



# JOINT CD NEWSLETTER

**A Newsletter of the Companion Diocese and missional relationships with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic: the Dioceses of Georgia, Southeast Florida, Southwest Florida, Western Louisiana, South Carolina, Central Gulf Coast, East Carolina, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Quincy, Southern Virginia, Virginia, and others.**

**August 2010 - Volume XXIV**

*(Editor's note: I take a little different tact with this issue of the Joint CD Newsletter. In addition to the general update, I use graphic descriptors to focus on the DR Diocese's impressive progress towards financial self-sufficiency. You who have been on mission teams to the DR have experienced that dynamic where you have worked. The graphics below show how it spans the whole diocese. Even in this time of world-wide economic recession the Dominican Episcopal Church continues to make significant progress.)*

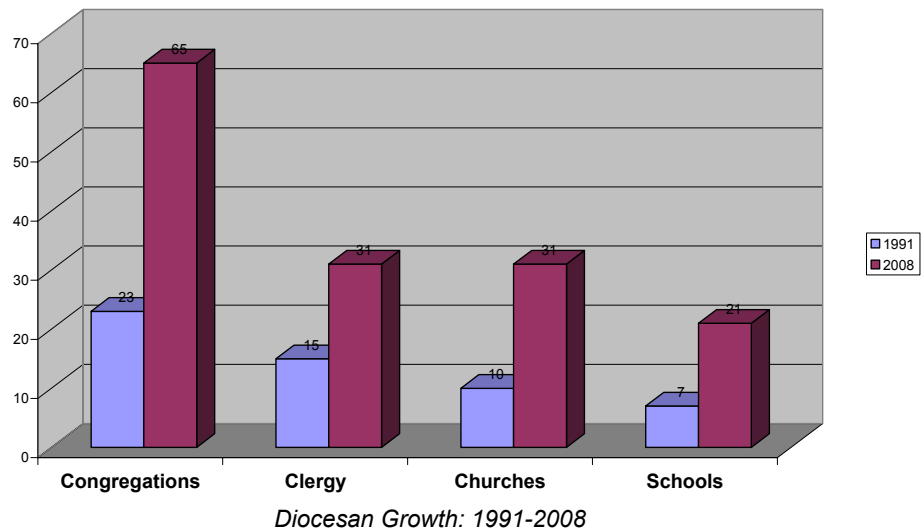
## Financial Self-sufficiency of the Dominican Episcopal Church

Bishop Julio Holguín has prepared the following pie charts that very graphically illustrate the DR Church's continuing growth toward financial self-sufficiency. Additionally, the adjacent graphic depicts the physical growth of the Dominican Church between 1991 and 2008 when the congregations grew from 23 to 65, the number of clergy from 15 to 31, churches from 10 to 31, and schools from 7 to 21. What a privilege to be involved with such a dynamic Church.

The Dominican Episcopal Church was born in 1898 as a mission of the Diocese of Haiti, and continued alternating under the jurisdiction of the bishops of Haiti and Puerto Rico until 1960. In 1960

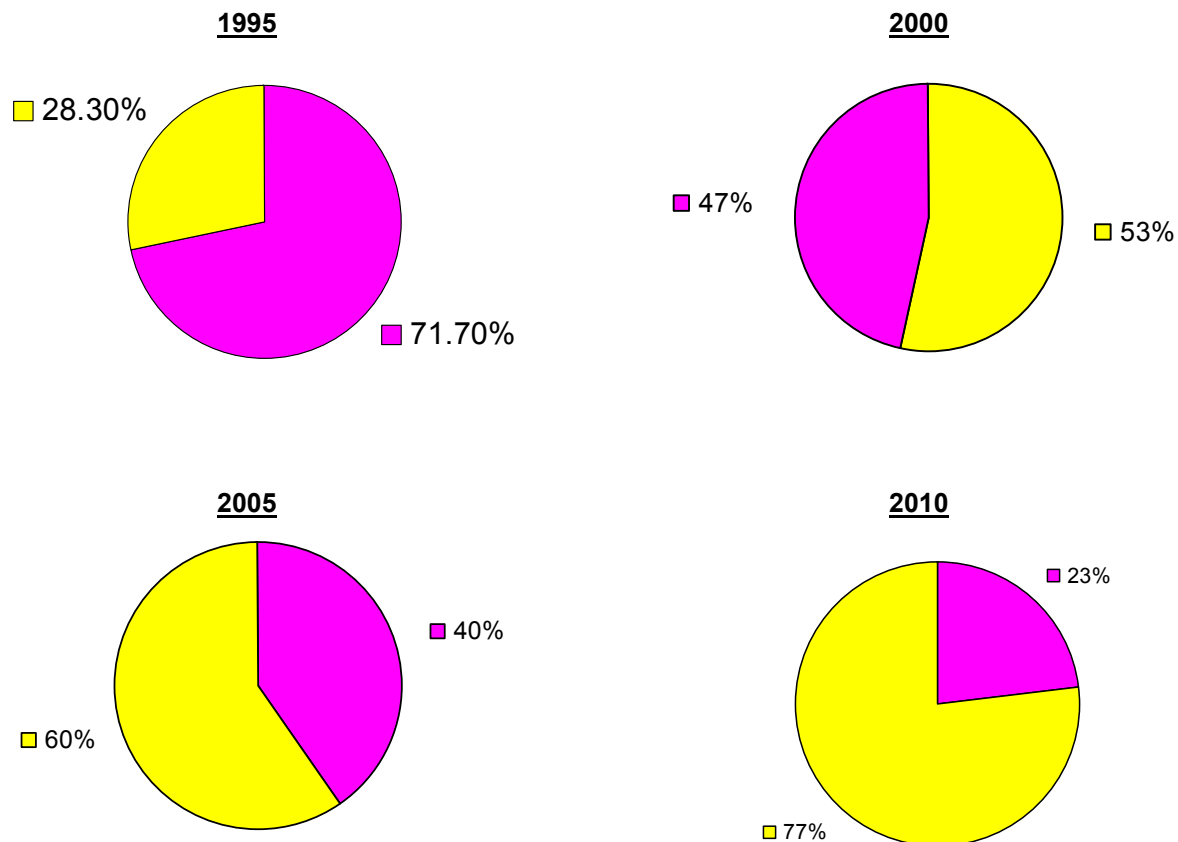
Bishop Paul Kellogg was consecrated Bishop of the missionary Diocese of the Dominican Republic. He served until 1972 when Telésforo Isaac was consecrated bishop. Bishop Isaac served until 1991 when the Rev. Julio Holguín, the third bishop of the Dominican Episcopal Church, was consecrated.

The Episcopal Church (TEC) has financially supported the Dominican Episcopal Church since early it came under its jurisdiction in 1913. In 1991 84% of the diocesan budget, which includes the salaries of the bishop and all the clergy, the operation of the schools, expenses of the diocesan office, and other mission expenses, came from TEC, and 16% from local sources. In 1991 that 16% local support came principally from pledges, and from a few investments. Fast forward



to 2010 and the numbers have been completely reversed with 77% of the diocesan budget coming from local sources. Such local sources now include parishioners' pledges, apportionments from the 24 Episcopal Schools, and various investments, including the DR Endowment.

At five year intervals, pie charts below depict the Dominican Episcopal Church's steady growth from 71.7% financial dependence on TEC in 1995 to 23% dependence in 2010. TEC's contribution to the support of the Dominican Episcopal Church has remained approximately the same while the Diocesan budget, in dollars, has increased threefold. The charts below speak for themselves and represent a dedicated and arduous effort on the part of the DR Diocese to move towards financial self-sufficiency. In the charts, funds from local sources are shown in yellow and from TEC in fuchsia.



### Daughters of the King

Another area of expansive growth in the Dominican Church is the increase in membership and the number of chapters of the DR Daughters of the King (las "Hijas del Rey"). Bishop Skilton reports that he is impressed with the numbers of women joining the Daughters of the King. There are now 15 DOK chapters in the DR, two others are in formation as is a Junior DOK chapter. Between last month and this he has installed 21 new members from San Lucas in Santiago, Jesús Nazareno in San Francisco de Macoris, and San Matías in Santana, Baní.

### New Clergy Assignments

Part of this dynamic growth comes from strategic assignment of the Dominican clergy. Bishop Holguín is a master at this, and every summer he assigns new clergy to congregations, and reassigns some of the other clergy so as to cover all the basis of the diocese. His being able to do this is possible because all congregations in the Diocese are canonically missions and thus their clergy are the bishop's vicars assigned by and responsible to him. This year there was a larger than normal number of moves due to the fact that two senior clergy (the Revs. Margarita Santana and Ramón Ubiera) are leaving the diocese, the Rev. Adolfo Moronta will study abroad for 2 years towards his Masters in Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary, and other clergy needed to be strategically moved. (The Rev. Milton Amparo will replace the Rev. Margarita Santana on the Board of the Dominican Development Group.) Since many of our readers have close ties to the clergy they have worked with on mission teams I list all moves effective August 1, 2010.

This year's moves there are the following. Their locations are noted by their principal assignments, most have at least one other mission, and many are also rectors of the related school. In the table below priests are indicated as R.P. for Rev. Presbyter and deacons by R.D. for Rev. Deacon (whether transitional or permanent).

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
R.P. Jusús Mosquea	San Pablo Apóstol, Jamaní	San Jorge & La Reconciliación, Azua
R.P. Nephtaly Desir	Jesús Peregrino & La Redención, Barahona	San Pablo Apóstol, Jamaní
R.D. Alfredo Romero		Jesús Peregrino, La Redención, Barahona
R.P. Alvero Yepes	San Jorge & La Reconciliación, Azua	San Esteban & Buen Pastor, SPM
R.P. Guelmy Rosario	San Marcos, Haina	San Gabriel, Consuelo
R.P. Ercilla Peralta	San Matías, Santana Baní	San Marcos, Haina
R.D. Ramón Gil		San Matías, Santana Baní
R.P. Sandino Sánchez	San Esteban & Buen Pastor, SPM	San José & Santo Tomás, Boca Chica
R.P. Rafael de la Cruz	Santa María Llena de Gracia, Mao	New mission in Tamburil
R.D. Miguel Kinsley	Cristo Rey & San Simón Apóstol, Puerto Plata	Santa María Llena de Gracia, Mao
R.D. Gustavo Uribe	San Marcos, Haina	San Felipe & San Pedro & San Pablo, S.D.
Rev. Can. Aston Brooks		Dean of Epiphany Cathedral, Santo Domingo

### Personal Notes



In the last Joint CD Newsletter we announced that **Virginia Norman** was made **Honorary Canon** of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic at the February 2010 Diocesan Convention. Virginia was formally installed as Canon on Sunday July 25 at the Cathedral Church of the Epiphany in Santo Domingo. This recognizes her MANY years of service to the diocese (Diocesan Treasurer, Episcopal Church Women, Daughters of the King, Companion Diocese Committee, Micro-loan Program) and to the broader Church at the provincial and American levels. Virginia was the first Latin American woman to serve on the Pension Fund Board and as a diocesan treasurer, which she held from the formation of the diocese until she retired in the late 1980's. Virginia has also served at national levels on the Executive Council, the Episcopal Church Women Board, and the UTO Committee.

**Bob and Ellen Snow's** formal retirement goes into effect August 31 but it is really going to be a semi-retirement. After a couple months back in the States they will return to the DR. where they have so many friends. Bob plans to spend more time at Epiphany and help around the Diocese, especially with Mission Exploration Trips, the scholarship program, and other items. Ellen will help Karen Carroll with mission teams. Among their many responsibilities over the years Bob has served as Canon to the Ordinary, head of the Episcopal Schools Scholarship program, leader of Mission Exploration Trips, and as deacon at Epiphany Church. Ellen served as coordinator par excellence for all Episcopal mission teams working with the Diocese.



Long term missionary **Karen Carroll**, from the Diocese of Southwest Florida, will replace Ellen as mission team coordinator for the Diocese. For the past five years Karen has served as the founding director of the "Hogar," the diocesan Home for the Elderly in Boca Chica. Ready for a change and a new challenge Karen will continue living in Boca Chica until the end of the year, then move into Santo Domingo. The new email address for mission teams and related inquiries is [drequipos@gmail.com](mailto:drequipos@gmail.com). "Equipos" is Spanish for teams so the new email address fits very well.



After serving three years as missionaries with the Center for Theological Studies and priest at Epiphany Church, **Michael and April Floyd** have taken accepted a new missionary position in Ecuador. Michael will serve as pastor of Advent/St. Nicholas Church in Quito, an English-speaking congregation formed by the merger of Episcopal and Lutheran groups. He will also teach in the theological education program of the Diocese of Central Ecuador and in the Centro Internacional Anglicano de Educación Teológica. April's job has not yet been fully defined.

### Other News

The **Episcopal Church Women** held their 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on 1-2 May at La Redención in Barahona. The theme was "Episcopal Women Evangelizing for the Love of Christ." More than 150 women attended from around the country. Bishop Holguín and Milagros were also in attendance. **Mayra Brown** of San



Andrés was elected **National Coordinator**; **Ysabel Lantigua** of San José as **Coordinator of Social Ministries**; and **Josefina Fersola** of San José & **Iris Jiménez de García** La Transfiguración as **co-Coordiators of the UTO**. **Deacon Marivel de Millen** preached at the closing Eucharist. The ECW Coordinating Committee is shown to the right.

**New Homes Presented.** Also on May 2 in Barahona Bishop Holguín presented **21 new homes** to very low income families of **Batey Central** as part of the Diocese's social action program. In the presentation Bishop Holguín noted that the Church's mission of evangelism and social action is like a bird with two wings. Both must function for it to fly. Previously the Diocese built **21 houses in Azua too, and repaired some 63 other houses.**



**An Interesting Note.** From March 24 through April 6 Bishop Holguín and Milagros visited the **Holy Land** on an excursion organized by Bishop Leo Fraude of Southeast Florida. Besides being in the Holy Land for both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, the Holguíns visited **Nazareth**. Much to his astonishment, when they visited **San Gabriel Orthodox Church**, Bishop Holguín found that his great-great grandfather on his mother's side was the priest who in 1762 built that church. Orthodox tradition claims that this is the site where the Angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary informing her that she would bear a child who would be named Jesus.

**ERD.** Matt St. John of **Episcopal Relief and Development** notes that ERD has provided significant funds for relief following the earthquake in Haiti, early on channeled through the Dominican Episcopal Church, as well as some \$163,000 since 2008 towards constructing homes for flood victims in Azua, a barrio health promoter program aimed at improving the health of people in 9 barrios of San Pedro de Macorís, and disaster relief following Hurricanes Hanna and Ike.

The **Dominican Development Group** holds its 2010 **mid-year Board Meeting** October 11 & 12 in **Lubbock, Texas**. At the invitation of Bishop Scott Meyer, the Diocese of Northwest Texas is hosting the DDG Board Meeting for NWTX is considering a formal companion relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic. **Bishop Holguín will speak at NWTX's Diocesan Convention** which is held October 8-9 in Lubbock. Several members of the DDG Board will speak in NWTX churches on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Requests.** Bishop Holguín says 6 or 8 new missions need chalices and patens. The donation of good, used (metal) chalices and patens would be much appreciated. Also, San Esteban Episcopal School is looking for instruments for its student band; instruments or contributions are gladly accepted. Please contact Bob Stevens at the addresses below.

## FORMAL COMPANION DIOCESE COMMITTEE CONTACTS

(Although many dioceses send mission teams to serve God through the Dominican Episcopal Church, six are formal Companion Diocese. Although the Dioceses of Nebraska, Quincy, Southeastern Virginia and Virginia are not formal companion dioceses they are major companions with the DR.)

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