

Report of The Rt. Rev. Julio César Holguín Khoury to The Dominican Development Group (DDG) Meeting October 26, 2015 In the Diocese of Western Louisiana

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

We are very grateful for the welcome from the Diocese of Western Louisiana and the Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby to the members of the DDG. I must tell you that the Dioceses of the Dominican Republic and Western Louisiana have maintained a relationship of partnership since 1982, for which we give infinite thanks to God.

Now, I will submit my report of our diocesan events since the last Diocesan Convention held in February of this year.

1. We held three special conventions

- a) Two of them were carried out for making revisions and modifications to our diocesan Constitution and Canons. The first was held on March 21 and the second on April 24.
- b) The third special convention was held at The Cathedral of the Epiphany on July 25 for the election of our Bishop Coadjutor. Four candidates were nominated for the position. The convention began with the Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Moisés Quezada, who is here with us today, was elected on the second ballot. Several members of the DDG were present as witnesses at the convention. The consecration of the Rev. Quezada is planned for February 13, 2016, in Santo Domingo during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the closing service of our Diocesan Convention. We expect the new Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry, will attend the consecration.

2. Transfer of US\$949,965 from TEC to Iglepidom for the FOCA

After a variety of procedures between The Episcopal Church in New York and the Dominican Episcopal Church, TEC transferred US\$949,965 to our account as a contribution to the Fund for Self Sustainability (FOCA). That money has already been invested partially in shares of Popular – Banco Popular Dominicano and another part in certificates of deposit. This agreement with TEC implies the following:

- a) During the years 2016-2018, the diocese will only receive a subsidy of US\$300,000 instead of the US\$682,500 that we had been receiving yearly up until 2015. However, we will receive US\$100,000 in the triennium for the FOCA.
- b) From 2019-2021 the diocese will receive a grant of US\$100,000 distributed as US\$33,333 per year, as well as another US\$100,000 to the FOCA.

- c) From 2022 to 2024 the subsidy will be reduced to a total of US\$50,000 or US\$16,666 per year.

3. Pastoral Assignments

- a) Some of you know that in August we transferred 19 members of the clergy to new pastoral assignments.
- b) Also, we received a new missionary to the diocese from the Diocese of Colombia, the Rev. Diego Fernando Sabogal, who is serving with the Very Rev. Ashton J. Brooks in the Cathedral of the Epiphany as well as in the CET seminary.
- c) This is to inform you that the Rev. Buddelov Adolfo Moronta, after having served three years in our diocese, decided to go to another diocese in the United States.

4. Consecration and Dedication of Churches

- a) On July 18th we held the consecration and dedication of the Mission San Simón Apóstle in the community of San Marcos, Puerto Plata.
- b) October 1st we consecrated and dedicated the Mission Santa Ana in the community of Mendoza, Santo Domingo East.
- c) November 21st we have scheduled the dedication and consecration of the Mission San Jorge in Azua.
- d) December 12th has been set for the consecration and dedication of the Mission Santa Cruz in Santa Fe, San Pedro de Macorís.
- e) The dedication and consecration of the Mission Espiritu Consolador which was scheduled for June 4 was postponed due to missing details of construction.

5. Process of Financial Sustainability from 1990 – 2016

The Episcopal Dominican Church has been blessed in the progress toward financial sustainability thanks to the efforts of congregations, institutions, the Diocesan Office, parishes and friends of the diocese, as well as the Dominican Development Group (DDG). The results can be seen in the graph shown below. It includes financial data for the years 1990, 2000, 2015 and the projected figures for the year 2016.

YEAR	TEC RD \$	% of budget	Diocesan RD \$	% of budget
1990	RD\$1,478,865	85.6	RD\$247,754	14.4
2000	RD\$3,907,944	49.4	RD\$4,009,944	50.6
2015	RD\$9,782,500	18.2	RD\$43,594,479	81.8
2016	RD\$4,500,000	8.3	RD\$50,358,910	91.7

The Challenge of the Dominican Episcopal Church is to Continue Sustainable Missionary Work

The Dominican Episcopal Church has the challenge to continue carrying out the task of the Great Commission. In the last 25 years, we have been able to expand the church toward different parts of the country. We have built new churches and schools, retreat houses, gatherings, rectories, and daycare facilities for children and the elderly. We thank God for the assistance that we have had from the Dominican Development Group, the Companion Dioceses, parishes and friends who have been our partners in the mission of God in the Dominican Republic.

In order to continue, it is necessary to make sure we have the human and economic resources that facilitate the continuation of our mission of bringing the Gospel to thousands of people, those who do not know the word of God nor the salvation that comes through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In the present, the FOCA is a strong support for the annual diocesan financial budget. The CET helps us with the vocational formation of priests and lay personnel. The support of the Dominican Development Group has been one of the principal sources of assistance to get us where we are today.

God bless you and watch over you,

The Rt. Rev. Julio C. Holguín K., Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic