



JOINT CD NEWSLETTER

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

August 2011 - Volume XXVII

(Editor's Note: On August 16th Bishop Holguín completed 20 years as bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic: a major milestone in and of itself. Archdeacon Sandino Sánchez delivered the homily at the celebrative Eucharist talking about the dynamic growth of the Dominican Episcopal Church. Below are highlights from his comments elaborating the events he has observed from these years – a real testimony to a dynamically growing Church.)

Missionary Challenge



“During these twenty years of the episcopate of the Rt. Rev. Julio César Holguín Khoury there has been a great advance in the extension of the Kingdom of God. In the 20 diocesan conventions we have heard his prophetic voice exhorting us to pray, study the Bible constantly, serve others, and to be an example of humility, purity and honesty. He also denounced oppression, marginalization and disrespect for human dignity. He has guarded the faith and the discipline of the Church and administered the sacraments of the New Covenant.

“As bishop he encouraged us to not only preach the Good News of Christ emphasizing the feeding of the spirit but also meeting the needs of persons through nutrition programs (nourishment for the body), as well as medicine, education, and micro loans. In these years he has ordained twenty-three priests and 10 deacons, and received four priests from other communions.

“From the beginning, as bishop, he established the “Bishop’s Missionary Fund” which he has used to build the infrastructure of the Church: 17 schools, 28 churches, 12 vicarages, 2 conference centers, 4 medical centers, and the diocesan conference center with dormitories. Furthermore, of the 10 existing churches when he became bishop, the majority have been remodeled or repaired. All this has been accompanied by the confirmation of more than 3,000 persons and the reception a 1,000 more.

“We have had a variety of companion relationships with 18 different dioceses (15 at present) which have resulted in missionary service of many persons and churches over the short-term and/or long-term in this diocese.” *(See the April 2011 Joint CD Newsletter for the variety of current companion relationships.)*

Dedication. On July 16 the Diocese of the Dominican Republic dedicated its newest church building, **San Pedro & San Pablo in barrio La Barquita** in Santo Domingo. Hundreds of persons attended the dedication. San Pedro y San Pablo is a church/school complex with the church, floor classrooms,

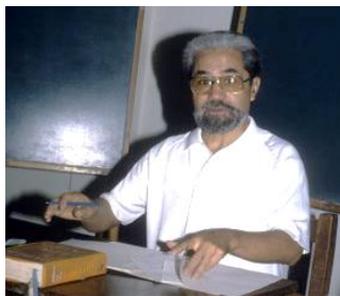




bathrooms and an administrative area on the first floor, and four more classrooms, assembly hall/community center and bathrooms on the second floor. In addition to elementary education it is planned that San Pedro y San Pablo will host training programs for teens, other community programs, and serve as a hurricane shelter as needed.

through the roof in 2009, the second floor through the roof in 2010, and finished the first floor inside and the entire exterior in 2011. Bishop Holguín timed the dedication to overlap with Teams IV and V so as to have as wide a representation as possible of the Tampa companions. The Deanery Project (or multi-parish project) approach has been pioneered by the Dominican Development Group to make a systematic and significant impact on the DR Church's development in cooperation with and at the direction of the DR. The pictures show the San Pedro y San Pablo congregation, with visitors, in front of its rented storefront, the finished San Pedro y San Pablo, and clergy gathered at the altar during the dedication.

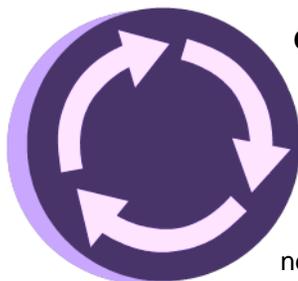
For the past three years the Tampa Deanery has collaborated with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic to build the new San Pedro y San Pablo. During these years the deanery sent 150 persons in 11 teams to work on San Pedro y San Pablo. Working with the head builder and his teams they completed the first floor



The Very Rev. Daniel Gonzales. Beloved seminary dean and professor Father Daniel Gonzales passed away in the early morning of August 10th. In his **17 years at the Center for Theological Studies (CET)** he had **personally influenced almost every priest** in the Dominican Episcopal Church with his in-depth understanding of the Old Testament, faith, and spirituality. Although he was not in good health during these last few years, even in his retirement he worked daily in his office at the seminary and taught classes. Daniel came to the Dominican Republic in 1979 to work as a professor at the seminary of which he later became dean. During these years he also served the congregations of San Andrés, Epiphany and San Juan Evangelista chapel in the diocesan center. Father Gonzales lived a good life and touched many people for Christ.

New Missionary. In a **unique South-to-South arrangement** jointly supported by Mission Personnel and the Dominican Episcopal Church, the DR diocese received the **Rev. Emilio Martín Fumero, his wife Marita** in mid-August. Fr. Emilio is a priest from Cuba (a companion diocese with the DR) and will serve as a missionary in the DR for three years. Bishop Holguín has assigned him to **San Felipe** and **San Pedro & San Pablo** in Santo Domingo East. Permanent deacon the Rev. Gustavo Uribe will assist Fr. Fumero in his work.

Confirmations. On June 26th and illustrative of the continued dynamic growth of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic, **25 persons were confirmed** by Bishop Holguín at **La Reconciliación**, a small mission in the city of **Azua**. Fr. Jesús Mosquea is the priest serving La Reconciliación and San Jorge, both in Azua, as well as the rural mission Espíritu Santo. Although the mission still meets in a small rented house, they held the confirmation in their as yet new unfinished church a couple blocks from their rented "storefront" house. With unplastered block walls, a rough concrete floor, no windows and no doors over 100 persons gathered for the confirmation service.



Clergy moves. Every year in June or July Bishop Holguín announces clergy moves. He is a master chess player and reassigns the DR clergy after meditating and praying as to how best to cover the needs of the diocese. There are no parishes in the Diocese of the Dominican Republic, and thus all clergy are the bishop's vicars and serve at his pleasure. Bishop Holguín's skill in assigning priests to congregations is a contributing factor to the continued dynamic growth of the Dominican Episcopal Church. Sometimes clergy ask him to move them when they feel they have been at a mission for a long time. Other times, moves are needed to strategically replace clergy who have left the diocese for one reason or another. And, sometimes clergy are moved when the bishop feels they could better serve in another location.

This year five clergy were reassigned, their moved to be effective August 22, 2011. This is early enough for the priest and their families to be moved and settled in before school starts in September. Bishop Holguín has not yet announced the new deans for the North and the South Archdeaneries.

- The **Very Rev. Ramón Antonio García (Tony)** was move from La Transfiguración in Baní to **San Lucas and La Anunciación** in Santiago
 - The **Very Rev. Salvador Almonte** was moved from San Lucas and La Anunciación in Santiago to **Todos los Santos and La Encarnación** in La Romana
 - The **Rev. Milquella Mendoza** was moved from Todos los Santos in La Romana to **La Transfiguración** and outlying missions in Baní.
 - The **Very Rev. Napoleón Brito** was moved from the Seminary in Santo Domingo to **Centro Buen Pastor** in San Pedro de Macorís. He will work closely with the Sisters of Transfiguración who will be retiring in a couple years.
 - The **Rev. Emilio Fumero** missionary priest from Cuba was assigned to **San Felipe and San Pedro y San Pablo** in Santo Domingo East.
- The **Very Rev. Ashton Brooks** was also named **Interim Dean at the CET** (Center for Theological Studies) in Santo Domingo. He will continue as **rector at Epiphany Cathedral**.



The “Peace” as part of DR Spirituality. In March the Association of Episcopal Deacons held a week-long **“Latin Experience”** in the DR. Seven deacons, two deacons-in-formation and one bishop spent one week in the DR so as to get a flavor of what it is like to serve as a deacon in a Hispanic diocese. The program was organized and coordinated by Deacon Bob and Ellen Snow and interacted with the Dominican Deacons. The first three days were orientation, the next two, visits to various congregations, concluding with a weekend assignment with a given priest who typically serves multiple congregations. Dr. Richard Rasner, a Deacon-in-formation says of his experience, “we brought home a different sense of spirituality.” As contrasted to our “solemn, cold

and impersonal” services, they learned “much about a diocese whose main thrust is on growth, education and outreach.” Services included “processionals greeted with tambourines, drums, and enthusiastic singing” and “a peace that can last 10-15 minutes where everyone wants to give everyone else in the congregation a hug, or at the very least a warm handshake.” Regarding the peace, Deacon Gail Chandler noted that “EVERYONE in that building exchanged the peace with EVERYONE else. . . it took as long as it needed to take. There was plenty of time. No hurry. No impatience to get the show moving again.” (The full report of “A Latin Experience” is in– *Diakoneo, The Journal of Association for Episcopal Deacons* found at www.diakonoi.org.)

Other notes

2011 Mission Teams. Missionary Karen Carroll reports that the DR received 56 mission teams this year – another testimony to the continuing dynamic of the Dominican Episcopal Church. There were 6 exploratory teams, 10 VBS teams, 10 medical teams and 30 construction teams. In addition missionaries participated in 3 workshops. Approximately 650 persons from parishes around the US participated in these teams. Karen works in tandem directly with Ellen Snow, and with Bob, to coordinate the activities of these mission teams.



The Annual WLA Medical Team. The Western Louisiana medical team was one of these mission teams. During the first week of July the Diocese of Western Louisiana conducted its **13th annual** medical/dental clinic at Jesús Peregrino. Eight doctors, two nurses, four dentists and a pharmacy tech lent their professional expertise, enabling the team of 38 persons, to see approximately 2,000 patients in 3 1/2 days. Additionally, the team dispensed 288 pairs of reading glasses. Bob and Ellen joined the team, serving as additional translators.



1000 Prayer Books Needed. In a brief note from Bishop Holguín he has made a call to generous persons of good will, asking them to work together to obtain **1,000 new Spanish Prayer Books (Libro de Oración Común)** for the DR Diocese. He says there is a **“great deficit”** of prayer books for use in new missions and in older missions where some of the older prayer books are in quite deteriorated conditions. If each mission teams carried 20 or more Prayer Books with them when they went to the DR, the goal of 1,000 new Prayer Books would be reached before the end of summer 2012. You may obtain the **Libro de Oración Común** from Cokesbury.com for \$18.00 each.

Flooding from Huracane Irene. Bishop Holguín has sent an email out to priests and other involved persons asking them to collect relief supplies. Over 32,000 persons have been displaced by the floods in 85 communities around the country.



Several have drowned. He is appealing to peoples' **sense of solidarity with flood victims**, asking them to mount a campaign to collect canned goods, grains (rice & beans), vegetables, clothing, shoes, etc. "in our Episcopal churches and schools," then send the items to the diocesan office from where they will be distributed based on need. Hurricane Irene did not hit the DR directly but its outer bands have caused a lot of flooding which affects the poor disproportionately since they frequently live in the less desirable areas along rivers and other low-lying areas. Readers who would like to contribute to flood relief may do so

through the Dominican Development Group, directly by check or on the webpage at the addresses indicated below.



Virginia Norman is doing much better. In fact, she now comes into the office daily. Virginia is recovering quite nicely from being hit by that tire that rolled off a truck last fall. Please continue praying for her full recovery. Virginia is seen in the photo here from late July in her diocesan office with Vickie Stevens, wife of Joint CD Newsletter editor. Virginia is President of the Daughters of the King in the DR, and Vickie at her church.

Two New Videos Out. Two new videos are out about the Dominican Episcopal Church. The DDG Board has produced *The Dominican Episcopal Church*, a well-done, fast-moving 5 ½ minute video which will be used as inspiring background to the DR Endowment campaign. It can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKlh5NaLZIA> or by Googling You Tube then search for Dominican Republic Episcopal Mission. Trinity Wall Street has also produced an excellent 12 ½ minute video about the Dominican Episcopal Church. It is entitled *A Two-winged Dove* and can be found at <http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/webcasts/videos/profiles/anglican-communion-stories/a-two-winged-dove>.



Now on PayPal. You may now contribute to the Dominican Episcopal Church with your PayPal account or with a major credit cards. Go to the DDG webpage www.dominicandevlopmentgroup.org and click on "donate" box and follow the prompts. Be sure to clearly designate the purpose of your contribution. Besides PayPal's slightly less than 3% fee and the credit card fees, one hundred percent of all contributions will be transferred directly to the Dominican Episcopal Church.

FORMAL COMPANION DIOCESE 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.)

Dominican Republic

Virginia Norman
809-688-6016/6014
iglepidom@codetel.net.do

Georgia

The Rev. Tar Drazdowski
229-249-0895
tdraz@bellsouth.net

Southeast Florida

The Ven. Dr. Bryan A. Hobbs
954-450-7247
dochobbs@diosef.org

Central Gulf Coast

The Rt. Rev. Philip Duncan
850-434-7337
bishopduncan@diocgc.org

Nebraska

Mr. Don Peeler
dpeeler@cox.ne

Southwest Florida

The Rev. Al Chapman
813-935-6075
alnbets@verizon.net

East Carolina

The Rev. Mark Powell
910-256-3034
Mark.powell@standrewsonthesound.org

Northwest Texas

Mr. David Morrow
432-425-9111
david@southtex.com

Western Louisiana

Dr. Richard Campbell
318-371-1907
rwcfeelgood@yahoo.com

Eastern Michigan

The Rev. Sherry Young
810-982-3660
sherryyoung77@gmail.com

South Carolina

The Rev. Richard C. Lindsey
843-681-8333
saintsrector@hargray.com

Western Michigan

The Rev. Beth Drew
269-816-8230
bethdrew7@gmail.co

Publisher-s Note: The Joint CD Newsletter distributed via e-mail by the Dominican Development Group. The Joint CD Newsletter editor is Dr. Robert Stevens, Executive Director of the DDG. Those wishing to submit information for distribution may contact Bob Stevens at P.O. Box 661, Ellenton, FL 34222, or 941-776-1018 (o), 941-776-2678 (fax), www.dominicandevlopmentgroup.org, Email: ddgstevens@aol.com.