



## SISTER PARISH, INC. IGLESIAS HERMANAS

Sister Parish Administrative Update  
17 April 2009

### **The Newest Member of the Sister Parish Community!**

Sister Parish Executive Director Shannon Lockhart gave birth to a healthy baby boy late in the evening on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Diego de Leon Lockhart took the world by surprise, arriving 3 days early, weighing 8 lbs 1 oz and measuring 21 inches. Both mother and child are healthy and doing well.

Following the birth, Shannon will be on maternity leave for approximately 2 months - effective April 16<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>. During this time, if you need to communicate with Sister Parish staff please contact your Sister Parish staff representative and/or the US Regional Coordinator Mary DeCoursey at [maria@sisterparish.org](mailto:maria@sisterparish.org), or by phone at 314-223-8778.

### **The Search...**

In February Shannon Lockhart tendered her resignation as Executive Director, effective the end of June. Consequently we have begun the search for a new ED. The Board of Directors has compiled an in depth job description (which is posted on the SP website), and is now seeking qualified candidates for the position. In order to provide better services to our US donors and churches, it has been decided that the position will be moved to the United States. If you know of anyone who might be interested in working with Sister Parish in this capacity, Lisa Karraker ([karraker@verizon.net](mailto:karraker@verizon.net)) is receiving applications.

### **Dignifying Communities**

The "Dignifying Communities" DVD is now in post-production. "Dignifying Communities" is a collection of interviews and testimonies from our brothers and sisters in the South about their Sister Parish experiences. Rather than emphasize the affects of the civil war and 'victimizing' subjects and communities, the DVD presents the opportunity to hear about the affects of Sister Parish on our southern hermanamientos and how these experiences have validated their lives.

### **20 Years of Solidarity!**

This coming Saturday St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Minneapolis will host the first of the Sister Parish anniversary events. The event includes a catered dinner and visual presentations of the 20 years of Sister Parish. Two celebrations will be happening in Guatemala as well - in April, the community of TN2 will hold their own celebration and in late May, all of the Guatemalan representatives of Sister Parish will hold a celebration in Chichipate.

### **2009 Delegations**

Now is the time to plan a delegation trip! It's not too late to travel this year. Airfares are very low right now and now we have several opportunities you may want to consider:

Plan a Project with your hermanamiento to celebrate Sister Parish's 20<sup>th</sup> year. Build a garden, work on a soccer field or join your community for a special occasion to mark this anniversary year.

Solidarity Delegation. We are in the planning stages for a new kind of delegation. Join others from throughout the Sister Parish family to visit a sampling of hermanamientos in Guatemala. Great opportunity to revisit old friends and make new. This trip is open to alumni, current and

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Mary DeCoursey  
US Regional Coordinator  
PO Box 24042 Louisville, KY 40224  
Telephone: 314/223-8778  
[maria@sisterparish.org](mailto:maria@sisterparish.org)  
[www.sisterparish.org](http://www.sisterparish.org)

potential members. You are not required to be a part of a current Sister Parish linkage. Contact Mary DeCoursey soon if you are interested.

The following delegations are currently on the schedule for 2009.

**July:** Potrerillos, Chalatenango, El Salvador to Decorah United Methodist Church, Decorah, IA

**July 25-August 3:** Tierra Nueva 2, Chinautla, Guatemala to St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, MN,

**July/August:** Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Baltimore, MD to San Juan Sepalau, AltaVerapaz, Guatemala.

**August:** First Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN to San Antonio Los Ranchos, Chalatenango, El Salvador

**September 21-28:** UPAVIM to Downers Grove First United Methodist Church

**Winter:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND to Seritquiche, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.

\*If your church would like to travel this year, please contact your Sister Parish staff liaison soon. If you have dates that you would like to hold, please remember to send in your \$500 deposit, with the dates, to PO Box 5202, Fargo, ND 58105-5202.

### **Church Sponsorship**

In order to help defray costs and be better stewards of our financial resources, we are currently looking for church support in the form of sponsorship for certain recurring expenses. If your church is able to make a pledge or take up a special collection to help us continue to share our important mission of solidarity, we would be especially appreciative. Please contact Mary for more details about how your church can help. While Sister Parish continues to everything possible to keep administrative costs down, certain program expenses continue to rise. Many blessings to the wonderful supporters who have already given so generously!

Please stay tuned for more updates from Sister Parish, Inc. We are constantly posting new stories, articles, and videos on the Sister Parish blog (<http://sisterparish.typepad.com>) and the Sister Parish website ([www.sisterparish.org](http://www.sisterparish.org)). So please send us your news and check-in to see what else is happening in Sister Parish committees. We also have a group on facebook, where we are also a Cause that can be contributed to!

Peace,  
Shannon and Mary

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