be sending Christmas cards and student care packages to San Antonio in January. The two communities are exploring alternative delegation options for 2019. Members of the two communities may potentially meet in Antigua for a few days to strengthen that personal connection while delegations are suspended.

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

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** December 2018

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:** The Wallingford community is going through a difficult time; some members of their community are facing long-term illnesses and others have recently lost family members. The committee members of Guarjila have shown their friendship and solidarity to their friends in Seattle through messages and calls via Messenger. December was a very busy month in Guarjila. The community board elections were held at the beginning of the month, and the community also marked the

anniversary of John Cortina's death with a vigil on December 8. That same weekend, Guarjila hosted the Sister Parish Southern Encounter with participants from all of the Sister Parish communities who had the opportunity to participate in the vigil, among other activities.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** November

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:** Both communities are grieving after the passing of Marcela Murcia who had a stroke a few months ago, was hospitalized, and eventually passed away on December 9. Marcela had recently visited Duluth during the 2016 South to North delegation. The community of Duluth sends their love, solidarity and prays for Marcela's family and the community of Los Ranchos. Marcela was a pillar of the community, helping with important community work and passing on historical memory for the community. There are also joys to share from Los Ranchos - Patricia Escobar, a member of the Sister Parish committee, had her baby at the beginning of December. The community in Duluth shares in her happiness.

**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:** December

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:** The community of Decorah is in a discernment process to reflect on the future of their linkage. The committee members are committed to the relationship, but have had trouble finding time to meet with everyone's busy schedules. In Potrerillos, members of the Sister Parish committee continue to face health problems. This will be a key year for the relationship moving forward. We continue to ask for your prayers for the communities of Decorah and Potrerillos.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

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

**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** November

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:** On December 9, the SJM committee shared the sad news of the passing of Alfredo Alejandro Guardado, a long-term member of the Sister Parish committee and active community member. Trinity members expressed their condolences, prayers and solidarity with the family of Alejandro and the whole community. Also in December two members of the SJM committee (Miriam and Rogelio) participated in the Sister Parish Southern Encounter meeting held in Guarjila and Los Ranchos.

**Budget for Visit:** \$15

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACOMUJERZA, Zaragoza, La Libertad, El Salvador &amp; People of Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota</b></p>
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**Sister Parish Coordinator:** Julieta Borja

**Last Visit:** December

**Next Visit:** January 2019

**Status of the Relationship:** ACOMUJERZA and People of Hope had their last Skype call of the year on December 15. For this call, both committees shared news and spiritual reflections focused on Advent and Christmas Eve. The group also shared Christmas carols and special prayers for people who are facing illnesses in both of the communities. On December 30, ACOMUJERZA shared the sad news about the passing of Maria Paula Perez, a long-term member of the cooperative and an active member of the Sister Parish committee. POH community members sent their condolences, love and solidarity to Paulita's family and the members of the cooperative.

**Budget for Visit:** \$0

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CCR and CRIPDES, El Salvador</b></p>
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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