



JOINT CD NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter of the Companion Diocese and missional relationships with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic: the Dioceses of Georgia, Southeast Florida, Southwest Florida, Western Louisiana, South Carolina, Central Gulf Coast, East Carolina, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Quincy, Southern Virginia, Virginia, and others.

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(Editor's note: This Joint CD Newsletter starts with summary of Bishop Holguín's address to the Northwest Texas Diocesan Convention on October 8th. With already strong interest in a companion relationship with the DR, the NWTX Diocesan Convention responded with a standing ovation and unanimous approval of a companion relationship. Bishop Holguín's comments at the convention are indicative of why the DR Church is growing so dynamically – the work of the Spirit and the involvement of many in the mission of the Church in the double-pronged ministry of evangelization and service.)

The Dynamic of a Missionary Church



As you know, the Dominican Republic is a country of the Caribbean with a population of 9.5 million inhabitants, of which half live in poverty or extreme poverty. It is in this context that the Episcopal Church has been developing its ministry since its foundation in 1897. We define ourselves as a **missionary church** with a great **passion for mission**. We focus our mission in two fundamental areas: evangelization and service.

Evangelization. We believe that the reason for being of the Church has been and ought to continue being evangelization. In our context congregations have Bible study and prayer group programs in homes or in churches. We form and train lay leaders so that they can be entrusted with this type of ministry, supervised by the clergy.

The Diocese has its own seminary, the Center for Theological Studies, where clergy from our diocese, and from other dioceses of Latin America, are prepared for the priesthood, for permanent deacons, and for lay person's ministries.

During the past 20 years the diocese has undergone an expansion from 22 congregations to 70. Many of them began in the celebration of Holy Eucharist, Bible studies and prayer groups in the homes of new members. In the Diocese we have organizations that support mission such as Cursillo, the Daughters of the King, Episcopal Church Women, Episcopal Youth, Happenings, Episcopal Men, etc.

For us in the DR, the basic part of evangelization is to explain why we are Christians and faithful followers of Jesus. We try to explain what most attracts us to the Christian faith, and why our life now is different because of our faith. We understand that to



evangelize is to share something precious that fills us with satisfaction and joy. We encourage each other to invite people, friends, and others we know, to draw near in faith and become a part of the Episcopal Church.



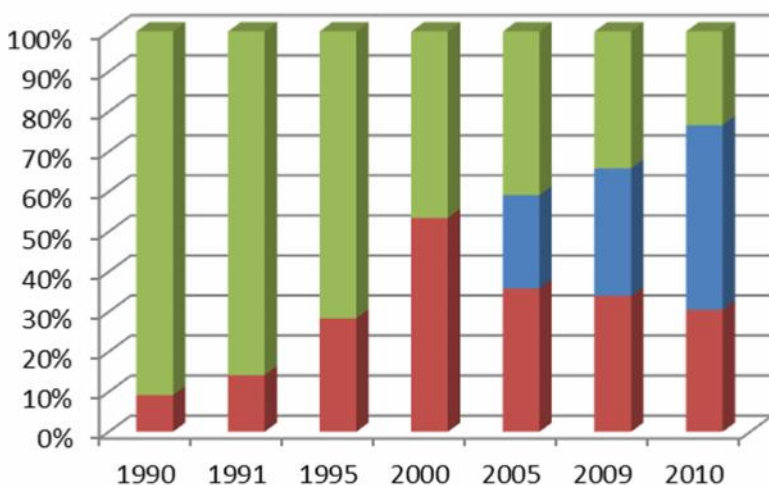
Service. One puts their faith in practice through service. It is not sufficient only to evangelize. Service is the proof of faith and of the love of one’s neighbor. As a dove needs two wings to be able to fly, the Church needs to proclaim the Gospel (the evangel) of Christ, and at the same time, it must put in practice its “diaconship,” the service of the most needy. Here the Dominican Episcopal Church has developed its “diaconal” ministry through 25 schools, three health clinics, five nutritional centers for children, a home for the elderly, a microloan program for poor women who want to start small businesses. We also provide assistance to victims of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and other calamities through the donation of clothes, food, construction materials and the repair of damaged homes. (We receive support in these diaconal ministries through

support from friends abroad.) Annually we receive some 50 work groups from the United States who help in construction, medical clinics, and other tasks so social ministry.

As we know, love is the New Testament’s theme of eternal abundance. In the New Testament we learn that God loves us with words and with deeds for he gave us his son Jesus Christ. We put our faith in Him, proclaim his message of love, and in his name serve people in need. All we do we do is through love, and it is with love that we are paid. – *Julio Holguín*

The DR Endowment – another glance at Diocesan Support

Bishop Holguín is an entrepreneur out to build the Church. From that perspective and over the last few years the Dominican Church and the Dominican Development Group have worked in tandem to create an Endowment for the Church thus providing an economic basis to sustain the Church into the future. On the DR front, there is always the desire to be financially self-sustaining within the broader companionship of the wider Episcopal Church. Furthermore, there is concern that the financial struggles of the American Episcopal Church put in jeopardy its longer-term support of the overseas diocese. To that end the DR and the DDG have worked together to build the DR Endowment. In the last few years Bishop Holguín has drawn down to the DR some funds invested by the Episcopal Church Center for the DR Diocese.



Financial Self-sustainability Dominican Episcopal Church
 tec foca iglepidom

Adding to the DR Endowment Bishop Holguín has sold the diocesan-owned bishop’s residence, and with the earnings has purchased a new bishop’s residence and put some \$400,000 into the DR Endowment. This was possible because the \$35,000 residence purchased in 1965 by the American missionary bishop sold for \$1,000,000 in 2009. (It just happened to be located in the most exclusive neighborhood in the Dominican Republic.) Additionally, in a major fund raising effort over the last couple years, the Dominican Development Group has raised some \$1.9 million towards the DR Endowment. For 2010 the combined earnings on these funds invested in the DR are in the neighborhood of 15%. By diocesan regulation a minimum of 20% of the earnings must be back into the endowment to continue building its corpus.

Thusly, the Dominican Episcopal Church and the DDG, in cooperation for the good of the Diocese, have built a significant Endowment that contributes a substantial portion to diocesan needs allowing the Church to continues its multiple mission and ministry in the DR. In the chart, diocesan support is divided into green (tec) for support that comes from The Episcopal Church, red for the Endowment (foca); and green for all local sources of financial support for the Dominican Episcopal Church (iglepidom) including pledges & offerings, apportionments from schools, other investments etc.

Although major progress has been made much work remains to be done. Inquiries about, and contributions toward, the

DR Endowment are gratefully received by the DDG at the numbers listed at the end of the Newsletter.



Fire Truck. A fire truck donated by John Armbruster of All Saints Episcopal Church, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina was finally delivered to the fire department of the little village/barrio of Juma, which is actually an outlying urbanized area of the city of Bonao, where we have the established congregation, San Juan Bautista. San Juan Bautista has its own church building and multi-use hall near the center of town, and is a hub for newer missions and home bible studies in its immediate area.

Bishop Holguín made the hour drive up from Santo Domingo on August 21 for the official dedication of the fire truck and the turning over of the keys to the fire chief.

The members of the Juma fire department were so delighted with the donation of the fire truck that the entire fire department became Episcopalians. Furthermore, they donated a small tract of land in Juma to the Episcopal Church so that the diocese can build a chapel there. On August 21 Bishop Holguín celebrated the Eucharist in the street in front of the fire department and symbolically handed over the keys to the fire chief. Note that the shield of the Dominican Episcopal Church is prominently displayed on the side of the cowling of the fire truck.

The Fire Chief from Bishop Holguín's home town of San Francisco de Macorís attended the ceremony. When it was over he spoke with Bishop Holguín privately they needed a hook and ladder truck and an ambulance. Are there any out there?

Ten Top Reasons to do Mission Work with the Dominican Episcopal Church

(Put forward by David Morrow, President of the Dominican Development Group)

1. A dynamic growing Diocese of over 8000 members.
2. The diocesan schools have over 5000 students.
3. The Diocese dedicates two to three new churches each year.
4. The Diocese provides general health and dental care to several hundred people each year.
5. The Diocese typically hosts 50-60 mission teams each year from USA, including medical, construction, and VBS teams.
6. The Diocese feeds several hundred poor children each day.
7. The Diocese has a strong team of dedicated missionaries in the DR to assist and coordinate teams as well as perform some of the work of the diocese.
8. The average annual income in the DR is \$8100 compared to \$48,000 in the USA.
9. Dominicans are a wonderful, loving people.
10. Presidente.



Order of St. Aelred. This fall, four persons from the Society of St. Aelred and members of St. Paul the Apostle in Savannah, and their priest William Willoughby, traveled to the DR to lead a weeklong workshop on sacred music at the DR Seminary, the Center for Theological Studies. Their purpose was to teach clergy and lay persons to sing traditional Gregorian and Ambrosian Anglican hymns, and the Eucharist Prayer including the salutations, collects, the creed, and the Lord's Prayer. This trip grew out of Bishop Holguín's visit to St. Paul's the Sunday after the consecration of Bishop Benhase in January of this year.

From the DR the group wanted to take back with them to Savannah sacred music for Hispanics that they could use in Hispanic mission in there. As part of their relationship with the Dominican Episcopal Church the group from the Society of St. Aelred presented a check of \$1700 to help with needs at the Hogar, the diocesan home for the elderly. Furthermore, and in response to Bishop Holguín's request in the August Joint CD Newsletter, they brought 14 chalices and patens for use in several of the newer missions.

Other notes. On September 15-16 the **Episcopal Church Women** met in retreat at Camp Monte de la Transfiguración in Jarabacoa. They met to consolidate their beliefs, strengthen their faith, and experience the spiritual growth that comes at such retreats. Coordinator Mayra Brown called for a unification that would lead to greater growth and that all the women be faithful witnesses of their Christian faith. This year the women raised more than RD\$90,000 (pesos) in the UTO collection.



The Hogar. In October children from San José Episcopal School, across the street from the Bishop Isaac Home for the Elderly, visited residents at the Hogar. Each class made a presentation and the residents loved it. The Hogar is the first Diocese's first Home for the Elderly, and one of the few in the country. This fall too the Hogar has received two donations: one that will help finish the third floor so as to have space for more residents, and one for medications.

Scholarships. For the 2010-11 academic year the diocese is raising scholarships for children in need. Three hundred dollars a year provides a partial scholarship for a child in an Episcopal School. This is a partial scholarship for experience has taught us that parents must make an investment in their child's education in order for a student to make satisfactory progress. Given current economic conditions Scholarship Program coordinator Bob Snow says scholarships are urgently needed. You may contact Bob directly at bobsnow_2005@yahoo.com. Scholarship contributions are tax deductible if they are sent through the DDG. Make the check out to the Dominican Development Group, noting the contribution is for a scholarship, designating the school if desired.

A mission note. Bishop Catherine Roskam, speaking at the annual GEMN/EPGM Mission Educational Institute, said that "**Anyone can and everyone should** be involved in mission." As to what parishes receive from being involved in mission she says they "have been revitalized." Reflecting on those directly involved in the mission partnerships she says, "Rather than thinking of ourselves as the dispensers of good things, we have come to believe that we have gotten the better part of the deal."

FORMAL COMPANION DIOCESE COMMITTEE CONTACTS

(Although many dioceses send mission teams to serve God through the Dominican Episcopal Church, six are formal Companion Diocese. Although the Dioceses of Nebraska, Quincy, Southeastern Virginia and Virginia are not formal companion dioceses they are major companions with the DR.)

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