



# 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, Northwest Texas and others.**

**April 2011 - Volume XXVI**

*(Editor's Note: The 53<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention of the Dominican Episcopal Church took place at Manresa Conference Center and San Andrés Episcopal Church February 18-20, 2011. The following report summarizes Bishop Holguín's address to the convention and adds a few other pertinent notes. The report describes the continuing dynamic of the Dominican Episcopal Church.)*

## **Missionary Challenge**



Bishop Holguín concluded his comments to the Convention with a mission challenge saying: *With all its ups and downs the Dominican Episcopal Church has continued to fulfill its missionary calling. During the past years we have been able to expand to diverse areas where before we have not had programs or provide social services. The Church, with the missionary spirit characteristic of our clergy and laity, has established itself in Barahona, Azua, Jimaní, Mao, Dajabón, Jarabacoa, and Salcedo. It has also spread to other localities in Santiago, La Romana, Greater Santo Domingo, Bonao and Puerto Plata. In fact there has been a great missionary awakening that we now must maintain for in it we are dealing with the work of God, which we perform with joy and perseverance.*

*There is still much to be done. Each Church member ought to view the words of St. Paul to Timothy as written directly to themselves: "Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine. . . ." - II Tim. 4:2-3*

## **Highlights of Bishop Holguín's Address to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention**

**Ordinations:** This year's 53<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention concluded with the ordination to the priesthood of five deacons in a colorful three hour parade and closing Eucharist on Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Rev. **Carlos Santana** assigned to the campground, Monte de la Transfiguración in Jarabacoa;

The Rev. **Alfredo Romero** assigned to Jesús Peregrino and La Redención in Barahona;

The Rev. **Manuel Estévez** assigned to mission Espíritu Consolador in Dajabón;

The Rev. **Ramón Gil** assigned to San Matías in Santana, Baní;

The Rev. **Adolfo Moronta** currently studying towards his Masters in Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary.



**New Missions:** Bishop Holguín began his address with the news of the startup of 7 new missions since the last convention by clergy and active lay persons. These are in **Tamboril** in Santiago Province, **La Herradura** in the City of Santiago; **Maimón & Imbert** in and around Puerto Plata; **Ubillas** in Barahona; **Juma and Piedra Blanca** in Bonao. The mission in Juma resulted from the donation of the fire truck (reported in December's Joint CD Newsletter). Upon receiving the fire truck the volunteer firemen donated the lot upon which to build a church in Juma on the edge of Bonao.



*Visitors, firemen and residents at lot in Juma*



*Child Nutrition Center, Santo Tomás*

**Ongoing Construction:** He also reported on ongoing construction around the diocese: **Santo Tomás Child Nutrition Center** in Gautier, **San Pedro y San Pablo Church/School** facility in La Barquita, Santo Domingo; **Cristo Salvador Children's Center** in Santiago; **San Antonio de Padua School** in Carretón; **La Encarnación School** in La Romana; **La Redención Church/School** in Barahona. He also noted the completion this past year of the **second floor classrooms and the vicarage at Santa Cruz in Santa Fe**. Finally he noted that with a special grant from the Morrow family the new **San Pedro Apóstol School/Shelter** in Jimaní on the Haitian border, Dios mediante, will be finished and open for classes in September.

**Companion Dioceses Relationships:** An update on companion dioceses relationships is appropriate. Given the DR's dynamic growth and Bishop Holguín's friendliness, US dioceses continue to form companion relationships with the DR. These relationships are the signs of a vitality in mission between the companions. The four longstanding companion relationships are **Georgia, South Carolina, Southwest Florida** and **Western Louisiana**. Newer relationships include **Southeast Florida** and the **Central Gulf Coast**. Relationships formed in the last couple years **Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Michigan, East Carolina** and **Northwest Texas**. The DR has also formed "South-to-South" companion relationships with **Cuba** and **Central Ecuador**. Furthermore, **Nebraska** and the DR are moving forward with a three-way companion relationship with the Diocese of **Twic East Sudan**.



*La Redención: Second floor moving toward completion*

### Two Scholarship Requests



*Episcopal Graduates*

Deacon Bob Snow, Canon to the Ordinary and Scholarship Coordinator, reports that **Scholarship contributions** for the 2010-11 academic year have been very slow this year. However, **they are sorely needed**. Actually, of 733 students granted scholarships for 2010-11, 265 student scholarships remain to be funded. The schools permit unfunded scholarship recipients to remain in school in the hopes that scholarships will come through. If you can see your way to making a contribution of \$300 for a full scholarship, or even a partial one, please send it to the Dominican Development Group at the address below. One hundred percent of your contribution goes directly to the Dominican Episcopal Church where it is used for its designated purpose. Scholarships are \$300 per child.

Furthermore, **Bishop Holguín** has made a **special request**, in fact a **plea** for the **emergency need** for scholarships and outright contributions for **San Esteban Episcopal School** in San Pedro de Macorís. San Esteban is going through **grave**

**financial distress.** The current economic conditions have made it nearly impossible for parents to pay their children's tuition payments. However, government regulations prohibit private schools from expelling students whose parents are behind on tuition payments even though that throws the school in a financial crisis. Bishop Holguín says he knows it is not easy to obtain contributions to help finish the academic year but he specifically asks that people do so. The Diocese is putting in what it can to help, but it is maxed out, and another \$10,000 are needed. Contributions can be sent through the Dominican Development Group and 100% of contributions will be sent directly to the DR.

### Other Notes

**Mark Your Calendars: Encounter in Mission:** The Dominican Episcopal Church has announced that it will host an Encounter in Mission celebrating the many and important mission relationships it has with US dioceses, parishes, individuals, missionaries, visitors, and other friends. At first the Encounter in Mission Committee wanted to host the event for some 200 persons in August of this year. However, given the importance of the event, and the time necessary to successfully plan and carry out the Encounter in Mission, it has been set for February 13-18, 2013 in conjunction with that year's Diocesan Convention. Celebrative services, mission seminars and tips, and a variety of mission exploration trips will be planned in combination with the Encounter. We are all invited. Details will be forthcoming.



As you know, our beloved **Canon Virginia Norman** was named "Women of the Century" during the celebration of the Dominican Episcopal Church first 100 years in 1997. Virginia has done almost everything a laywoman can do in the Episcopal Church. Last fall Virginia's knee was struck by a large tire that rolled off the back of a truck. Now, months later after enduring a plaster cast and a fabric cast, she undergoes therapy multiple times a week and is walking with a walker. Please pray for her ongoing recovery.

**Cuba:** Two items: First, Bishops Holguín and Skilton attended the 101<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Cuba, including the consecration of the **Rt. Rev.**

**Griselda Delgado** as **Bishop Coadjutor**. As noted above, Cuba is a companion diocese with the Dominican Episcopal Church. Second, this spring the DR is receiving the **Rev. Emilio Martín Fumero** as a "South-to-South" missionary from Cuba. Rev. Fumero will be financially supported jointly by Mission Personal at the Church Center and by the Diocese of the DR. He will probably be assigned to San Felipe in Sabana Perdida and to San Pedro & San Pablo in La Barquita. The photo to the right shows the ongoing construction status of San Pedro & San Pablo as of February. Dios mediante (God willing) the church/school facility will be completed and dedicated in July so that services can start being held there, and school start up in September. Currently Mission San Pedro & San Pablo meets in a storefront. The school will be entirely new.



*Worship during the SOMA retreat in Jarabacoa*

**SOMA:** Immediately following Ash Wednesday, and at the invitation of Bishop Holguín, SOMA, **Sharing Of Ministries Abroad**, an international Anglican mission organization, led a Lenten retreat for clergy at camp Monte de la Transfiguración in Jarabacoa. The focus was on renewal and spirituality. SOMA's mission is to join with dioceses and congregations working to change the world for Jesus Christ, equipping and training leaders to minister in the power of the Spirit. **Edwina Thomas**, former SOMA director, led the team which also included **Christy Fonvielle**, **Bishop Lloyd Allen** of Honduras, **The Rev. Mark Brown**, and **Bishop Bill Skilton** Assistant Bishop in the DR.

**New Medical Clinic Dedicated:** In early April Bishops Holguín & Skilton, along with the Rev. Milton Amparo, Diocesan Planning Officer, journeyed up to San Pablo Apóstol in Jimaní on the Haitian border to dedicate a new medical clinic. Its formal name is **The Center for Primary Attention** and is a joint partnership with the Ministry of Public



*The new Jimaní Center for Primary Attention*

Health which has assigned medical staff to run it. Regional representatives from the Ministry of Public Health were also present for the new center's dedication. The health clinic occupies the first floor of the new facility, the second floor of which will serve as dormitory space for mission teams working in Jimaní and, in the future, teams working in the reconstruction in Haiti. The clinic will serve both Dominican and Haitian populations (residents & transients) in and around Jimaní. The Rev. Nephtly Desir is the priest in charge of the San Pablo Apóstol mission in Jimaní as well as other outlying mission congregations.

**Rotary contribution for Clínica Esperanza:** The Rotary Club of Lincoln, Nebraska, Rotary International, and working with the Rotary Club of San Pedro de Macorís presented Clínica Esperanza a check for \$25,000 for MDG related services. The grant's purpose is to help with educational activities for the very poor including health promoter workshops, support group meetings such as for people with HIV/AIDS, Clinic personnel development, and other community groups.



*Bishop Holguín with SPM Rotary leader*



*Several DDG Board Members and visitors at the DR Diocesan Convention.*

The **Dominican Development Group Board** held its annual meeting February 20-21 in the DR immediately following the DR Diocesan Convention. In solidarity with Christian brothers and sisters of the DR several DDG Board Members come early to attend the DR Diocesan Convention. The DDG's purpose is to assist in the development and self-sustainability of the Dominican Episcopal Church. Over the past 12 years it has established a strong track record in this endeavor. In addition to regular business the Board focused its efforts on strengthening the DR Endowment program, which has been vital to the Dominican Church during these times a declining financial support from the American Episcopal Church. Clergy and lay persons from the DR's companion dioceses, as well as are other interested persons, are represented on the Board.

## 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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