COMPAÑEROS EN CRISTO

Annual Report, October 2005

The Diocese of Northern Indiana's companion relationship committee, which exists to further the connections between Northern Indiana and the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras has endeavored over the last year to fulfill its mandate.

The committee has responded to the call of South American Missionary Society's Margarita Grachen, to enlist in support of a new work project in the town of Villanueva (near San Pedro Sula) called Los Amiguitos de Jesús. Seven members of the Diocese (five from St Thomas' Plymouth and two from St Timothy's Griffith) went to Honduras to work on phase one of the project in January of 2005. We utilized money that had been given for a different project (which we were incapable of completing—a church in the village of La Montañita—with the permission of those who had given it) and began the task of converting a former priest's residence at the Church of La Epifanía to a day care center. Villanueva is a city which houses some 25,000 women who work in the garment factories located there and who need child care. Eventually, Los Amiguitos will comprise an orphanage as well, which will be located on the top of the mountain behind the city. We have chosen to stick with this project, sending money and people to work as we can, in conjunction with many others who are also aiding this project. It is the intention of the companion relationship committee to try to take another work group to Honduras in the winter of 2006.

Compañeros en Cristo also represents the Diocese of Northern Indiana in the GEM network—Global Episcopal Ministries—and this year our chair, Tim Skimina, atended along with seminarian Marcus Cunningham. Part of the annual appropriation for this committee is committed to this missionary network of the Episcopal Church. It is primarily a consultation network of mission agencies and dioceses in the Church and keeps all those working in foreign mission work in touch with each other.

Our immediate task as a committee is the creation of a web site for continuous information about Honduras and links to works in Honduras. The church there is vibrant and growing but exceedingly poor. We continue to believe that our companion relationship can cross-fertilize in a way that is productive to the Kingdom. We are concerned, of course, that in days of restricted means in our own diocese, we shall fail to look out away from our own needs to those of our brothers and sisters far more needy than ourselves. We ask for the widest possible support from the diocese.

Watch the "Around the Diocese" for news of the web site when it is up and running.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Canon John E. Schramm, Board Member.