

## **Migrant Ministry Report to the 229<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Our mission is to serve and support migrant people in all kind of needs, providing them pastoral care, social services and recreation activities. This means that every farm workers, as part of the people of God, must be respected and served with dignity and love.

We began this ministry on May through October last year. This is the time where the most of the migrant's workers arrive to the camps, located in Vineland, Millville and Bridgeton. There are most of 13 camps, with an average of 10 people per camp.

Most workers are Mexican those without legal status in this country, and others are from Puerto Rico of the more rural areas. There are some of Guatemala.

In this ministry with immigrants are working with the Reverend Ellen Rutherford, Vicar of Trinity Church of Saint Andrews in Vineland and Bridgeton, NJ.

We are also in contact with CATA ( Committee to support farm workers) to carry out a program of respect for the dignity of each worker, where they can enjoy benefits such as health insurance.

We have the support of the Hispanic Commission, which is aware of what we do.

We visited them twice a week and have meetings with them to their work situation and to bring them aware of social services available in the area.

In our visits we let them know that if there is a problem with migration or work can call us to give our support. We offer Bible studies and the Eucharist.

The year 2012 visited around 10 fields. These visits will be made on time and without hurry because we have to adjust to the time they have and if they are in a desire to meet and share their stories.

As committee members we have the Rev. Ellen Rutherford, Jonathan Martinez, Rev. Salvador Ross and Rev. Pedro Guzman.

Today it is difficult to maintain this ministry. Three years ago we had a person who lived in the Vineland area and visited the camps four days a week and was paid for 6 months from May to October. That person wanted better pay, which was not possible at that time.

The budget for this ministry is \$2000.00, which basically covers insurance and registration of the van, traveling expenses of the person in charge of visits and some educational materials or biblical support. May the Lord continue to guide each one in his paths of righteousness and love.

Rev. Canon Pedro Guzmán, Chair  
January 28, 2013