



## SISTER PARISH, INC. IGLESIAS HERMANAS

Sister Parish Administrative Update  
19 May 2009

### Greetings from Sister Parish, Inc.,

We have lots of Sister Parish news to share this month. Please pass it along to your local Sister Parish committees and churches!

#### **Announcing the 2009 Northern Assembly of Churches Meeting and Walk In Solidarity**

The annual Northern Assembly of Churches (NAC) meeting will be held at First United Methodist Church in Decorah, IA August 7-9, 2009. This meeting is a great opportunity for churches to network, discuss their hermanamiento relationships and to provide direct feedback to the Sister Parish staff and BOD members. If you have any questions or would like more details on the meeting please contact Mary. Please consider sending representatives from your church!

The Second Annual Walk in Solidarity will be held in conjunction with the NAC on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. We are currently looking for volunteers to help coordinate and work the event, and people interested in walking with us. If you would like to volunteer, or if you would like to participate and collect pledges for the walk and need a pledge sheet please email Mary ([maria@sisterparish.org](mailto:maria@sisterparish.org)). Last year several other churches, including one of the Southern communities, hosted Solidarity walks outside of the NAC event for their local communities. If you would like to organize a Walk In Solidarity for your local church / community please contact the US office and they can help you!

#### **North and South Celebrate 20 Years of Solidarity!**

Last month, St Joan of Arc in Minneapolis hosted the first ever Sister Parish dinner event in celebration of Sister Parish's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Approximately 60 Sister Parish supporters attended the event, a few traveling from Duluth and even Canton – making it a true Northern solidarity event. The event was held in the church's Hospitality Hall and featured a catered, Latin inspired dinner, and 2 different slide shows highlighting the history of Sister Parish and St. Joan's 15 year linkage with TN2. It was a fun night for all, and a great success - raising just over \$3,400. If you **would** like to be involved in organizing such an event in your church or community, please contact Mary at the US office.

This weekend representatives from all of the Guatemalan communities will gather in Chichipate to celebrate Sister Parish's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The celebration will include a cultural night hosted by the youth of Chichipate, a Solidarity Walk through the community, and an ecumenical service.

#### **2009 Delegations**

Now is the time to plan a delegation trip! It's not too late to travel this year.

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,

**August 4-12:** Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Baltimore, MD to San Juan Sepalau, AltaVerapaz, Guatemala.

**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.

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### **Solidarity Delegation.**

Join others from throughout the Sister Parish family on a solidarity delegation to Guatemala! During this 10-day delegation, participants will visit three Guatemalan Sister Parish communities (UPAVIM, Tierra Nueva 2, and Chichipate) and will experience home stays in two of the communities. During the trip, delegates will learn about Guatemalan history and current events, as well as the issues that have affected each of the communities visited. While in the communities, delegates will learn about and experience the organization's history and development during its 20 years of work in Guatemala. The trip is open to alumni, current and potential members (you are not required to be a part of a current Sister Parish linkage). This is a great opportunity to revisit old friends and make new ones, and to create a true network of Solidarity. We are looking for 5-10 delegates for this delegation experience, tentatively set for October. Contact Mary DeCoursey ([maria@sisterparish.org](mailto:maria@sisterparish.org) or (314)223.8778) soon if you are interested.

### **Open Position**

The search for a new ED is still ongoing. 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. 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.

### **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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