

## **Companion Diocese Report to the 224th Annual 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 future clerics and laypersons. However the devastating earthquake of 2001 slightly altered our mission; because of this catastrophe, we immediately took on the responsibility of helping our brothers and sisters reconstruct their damaged country. Since then, we have added to our mission the construction of new homes, churches and schools. Along with providing them the necessary tools for rebuilding their community, we also supplied food, computers, and school supplies. Throughout all of this, we continued with our original mission of conducting seminars to enhance the theological education of their 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 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. Even our Bishop the Rt. Rev. George Councill, visited El Salvador last June to share his solidarity by participating in the Salvadorian Diocesan Convention.

Along with these wonderful accomplishments this past year, one of our ultimate goals was finally accomplished. 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 participate in a four year theologian program in the Dominican Republic. With the generous help of our churches in New Jersey, we funded their education, which costs \$18,000/year. By providing these two bright students this opportunity we believe that we have fulfilled our commitment in helping to jumpstart the development and growth of the Diocese of El Salvador.

We would like to thank all of our brothers and sisters in this Diocese along with our Bishop Councill 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 more 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

The Companion Dioceses Committee promotes reciprocal ministry, support and fellowship between Diocese of New Jersey and Diocese of El Salvador. This includes organizing visits between the two dioceses, financial; and practical support for theological education in El Salvador, (this year we sponsored two Salvadorian seminarians for four years in Dominican Republic, at a cost of \$18,000.00 a year), and response to immediate needs of our companion diocese. As the fundraiser coordinator, we are also responsible for allocating the donations we receive to help fund various causes in El Salvador. For example, the generous donation received from the Diocese of Alabama helped fund a variety of school projects in El Salvador.