

Meeting of the DDG in the Bishop Holly Center 12/2/2018

Bishop Moisés Quezada Mota's report to the DDG

"Remember this: He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly. He who sows generously will reap generously." 2 Corinthian 9:6

This morning in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I greet you and give a cordial welcome to each and every one of you. I sincerely thank you for the missionary work and support you have given to our Diocese for so many years. As I said in the Convention and I have repeated in other occasions, you have been a great blessing to this church, and I hope that you continue being so now and in the future.

As Diocesan I am learning much about our pastoral and administrative functions, such as knowing to a full extent the resources we have and how we should be careful in the use of these resources. We have appointed a Finance Committee to work together with the FOCA Committee on everything that has to do with the diocesan resources and budget.

We have also appointed Pedro Oliver Santana, a member of our church, who has great experience in administrative areas since he has served in different companies. He took the position held by Digna Valdez after she resigned October 31st of last year. The rest of the staff will continue in their posts.

DUTIES OF THE FINANCE AND FOCA COMMITTEE

The duties of the Finance and FOCA Committee are:

- 1) Reviewing the diocesan budget;
- 2) Creating administrative policy for all missions and institutions, including the Diocesan Office;
- 3) Following this policy through financial supervision and audits;
- 4) Giving the clergy and staff involved in administrative positions professional growth and management courses;
- 5) Continually evaluating the financial situation of the Diocese and creating projects for self-sufficiency;
- 6) Being stewards of the FOCA Fund.

We plan to carry out this process in three years.

MEETINGS WITH CHURCH LEADERS AND THE CLERGY

In our pastoral visits during the course of last year, we had meetings with leaders of the different missions with the goal of knowing first hand their ideas about the church's mission and projects.

We also had meetings with the clergy to listen to possible projects that can be developed in their missions. In these meetings we have shared the situation of the diocese regarding its financial responsibilities as projected in the program for self-sufficiency. We are hopeful that in the coming years the contributions from our missions and institutions exceed 30%, instead of the 20% that they currently contribute to the diocesan budget.

BLESSINGS AND INAUGURATIONS

On the 17th of June, 2017, the School Profesora Laura Morrow in Jimani was blessed in the presence of several clergy and the Morrrows. Also on the 28th of July, 2017, the second stage of construction of the Centro de Conferencias William J. Skilton, which includes a building of rooms for guests, was blessed and inaugurated in Boca Chica. Bishop William J. Skilton and his distinguished family were in attendance at this event. Bishop Julio C. Holguin and I, your servant, were in charge of these blessings.

OUR FOCUS

Our focus is on the self-sufficiency and sustainability of the diocese and its future.

At this time, we have 5 Missions that are self-supporting; the rest of the missions depend in great measure on the diocesan budget. We have moved forward, but we have to continue advancing to achieve the goal we have set for 2021. The FOCA budget covers 59%, 11% comes from other sources the diocese has, and 20% comes from missions and institutions. We know our schools are in crisis, the clinic is supported by the few funds that it generates, and the missions are weak in their stewardship. At the same time, we have continued with our policy of salary increases of 5%, the pension premium is higher because of the number of priests we have and will have in the future, our labor commitments have expanded, and the TEC fee also increased this year. However, I must make clear that this situation doesn't mean in any way that we are in danger of not being able to meet our financial responsibilities, but we have to foresee and search for new ways to make our self-sufficiency more effective and long lasting.

MEETINGS OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

We have attended several meetings, out of the country, dealing with this subject. The last meeting we attended was in Ecuador. We met with the treasurer of The Episcopal Church (TEC) to evaluate the process that the Dioceses of the Dominican Republic, Central Ecuador and Honduras are carrying out until 2021. We were informed that the General Convention could change the programmed decision regarding the funds that we have to receive from now until 2021. We have talked with the treasurer of TEC to ensure that the agreement we have can continue, and we can receive what is promised in the agreement. The plan is for us to receive US\$100,000 this year, US\$50,000 in 2019, and US\$50,000 dollars in 2020. We also must receive US\$100,000 for our self-sufficiency investment. We hope that there will be no changes in this plan and that we can receive the funds needed in our budget.

PROGRAMS FOR LAY PEOPLE

As part of this vision we will work to strengthen our missions. Thus we have created the Congregational Development Committee which will form the CENTERS FOR PASTORAL AND MISSIONARY DEVELOPMENT, one in Santiago for the North and another in Santa Ana, Baní, for the South. These centers will train people in pastoral ministry and evangelization. We will continue with the program for Lay in San Pedro de Macorís and in Santo Domingo and soon we will start in the South. We have other plans that aim to develop our missions and help their growth.

OUR GOAL:

Our goal is:

- 1) That four more missions be self-sufficient, in addition to those we currently have
- 2) To achieve new projects of local self-sufficiency, such as:
 - a) Build in the future a medical specialties center in San Pedro de Macorís on the land we have next to the vicarage.
 - b) Create a Retreat Center in Santo Domingo, directed by Cursillo leaders, to serve institutions and churches.
 - c) Build a building where Ovejita is in Epiphany for office rental
 - d) Build a building in the San Lucas Church in Santiago for multiple uses
 - e) Repair and refurbish the house that is across from the Cristo Rey Church so that the school can sustain itself
 - f) Make our schools attractive and competitive.

As part of these projects we have created the Junta de los Centros de Conferencias and the Campamento de Jarabacoa so that they can be utilized for commercial purposes and offer their services to the public and the churches.

Develop other projects aimed towards achieving local and diocesan self-sufficiency.

One of our projects is to appoint a committee to create the Episcopal Administrative and Technological University. This is a long-range plan towards Higher Education in the country.

CONTINUING WITH THE LIST OF PRIORITIES

We will continue with a list of priorities, reviewing it periodically.

We have asked Bill to help us with the request of a grant from the United Thank Offering for the building of the temple of Boca de Cachón en Jimani.

Among the priorities are:

- To build two classrooms in La Encarnación School en La Romana
- Finish the second floor of Prof. Laura Morrow School en Jimani. This is currently in progress.
- Finish the Espíritu Santo Church. This is also in progress.
- Build the Monte de Sión Church in Boca Chica. In progress.
- Buy land for La Gracia Church in Boca Chica
- Finish the Temple in Nizao in Bani
- Reassess the project of the Technical School in Santa Fe
- Future construction of more rooms, especially for couples, in the Campamento de Jarabacoa and in San Pedro de Macorís
- Purchase the adjacent lot and construction of the temple in Pizarrete
- Purchase land and construction of a temple in Dajabon

We have talked with Bill Kunkle so that all projects be channeled directly through the Diocesan Office in order to prevent duplication of priorities. We hope to continue working together so that our Church can fulfill its social and evangelistic mission. God bless each of you.

Thank you very much.

Faithfully in Christ

The Right Reverend Bishop Moisés Quezada Mota

Diocesan Bishop