

**REPORT OF THE BISHOP JULIO C. HOLGUIN IN THE DDG MEETING,  
HELD IN THE DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN ON 27 OCTOBER OF 2014.**

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (I Corinthians 13:13) "...Because God is love."  
(I John 4:8).*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today as always is good and pleasant to be together, to follow up on our commitment to support and accompany the process of the work that the Episcopal Church takes place in the Dominican Republic.

We are pleased to meet in the companion Diocese of Michigan, where we have had the opportunity to share in its Convention No. 180, and some of us have visited several parishes and have preached the word of God on Sunday.

Here I share my report, which picks up several topics related to the Mission of the diocese, since our last meeting in February.

**1. Pastoral Assignments.**

- a) *Rev. Vicente Peña* was assigned as Vicar at "Sagrada Familia" Church in Los Mina, a Barrio in the East of Santo Domingo. He is replacing the Rev. Néstor Hidalgo, who is in New York for a time.
- b) *Rev. Ramón Gil* is assigned in the mission "Santa Maria Llena de Gracia" in Mao, and *Deacon Miguel Kingsley* was sent to the "Cristo Rey" Church, meanwhile *Deacon Lourdes Zaya* has started studies for the priesthood in the CET. *Rev. Canon Juan Marquez*, with collaboration of the Lay Pastoral Leader (LPL) *Leonel Polanco* has temporarily been responsible for churches "San Timoteo", "San Bernabé", "San Matías" and "Santa Marta".

c) *Rev. Juan Antonio Rosario* has decided to accept a call to serve in the Diocese of Newark, from October 29, reason why *Deacon Joaquín de Jesús Lagares* has been assigned to improve transitions into School and San Gabriel vocational School, besides his collaboration with churches "San Gabriel" and "La Gran Comisión". *Rev. Raúl Guailas*, in addition to "El Buen Pastor" vicar, will assume sacramental ministry of those churches.

**2. Dedication and Consecration of temples.** On June 21, we chair the dedication and consecration of "San Miguel" Church, in the community of Doña Ana, which was built with support of the Bishop's missionary Fund and several parishes of the companion's diocese. Also the following week, on June 28 was dedicated and consecrated "San Pablo and San Lucas" Church, in the community of San Isidro, thanks to the financial support of "St. John" parish from the companion diocese of Easter Michigan, whose rector, now elected bishop of the companion diocese of East Carolina, was the Rev. Rob Skirving. Both liturgical rites were attended by faithful and friends who filled both churches. Among them were David Morrow and Bill Kunkle.

**3. Construction in Process.**

a) "San Simon Apóstol", in the community of San Marcos, Puerto Plata is very advanced. It has been a project jointly by parishes of the three companion dioceses of Michigan: Eastern Michigan, West Michigan and Michigan.

b) It has reactivated the Construction at "Los Miche" in Dajabón, "Espíritu Consolador" church. There is an accumulated deficit of near of US\$ 45,000.00, but lately it



has been receiving funds by the DDG to follow-up with electrical installation, doors, windows and other details.

- c) The Retreats and Gatherings Center in "Santana", requires approximately US\$ 40,000.00 for terminations, beds, kitchen equipment and air conditioners.
- d) The first of three buildings, for dormitories of "Bishop Bill Skilton Centre", is expecting for US\$ 75,000 donors for completion.
- e) The "Espíritu Santo" church in Las Carreras continues slowly but steadily.
- f) The Court and playground in Laura Morrow School in Jimaní is building. We should start thinking about building a second level for new classrooms in the school.
- g) The technical-vocational school in Santa Fe initiated with UTO funding, needs about US\$ 30,000, to be able to continue construction.
- h) The Bishop's missionary Fund needs new donations.

**4. Donation Second Mark of the Mission.** As we know, the Missionary Society (TEC), in last General Convention, decided to initiate a process aimed at contributing to the self-sufficiency of the dioceses that make up province IX, by a financial contribution of US\$ 1,000,000 each. The Diocese of the Dominican Republic was chosen to be the first to receive a contribution of US\$ 995,000.00 investment plan was introduced within FOCA package of the diocese. There have been many questions from the Society Treasure Kurt Barnes, relative to the security of the investment and the amount of benefits generates in the DR. The impression is that he doubts that we, certain obtain benefits as high of 13% of average as we have estimated. As we know, 52% of FOCA remains in

shares investments, which generated 17% in 2013. You can see into FOCA report, the benefits generated by the investment in each portfolio, whose arithmetic average is above a 13%.

5. **Election Process of a Coadjutor Bishop.** The last Diocesan Convention approved to initiate the process for the election of a Coadjutor Bishop for the diocese. The Standing Committee has been working in this way. There is already a Committee appointed to follow up on the canonical process. There is the proposal of a calendar that could culminate with the extraordinary Convention for the election, in the month of July of the year 2015.

6. **Next Diocesan Convention.** February 13 thru 15 of 2015, have been scheduled for the celebration of the Diocesan Convention, to be held at San Esteban church in San Pedro de Macorís. At closure is expected to have 7 or 8 people for diaconate and priesthood ordination.

Thank you very much for your attention and May God continue bless you all.

Faithfully in Christ,

The right Rev. Julio Holguín