

## The Companion Diocese Committee (CDC)

The Companion Diocese Committee supports the establishment and growth of two Episcopal Dioceses in Ecuador that are part of Province IX. Virtually all of our efforts over the past year were focused on just one of them: The Diocese of Ecuador Litoral, headed by Bishop Morante in Guayaquil. There were two reasons for this: First, the diocese is making major strides toward congregational growth and is building new churches and ordaining clergy at an impressive rate. Second, located along the coastal plain, Litoral was devastated by the earthquake that struck Ecuador in 2016. Much additional reconstruction work will be required there over the next several years.

Since we had many requests for financial support from Litoral, we made only two trips to the Diocese last year. The Rev. Pedro Guzman was asked to preach at their annual diocesan convention in February and at the ordination of a new priest in La Pila in November.

We were able to contribute to the funding of a number of projects in Litoral: We passed through \$10,500 collected by our own diocese and other sources for additional earthquake relief. From the CDC's budget, we contributed to the construction of a rectory for a new church in La Libertad, to repairs to church buildings in Guayaquil and La Pila, and to the purchase of land for a new church in Guayaquil. We contributed to a "Credit Union" fund administered by the bishop for additional earthquake relief to parishes as needed. Bishop Morante is retiring at the end of this year and we complied with his request to help create a fund to cover expenses for the search process and the ordination of his successor.

One of our ongoing goals has been to establish parish-to-parish relationships similar to our committee's relationship with the two Ecuadorean dioceses. So far, Saint Luke's, Metuchen has partnered with Iglesia Buen Pastor, in the Diocese of Ecuador Central, and Christ Church, Shrewsbury is exploring a partnership in the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral. We see this as a potentially rewarding program for other parishes of our diocese. If you are interested in exploring such a partnership for your parish, please see one of our committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Canon Pedro Guzman  
Mr. Paul Murphy  
chairs, CDC

Co-