

2018 Mission Opportunities
The Diocese of Southwest Florida

April 19-25 Spring Mission Exploration team

June 16-23 Tampa Deanery Team I

June 23- July 1 Tampa Deanery Team II

June 29-July 8 Tampa Deanery Team III

June 26- July 3 Venice Deanery Team I

July 4- 11 Venice Deanery Team II

July 14- 21 Clearwater Deanery Team

November 8-14 Fall Mission Exploration team

Other mission opportunities are available within our diocese and with other dioceses.
Please Contact:

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Companion Diocese Committee of Southwest Florida

2017 was a busy year for the members of the Companion Diocese Committee who supported programming and participated in numerous mission trips to the Dominican Republic.

The **Tampa Deanery** sent two teams that worked in the D.R. In addition to the continuation of a project begun last year – the building of a new San Timoteo Episcopal Church in Nizao both teams worked at San Matias Church and School in Santana, Bani, where they completed much need repairs, painting, sealing the concrete roof, and building a reinforced concrete wall to protect the school property. The San Timoteo site, when completed, will house the church on the first floor and a children's shelter or "Albergue" on the second floor. Additionally, the land in the rear of the property will be the site of an agricultural cooperative. 2017 marked the 18th consecutive year that churches from the Tampa Deanery have sent team to the Dominican Republic.

-The **Venice Deanery's** mission project was to remodel the small kitchen at the San Andres Episcopal School installing new appliances along with new cabinets, counters, and plumbing fixtures. The team also completed other painting and repair projects at the school. (All electrical, plumbing and other work was done by local workers who were paid for their labor.) 2117 marked the 16th consecutive year of churches from the Venice Deanery providing teams and financial support to the Dominican Episcopal Church.

The **Clearwater Deanery**, working alongside the Venice Deanery, traveled to San Andres Episcopal School in order to remodel the large kitchen. Due to a government mandate that requires all schools public and private to offer 8-hour school days the Dominican Church Schools have to retro fit their kitchens and cafeterias. (You may recall a drive the CDC sponsored to purchase chairs and tables for the cafeterias.) This larger kitchen was provided with commercial grade appliances along with new cabinets, counters, and plumbing fixtures. This year also marks the 16th consecutive year of mission work and support for the Episcopal Church in the D.R.

Once again, the **Cathedral Church of St. Peter** sent a mission team to help with the Vacation Bible School program at the churches of La Anunciación and San Lucas, located in Santiago del Los Caballeros, D.R. Most of The VBS program booklet was created by the Cathedral team based on stories written for this year's theme, the Fourth Mark of Mission: "to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation." The Five Marks of Mission are the mission priorities widely used around the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church. The supplies needed for this program were made possible through donations by members of the Cathedral congregation. This year donations were generous which afforded the opportunity to install a water dispenser and fans in San Lucas' parish hall where VBS is held, as well as having the outside doors refurbished. 2017 marks the 18th consecutive year (13th in Santiago) for teams from St. Peter's to travel to the D.R. in order to support the VBS program.

The **Church of the Redeemer**, Sarasota sent a large youth team to the San Simon church in the community of San Marcos just outside of Puerto Plata on the North Coast. They helped extend, repair, and paint the parameter wall which was damaged last year when heavy rains caused massive flooding in the area. They also worked in the community on various projects and lead a VBS for the children in the community. Additionally, The Church of the Redeemer has reinstated their adult team mission to the DR and plans to send a team this fall to construct the new Iglesia Monte Sion (Mount Zion church) in the Andres community near Boca Chica.

The **ECW for SW Florida** continues to support the educational initiatives for the children in the Dominican Episcopal church schools through the scholarship program. They also support the Santo Tomas children's nutritional and educational programs providing nutritious meals, bible study, tutoring, and computer training to hundreds of children each week.

The **Naples Deanery** has again supported the Albergue Buen Samaritano (Good Samaritan children's shelter) in San Francisco de Marcoris. This program provides vital assistance to the children in this poor community through its quality nutritional and educational programming.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kathy Gilpin