

**Companion Diocese Committee  
Report to the 225th Annual Diocesan Convention**

I'd like to begin this report by first thanking the members of the Companion Dioceses Committee, who wholeheartedly dedicate their precious time to this mission of love, friendship and service to God; many thanks to the Bishop Councillor for his support and faith in us. Last, but certainly not least, a heartfelt thank you to the community of the Diocese of New Jersey for their tremendous generosity.

With bittersweet emotions, this past May we ended our nine year partnership with the Diocese of El Salvador. Throughout our nine year ministry of love and solidarity, countless of footprints were left for our fellow Salvadorian brothers to follow and multiply.

When we first began our partnership, one of our main goals was to improve the theological education for both clerics and laypersons. Today, that goal is almost near completion. I'm proud to announce that in June of 2009, Juan Pablo Alvarado and Jose Roberto Castro, two seminarian Candidates to the priesthood, will finalize their seminary school studies. This goal could not have been accomplished without the help of the Diocese of New Jersey and the Companion Dioceses Committee who sponsored and supervised their studies in this four year program. God willing, we will proudly attend their ordination in the coming year.

Coupled with the expansion of their theological education, we also provided our fellow Salvadorians with financial aid, sufficient labor and an unwavering faith towards the construction of new homes and schools for those communities most in need. Your generosity was also able to provide much needed medical and school supplies. However, after nine years, the most important developments we've come to cherish were the many friendships that were made and continue to thrive till this day. Today, we give thanks to God for allowing us to partake in this positive mission of solidarity and love.

As we close this wonderful chapter, we're in the midst of opening another with the Central Diocese of Ecuador under the direction of Bishop Wilfrido Ramos and the Companion Dioceses Committee of Ecuador. We hope that during their convention, to be held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, they vote in favor of joining us in the true spirit of partnership and brotherhood.

From the Companion Dioceses Committee of New Jersey, we wish to extend a warm welcome to the members of our Convention, with love and gratitude towards God.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Canon Servio R. Moscoso, Chair