



**Health Care and Migration
Exploration Visit Report
Dioceses of Youngstown, Columbus and Cleveland Ohio
Diocese of Huehuetenango, Guatemala
Diocese of Mao-Montecristi, Dominican Republic
August 22 – September 5, 2004**

PURPOSE OF PARTNERSHIP

The purpose of the trip to both countries is directly related to the joint work of the Dioceses of Youngstown, Columbus and Cleveland in migrant ministry. Since October 2001, these three dioceses have worked to together to serve growing numbers of migrants and newcomers to Ohio, especially from Central America and the Caribbean. The “*Centro San Jose*” in Canton, OH serves as a focal point for the three dioceses working together in Ohio in order to better serve the pastoral, social and health care needs of newcomers and migrants.

Catholic health care institutions in the three Ohio dioceses (especially Mercy Medical Center based in Canton, OH and the Humility of Mary Health Partners in Youngstown, OH) work to reach out and more appropriately respond to the health care needs of immigrant newcomers to the Ohio region. For several years, Catholic Charities and Catholic Health care institutions have worked together through the “New Covenant” process. The institutions in the three dioceses recognized migration was a new reality in the Ohio region and there needed to be coordinated efforts to best respond to newcomers, the majority of which are Spanish speaking Catholics.

The three dioceses discovered, through several years of this ministry, it was important to learn about the place of origin of these newcomers, and to learn from those home-country dioceses in Central America and in the Caribbean how they operate and deal with migration and health care. There was also a desire to find out why newcomers were shy and sometimes unwilling to access health care and social services, and how the three dioceses could become more culturally competent in our social, health care, pastoral and outreach ministries.

In this light, the perspective of this trip was through the lens of migration and health care. The goal is to establish a long-term relationship, through Catholic Relief Services, with two willing dioceses: the Diocese of Huehuetenango in Guatemala (which has many of its Catholic parishioners living in the Ohio Tri-Diocesan region,) and the Diocese of Mao-Monte Cristi in the Dominican Republic (which also has some of its parishioners living in the Ohio region as well.) Both of these Dioceses also have members of their respective parishes living in Ohio prisons due to immigration and detention issues. Further, the Dioceses of Huehuetenango and Mao-Monte Cristi have active immigration and health care ministries in their home area. Many activities are similar between dioceses; facing similar issues and obstacles, and all want to learn from each other how to better serve the body of Christ.¹

ROLE OF CRS IN THE RELATIONSHIP

CRS’ vision of Global Solidarity realizes its role to support partnerships between dioceses and institutions in a manner that advances dual constituency partners towards joint action for change. In this light, CRS offers the following to the partnership process:

¹ “Working With Catholic Relief Services to Forge Long Term Partnerships in Health and Migrant Ministry.” Brian R. Corbin, Executive Director, Catholic Charities Services & Health Affairs and Diocesan Director of Catholic Relief Services, (09/04)

- ♣ CRS has the advantage of having a presence both in the United States, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Because of this presence, CRS can facilitate communications and take the role in organizing the partnership from the beginning.
- ♣ In the case of Ohio, Huehuetenango and Mao-Monte Cristi partnership, CRS has given support for the logistical organization of the first visit, assigned monetary resources and staff time, transportation, language translation and workshop facilitation.
- ♣ CRS is able to support the work of the relationship in its role as a facilitator of the process and, after the visit, by offering support in technical aspects particularly in the areas of health, education, agriculture, migration and administration as necessary.
- ♣ In the future, CRS continue administrative and technical support the relationship as decided by the partnered dioceses and elaborated in their jointly created work plan.

DELEGATION PARTICIPANTS

Two delegations from Ohio were formed to visit the Diocese of Huehuetenango in Guatemala and the Diocese of Mao-Montecristi in the Dominican Republic. Participants in each country were as follows:

Guatemala:

Brian Corbin – Executive Director Catholic Charities, Diocese of Youngstown
 Mark Huddy – Executive Director Catholic Charities, Diocese of Columbus
 Jerry Freewalt – Department of Social Concerns, Diocese of Columbus
 Angela Johnson – Centro Católico Latino, Diocese of Columbus
 Sr. Karen Bernhardt - Mercy Medical Center
 Nazario Mendoza – Centro San José, Canton Ohio
 Leo Giavino – Immigration Services, Centro San Jose, Canton, Ohio
 Dr. Larry Frisch – Physician, International Medicine, Ohio

Dominican Republic:

Bishop Thomas Tobin – Bishop of Youngstown
 Brian Corbin – Executive Director Catholic Charities, Diocese of Youngstown
 Sr. Marie Ruegg, HM – Humility of Mary Partners
 Sr. Terese Ann Wolf, OSB – Director, Centro San José, Canton, Ohio

PARTNERSHIP FORMATION PROCESS

During their visits to Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, Ohio participants had the opportunity to explore projects and programs within CRS and the Diocese of Huehuetenango (Guatemala) and the Diocese of Mao-Monte Cristi (Dominican Republic.) The following visits helped to form thoughts, views and ideas for the partnership process.

Guatemala:

- ♣ CRS/Guatemala: Country Context, Economy, Health Education and Migration
- ♣ Caritas National/ Guatemala: National Plan of the GT Caritas and Social Pastorate
- ♣ Overview of CRS/Guatemala Programming with a focus on Health and Migration
- ♣ Diocese of Huehuetenango: Diocesan Plan and Strategy
- ♣ Diocese of Huehuetenango: Pastoral Plan of Diocesan Caritas Office
- ♣ Ohio Tri-Diocesan Programming Presentation and purpose of the Visit
- ♣ Visits to the communities of Aguacatan, Chex, Xolpic
- ♣ Visits to the communities of San Sebastian, Conception Huista, Ixtahuacan

Dominican Republic:

- ♣ CRS/Dominican Republic: Country Context, Economy, Health, Education and Migration
- ♣ Overview of CRS/Dominican Republic Programming with a focus on Health and Migration
- ♣ Diocese of Mao-Monte Cristi: Diocesan Plan and Strategy, including Diocesan Caritas Office
- ♣ Overview of the Ohio Tri-Diocesan Programming and purpose of the visit
- ♣ Visit to Francisco Moroso Puello Hospital

- ♣ Visit to Batey Numero Dos (#2) and Batey La Libertad
- ♣ Visit to Luis L. Bogar Hospital
- ♣ Visit with Jesuit Refugee Services and the Dominican/Haitian Border on Market Day

WORKSHOP PROCESS OUTLINE

After a series of meetings at the respective CRS offices, and site visits with CRS Staff and the staff of the hosting dioceses, partners had an opportunity to gather for a 4-hour workshop process led by CRS staff. The workshop process allowed the partnered dioceses come together in a structured setting in order share experiences and focus on the direction of the partnership, identify possible activities of interest to partners and begin a process of concretizing next steps. The specific outcomes to the workshop process were identified as follows:

- 1) To have a joint understanding of the Characteristics of a Solidarity Relationship
- 1) To identify Key Issues and the underlying cause of poverty within each issue.
- 2) To identify short term activities and possible long term activity interest
- 3) To clarify immediate next steps

WORKSHOP RESULTS (based on outline above)

1) Principle Characteristics of Solidarity

Diocese of Huehuetenango, Guatemala and the Dioceses of Ohio

- ♣ Reciprocity – it is important that the partnership relationship goes both ways
- ♣ The relationship should be institutionalized and based on the institutions of the Church in both sides (Guatemala and Ohio)
- ♣ Inter-diocesan – The relation must occur between the Dioceses and the organization of each one of them. The relationship is not an individual one solely between people or parishes.
- ♣ The relationship is grounded in Solidarity
- ♣ Respectful to our different cultures.
- ♣ A pastoral relation that includes all aspects of the Church.
- ♣ Implement processes and not just activities.
- ♣ Flexible for changes and adaptation to times and circumstances.
- ♣ Effective communication.
- ♣ Considers and engages the community level for the planning and development of partnership activities
- ♣ The direction of the relationship is defined by previous planning
- ♣ Periodically monitored and evaluated.
- ♣ Based on the doctrinal framework of the Catholic Church.

Diocese of Mao-Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic and the Diocese of Ohio

- ♣ Mutual respect and equality
- ♣ Knowledge of the cause
- ♣ Recognizing the ability to give and the ability to receive.
- ♣ Awareness of our identity
- ♣ Clear and frequent communication
- ♣ Confidence in the Spirit of God
- ♣ Detachment and reception
- ♣ An attitude of equality and justice
- ♣ Spirit of service and solidarity
- ♣ Clear objectives and the ability to monitor and evaluate these objectives
- ♣ A commitment to the process
- ♣ Mutual support and reciprocity
- ♣ Long Term

- ♣ Freedom and spontaneity
- ♣ A spirit of generosity and unity
- ♣ The opportunity to give witness to the relationship

2) Results of Reflection on Key Issues and Associated Observations

DIOCESES OF HUEHUETENANGO AND DIOCESES OF OHIO GUATEMALA	
Key Issue Identified	Associated Observations
Food Insecurity	The abandonment of the Government towards the poor – leaving them in conditions of marginalization where there is no food.
	Increase of migration due to the poor living conditions and lack of development policies.
	Destruction of natural resources that includes contamination of air, water and land.
	Necessity to work on their own parcels of land, which are small and produce insufficient food.
Health and Education	Bad conditions of a clean environment: water, garbage excrements.
	Bad conditions of scholastic education, civic education, preparation for public offices, that they do not allow an integral quality of life.
	Insufficient economic development
	Deficiencies in the allocation of resources, cultural solidarity and formation of health promoters that do not allow for a good education of health issues to the community.
Structural Poverty	Lack of support and infrastructure in regards to education and health.
	The government supports and emphasis on infrastructure – such roads, but not on basic services.
	Interests of political parties do not favor solutions for the basic needs of the community.
	Internal and International migration with all its manifestations at the community level.
Resulting Poverty	Unemployment
	Lack of access to education
	Lack of access to health services, including HIV/AIDS.
	Migration that provokes negative affects locally, nationally and Internationally.
DIOCESE OF MAO-MONTE CRISTI AND DIOCESES OF OHIO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
Key Issue Identified	Associated Observations
Structural Poverty	Forced Migration
	Deficiencies in Health Services
	Violation of human right and human dignity
	Lack of employment
Extreme Poverty	Violation of human rights
	Deterioration of health services and basic sanitation
	A large amount of houses in bad state (in need of repair)
	Lack of nursery schools and recreational areas
Progressive process of the Undocumented	Institutional disability – lack of knowledge of the judicial regulations.
	Discrimination threats
	Demand for public services and social growth, particularly in the area of health.
	Extreme poverty on the rise.

3) Results of Future Partnership Activities

DIOCESES OF HUEHUETENANGO AND DIOCESES OF OHIO GUATEMALA		
IMMEDIATE ACTIVITIES		
<p>Persons Responsible:</p> <p>Ohio: Brian Corbin, Mark Huddy and Tom Allio</p> <p>Huehuetenango: Padre Gabriel</p> <p>Timeframe to make first communication and advances (on agreed upon activities): 3 weeks (around October 1st, 2004)</p>	Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ To create an article for the Diocesan Newspapers in Ohio. ♣ To share with (report out to) the Bishops experiences and the beginning of the relationship between Diocese. ♣ To share with (report out to) internal diocesan staff the experiences and the beginning of the relationship between Dioceses. ♣ Formation of “Yahoo Group Web Page” that can post information and be accessed by diocesan participants. ♣ To work together and share information on an alternative agricultural production process.
	Formation of Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Establish a coordinating team for the relationship in each diocese. ♣ Shape the commission, in charge of the relationship, with representatives from the Dioceses of Ohio and Huehuetenango.
	Producing the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Formalize the institutional relationship between the four dioceses by means of signing a covenant agreement with the Bishops. ♣ Produce an Inter-diocesan Plan of Action that functionalizes the partnership (puts the partnership into action.)
LONG TERM ACTIVITIES		
<p>Persons Responsible: Diocesan Commissions</p>	Exchange of information and visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Conduct two-way meeting between the Dioceses. ♣ Organize a delegation to visit Ohio. ♣ Jointly plan (Huehuetenango and Ohio) for the next exchange visit. ♣ Exchange of Radio Programming. ♣ Exchange of electronic mail.
	Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Promote the exchange of experiences of accompanying migrants ♣ Maintain continuous statistical data about the migrant population in Huehuetenango and the United States.
	Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Generate a solid plan of Inter-diocesan Solidarity. ♣ Insure appropriate support of the pastoral process and assigned resources. ♣ Implementation of the Inter-diocesan Plan
DIOCESE OF MAO-MONTE CRISTI AND DIOCESES OF OHIO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		

IMMEDIATE ACTIVITIES		
<p>Persons Responsible:</p> <p>Ohio: Brian Corbin, Mark Huddy and Tom Allio</p> <p>Mao Monte Cristi: Sr. Rafael Anibal Reyes I</p> <p>Timeframe to make first communication and advances (on agreed upon activities): 3 weeks (around October 8th, 2004)</p>	Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Establish communication channels between Migrants and their families (Dominican Republic and Ohio) ♣ Open channels for exchange and information sharing about migration in the United States and the Dominican Republic. ♣ Share basic information about each other's diocese and diocesan programming through the Internet ♣ Share the experience of the realization of partnership with others.
	Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Establish agreements of cooperation between the dioceses
	Producing the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Make operating agreements between CRS, Diocesan Caritas (Mao-Monte Cristi), Hope for a Healthier Humanity and Ohio to send Hospital Equipment to Mao Monte Cristi. ♣ Participate in the CRS/Dominican Republic "Welcome" program for Dominicans deported from Ohio.
LONG TERM ACTIVITIES		
<p>Persons Responsible: Diocesan Commissions</p>	Exchange of information and visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Jointly organize visits between Mao-Monte Cristi and Ohio and Ohio to Mao-Monte Cristi. ♣ Identify and develop projects for joint cooperation and execution. ♣ Exchange of information in the area of programming experiences between Mao-Monte Cristi and Ohio.
	Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Work on a joint documentation project ♣ Develop a project of education about the rights and responsibilities of migrants. ♣ Create a project in defense of human rights for both Haitian and Dominican migrants
	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Send needed medical equipment from Ohio to Mao Monte Cristi. ♣ Creation of a potable water project in Batey #2. ♣ Implement a project of basic health ♣ Repair the piping for water in Batey Libertad and look to construct an appropriate cistern in Batey #2.
	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Complete the Community Center in Batey #2. ♣ Begin a project for the construction of dignified housing. ♣ Construction of a community Center in Batey Libertad. ♣ Execute a project for the repair of existing houses.

4) Immediate Next Steps

- ♣ Dioceses will begin communicating as indicated in the "Activities" portion.
- ♣ Kim Burgo will maintain communication for Ohio Dioceses

- ♣ Luis Alonzo will maintain communication for the Diocese of Huehuetenango
- ♣ Jason Belanger will maintain communication for the Diocese of Mao-Monte Cristi
- ♣ Kim will be participating in a post-trip follow up visit in Ohio at the end of September.
- ♣ Kim, Luis and Jason will meet separately to coordinate a “Pro-Frame” process.

POST TRIP ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW UP

The following accomplished/planned activities are a result of the trip-follow up meeting of the Ohio Dioceses as of September 30th 2004.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

- ♣ Diocese of Youngstown published an article for the Catholic Exponent, due to come out on October 9th
- ♣ Diocese of Cleveland to publish an article in the next issue of the Cleveland Universe Bulletin
- ♣ Copy of Youngstown Article (with links to CRS) issued on the Ohio State Catholic Conference Website
- ♣ Diocese of Columbus to publish an article in the diocesan paper for mid-October

COORDINATION WITH BISHOP:

- ♣ Youngstown held a briefing session with Bishop Tobin on the GT portion of the trip. Bishop Tobin participated in the DR portion of the trip.
- ♣ Columbus held a briefing session with Bishop Griffin on the GT and DR portions of the Trip. Bishop is in full support
- ♣ Cleveland is scheduled to meet with Bishop Amos for November 29th.
- ♣ Papal Nuncio, stationed in the DR, is a bishop from Cleveland and has offered is full support and diplomatic services as they may be needed for the partnership.

INTERNAL PARTNERSHIP PROMOTION:

- ♣ Youngstown met with the Diocesan Pastoral Council and provided a briefing of the trip for all diocesan priests on September 24th.
- ♣ Columbus held several debriefing meetings for diocesan staff and ministries, including the ministries of Education, Pastoral and Family Life.

INTERNET COMMUNICATION:

- ♣ The three dioceses have developed a Yahoo Group Web Page for the TRIDIOCESAN CRS PARTNERSHIP that will be accessed by all partnership participants, including those in GT and DR. The page will be bi-lingual and will be used as a tool for information sharing. The web-page on-line and can be accessed at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TRIDIOCESANCRSPARTNERSHIP/>.

SHARING INFO FOR ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE PROJECT:

- ♣ A briefing of the full GT/DR trip was conducted for the Catholic Conference of Ohio.
- ♣ Catholic Conference of Ohio (CCO) Rural Life committee met with CRS staff to discuss Food Resource Bank
- ♣ CCO will be involving the IDH and ORDC in upcoming discussions.
- ♣ Currently investigating existing materials to be shared and will begin the process by end-January 2005.

SHARING INFO ON HEALTH AND MIGRATION:

- ♣ A large meeting of the Catholic Health Care Partners (CHCP) of Ohio is scheduled for October 26th. CHCP represents 18 Health Care systems throughout the state. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a debriefing of the GT/DR trip and to solicit their participation and involvement for future partnership activities.
- ♣ A briefing Mercy Medical Center is scheduled for October 17th to provide a presentation of the GT/DR trip and solicit their participation and involvement for future partnership activities.
- ♣ Currently connecting with families, living in the Dominican Republic, with family members who are currently in the Ohio prison system awaiting deportation.

- ♣ Connecting with CRS "Welcome Home" program for two additional immigrants awaiting deportation.

PARTNERSHIP FORMATION:

- ♣ Ad Hoc committee is established to review the future needs of the partnership and to make recommendation on future structure, funding sources and involvement of groups outside of the Tri-Diocesan group. The group will also look at the creation of a Covenant Agreement and solidifying a long term partnership Work Plan. Meeting of the Ad Hoc committee is scheduled for beginning-November.
- ♣ P:\CatholicCharities\CRS\PARTNERSHIPS\CRS Delegation Trip GT and DR Report 0804-b.doc