

### **Report of Companion Diocese Committee to the 220<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention**

The Companion Diocese Committee began working with the ERD for El Salvador Development immediately after their devastating earthquakes. Last year, we traveled to El Salvador and visited the Izalco community where 34 homes, a church building, and a community center/clinic were built with the contributions from the Diocese of New Jersey through the Companion Diocese Committee.

During our time as the companion diocese of El Salvador we have supported Christian education for the development of the clergy and lay leadership. We pledged to support the work of The Rev Edward and Kathleen Schmitt, missionaries from Canada who advocate theological education as well as help the diocese of El Salvador in several missionary programs. During the past two years, we have provided \$14,000 each year for missionaries' living expenses, local transportation and the necessary tools for the providing Christian education.

This year we sponsored a youth trip for more than ten young adults from El Salvador to visit New Jersey. This event was considered one of our most successful programs thus. On behalf of the Companion Diocese, we thank all members of the committee involved in this event and the churches that participated and supported the youth of El Salvador.

This year, we are looking forward to continuing to expand and provide Christian and theological education within our Companion Diocese. We are planning to send members of our committee to lead several workshops and therefore plan to continue our contribution of \$14,000 per year.

The Bishop Counsel will be visiting El Salvador to participate in the Diocese of El Salvador's convention this coming June.

Thank you to all the parishes who have contributed and pledged to the several programs and projects we are supporting in El Salvador.

The Rev. Canon Servio R. Moscoso  
Co-Chair

The Rev. Richard Kunz  
Co-Chair

### **Report of the Commission on Ministry With the Disabled to the 220<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention**

The Commission on Ministry with the Disabled was reactivated in 2002 with eight members after an inactivity of several years. We have met four times this year and have set some goals and objectives. And will continue to meet every two months. We have written a mission statement and have developed a helpful working relationship with the Bethsaida Project that is our counterpart in the Diocese of Newark.

We hope to increase the awareness of the special needs of the disabled by submitting articles to the Via Media in which we will also call for new members to enlarge our commission. We hope to send (upon the Bishop's approval) Parish Accessibility Assessment questionnaires to each church in the diocese. We hope to offer to the congregations in our diocese resources for making their worship accessible and at some point to obtain a budget line item in order to give small grants to those churches in need for making their worship accessible. Our general goal is to make everyone in the diocese aware of the needs of people with every kind of disability: physical, mental, emotional, and developmental.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Cynthia E. Carlson, Co-Chair