

**Companion Diocese
Report to the 222nd Diocesan Convention**

When we started our partnership with our companion Diocese of El Salvador, our initial goal was to help them reform their theological education for their future clerics and laypersons. However the devastating earthquake of 2001 that violently struck the entire country slightly altered our mission and we took on the role and responsibility of helping our brothers and sister reconstruct their damaged country. Since then, our missionary spirits have remained in the construction of new homes, churches and schools in the country for those in need. Along with providing them new shelter, we have been able to supply food, computers, and school supplies, among many other things. Throughout all of this, we have continued to conduct seminars to enhance their theological education for the next generation of clerics. We can positively say that our relationship with our Companion Diocese has been nurtured with love.

Our partnership has given a variety of groups, from students to adults, the opportunity to partner with the Episcopal Relief Development to volunteer and witness, firsthand, the amazing work the Salvadorian Diocese carries out each and every day. In turn, with our exchange program, various students from El Salvador have visited the United States and taken tours of our various churches within the Diocese. Even their Diocesan youth coordinator, Mrs. Irma Alvarado visited last July to share her experience as a youth leader and Father David Alvarado was invited as a guest of honor at our last convention.

Along with these wonderful accomplishments in terms of programs and events, this past year, one of our ultimate goals was finally realized. In conjunction with the Episcopal Seminary of the Dominican Republic, the Diocese of El Salvador and the Companion Diocese of New Jersey, two Salvadorian students, Juan Pablo Alvarado and Jose Roberto Castro, were given the opportunity to embark in a four year theologian program in the Dominican Republic. With the generous help of our churches in New Jersey, we could fund their theological education at the cost of \$18,000 per year. We have an important commitment to help the development and growth of the Diocese of El Salvador and we firmly believe that this can be accomplished by providing them with basic resources that that can be taught to future generations.

We would like to thank all of our brothers and sisters in this Diocese along with our Bishop Council for the immense support and guidance throughout this companionship. We would also like to thank the Companion Diocese Committee who dedicate their time, love and support to this ministry of compassion. Our commitment is for just four years; all we need are your prayers and, if possible, your generous donations.

In the love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Rev. Canon Servio R. Moscoso, M.Div.
Chair