

Mission Team Office Report  
Dominican Development Group meeting February 2016

The mission team office has been busy this year with coordination of visitors for the convention and consecration, and logistics of those involved. There are expectations of 75 visitors from out of the country, including the Presiding Bishop Curry and 21 other bishops. This has been a monumental event with many "firsts". First visit by a Presiding Bishop to our convention, first consecration by a presiding Bishop, first convention and consecration at the same time, largest number of bishops attending our convention, first time to have a bishop and coadjutor serving at the same time, and oldest serving bishop.

Epiphany Cathedral is in the process of developing an intensive language and cultural immersion course. I was recently involved with hosting 4 professors and 4 seminarians from Virginia Theological Seminary as well as a Canon from SWFL. They attended 3 weeks of classes at the seminary at Epiphany. With the help of an excellent Spanish professor, students received a quality education and benefited from the cultural experiences that included visits to many of our churches around the diocese. We hope to continue to expand and develop this valuable program. As an example of its success, last year a Michigan priest came here for the first time, had language training, and was moved by his experiences. This year wants to share his experiences and has contacted me about bringing a team.

Our successful fall and spring exploratory trips will be bringing many new people with interest in this Diocese. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our churches and programs.

Mission teams scheduled this year include 8 medical, 8 vacation Bible school, and 32 construction teams for a total of 48. Several new teams are waiting to be placed in locations and firm up their dates. Also, on the list are several new teams for next year. Recently a very successful medical eye clinic from Georgia served at Clinica Esperanza and examined over 700 patients and referred 64 for further treatment.

In the plans this year, is a climate change conference sponsored by The Episcopal Church. This conference will bring people from all over the world.

This year the first team was housed in the Luke and Paul Conference Center in Santana Bani. This is a center in the style of Kellogg Center, and the team praised the facility for its location, excellent food and ambiance. Reservations are now being made for the summer teams. This will be a valuable resource for teams serving in the western part of the diocese.

I have asked to prepare the VBS booklet this year. It is in the process of development and should be ready by next month.

I have been approached by several people wishing to come to do short term mission work. It is possible that they will come to translate for teams, work on the church history project, or just be an extra pair of hands in the office. It is my hope to find an American replacement for my position this year. There will need to be a period of several months of training.

The scholarship program has been struggling this year, but it is our hope to increase the amount collected this year. The largest long term success in this program has been the example of Michigan, South Carolina, and Georgia where groups of churches or individuals have adopted schools to support.

Patricia Martin has done a remarkable job in the mission team office. She displays a positive attitude, competent leadership and organizational skills. She is essential to the success of the mission team office. Charlie Nakash continues to work with many teams on construction projects. He has become a more valuable member of the mission team office, and is a resource to priests in completing projects in their churches facilities.

This office now has a direct phone connection with the DDG office and a US phone number which allows that office and team leaders to call to the DR without incurring long distance charges. Our mission office works closely with DDG to promote team programs and Bill Kunkle is invaluable to its success.

This position for me has been one of many blessings. I have come into contact with many wonderful people who come here to serve, and feel privileged to serve in this thriving diocese.

Respectively submitted,

Karen Carroll

Mission Team Coordinator