

DOMINICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP
MEETING IN SANTO DOMINGO, FEBRUARY 13, 2017
REPORT FROM BISHOP JULIO C. HOLGUÍN

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

First of all, receive our greeting and our fraternal welcome to the Dominican Episcopal Church and to this first meeting of the DDG for the year 2017. We are extremely happy to be able to receive you, always very grateful to God, because He has permitted you to be our companions for many years in the mission of Christ that we conduct in this part of the world.

As you know, Bishop Bill Skilton is not with us on this occasion, because he had to undergo surgery on one of his lungs on January 3. Thank God he is recuperating without major difficulties.

At our last meeting in October 2016, in which we enjoyed the magnificent hospitality of our companion Diocese of Southwest Florida, I informed you about the life and ministry of the Diocese up to that date.

GRUPO DE DESARROLLO PROVINCIAL (PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP). As we informed you previously, the Council of Province IX, following the model of the DDG, agreed to the creation of the Provincial Development Group, GDP, under the leadership of Bob Stevens. The objective of the group is to accompany those dioceses in the province that are interested in creating their own Development Group, for the sustainability of the missionary work that they undertake. To this purpose, Bob traveled to Quito, Ecuador, in November to lead a workshop on how to organize a Diocesan Development Group. This was done in the context of the Convention.

From November 28 to December 1, at the invitation of Bishop Lloyd Allen, I accompanied Bob to Honduras to direct two work meetings on that subject, with lay people and members of the clergy, in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. Our next visit is planned for the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral in the month of April where we have been invited by its Bishop, The Right Reverend Alfredo Morante.

BUILDINGS

- A) We give thanks to God because we were able to complete the construction of the first of three dormitory buildings at the Bishop Skilton Center. It was necessary to make a major effort to have it finished and equipped on time in order to provide accommodations for some of the delegates to our Diocesan Convention, February 10 and 11.
- B) God permitting, we hope to finalize this year the construction of the church buildings for the missions of Espíritu Consolador en Dajabón, as well as Espíritu Santo in Las Carreras, Azua, and also San Timoteo in Nizao. We also hope to be able to finish the construction of the Technical School in the community of Santa Fe, San Pedro de Macorís.

C) We have faith and hope that our Lord will provide so that this year we can begin the construction of two new church buildings: the first one for the mission Monte Sión in the Altagracia neighborhood in Boca Chica, and the second for the mission El Santo Nombre, in Catalina, Baní.

FOCA. One of the challenges we face is to achieve the goal of FOCA reaching US\$10,000,000. We hope that with God's help and the DOG we can meet this objective before my retirement as Diocesan Bishop.

TRANSITION AND PLANS FOR MY RETIREMENT. In the month of February 2016, with the Consecration of the Right Reverend Moisés Quezada as Coadjutor Bishop, the Diocese initiated the period of transition that will conclude with my retirement and, at the same time, with the installation of Bishop Quezada as our Diocesan.

According to the Constitution and Church Canons, I could continue as Diocesan until February 2019. However, after considering this in prayer, I have decided to retire November 1, 2017, in the firm belief that under the pastoral leadership of my brother in the Episcopate, the Right Reverend Moisés Quezada, and always under the guidance and strength that the Holy Spirit gives us, he will develop a fruitful ministry in the Dominican Episcopal Church

Many thanks and may God bless you today, tomorrow and always.

