



THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**The Bishop of Guatemala to Visit Charleston for the Guatemalan Gala**  
~ The Public is Invited to the Gala to Hear about the Diocese of Charleston's Medical Clinic in Guatemala ~

(Charleston, SC) – The Most Reverend Gonzalo De Villa, Bishop of Guatemala, will be the guest of honor at the Guatemalan Gala, which will be held on Feb. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. During this fundraising event, Bishop De Villa will give the community an update about the Diocese of Charleston's medical clinic in San Pedro La LaGuna, Guatemala. The evening will also feature a discussion about the medical clinic between The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo, Bishop of Charleston, and Bishop De Villa.

The Diocese of Charleston has been assisting the Guatemalan medical clinic by coordinating medical missions to the area since 2007. The missions are an integral component of Project San Pedro (PSP), a sponsorship program supporting education in Guatemala. Currently, there are nearly 400 children sponsored, and the medical missions are an opportunity to provide additional support to the sponsored children, their families and the community. The medical clinic is staffed with a full time doctor, a registered nurse, and administrative support. During the missions, the clinic expands its services to also include dental services. This year's goal is to help the clinic acquire an Elisa machine, a test that uses antibodies and color change to identify a substance.

In addition to learning more about the clinic, the gala will give attendees a peek into the rich Guatemalan culture. Handmade and exquisite items from Lake Atitlan, San Pedro and Antigua, Guatemala will be available on the silent auction. Many silent auction items are from the Lake Atitlan Women Weavers Cooperative where the women have passed down their artistic traditions for

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generations. These weavers are among the only people still spinning their own thread directly from cotton, much of which they grow themselves. All the dyes are 100% natural.

Bishop Guglielmone encourages everyone to attend the Gala, and support the clinic as well as the men, women and children it serves. “We are called to serve the poor, the forgotten, and the homeless both here in South Carolina, as well as other places in the world,” said Bishop Guglielmone. “Your presence at this event and the money you donate to this cause can improve the lives of our less fortunate brothers and sisters.”

Tickets to the Guatemalan Gala are \$125 which includes dinner, two drinks, music, mingling and a silent auction. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church is located at 5 Teresa Drive in Charleston. For more information, visit <http://sccatholic.org/guatemalagala>. To purchase tickets, contact Teresa Garcia at (843) 531-5540 or at [tgarcia@catholic-doc.org](mailto:tgarcia@catholic-doc.org).

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#### **About the Diocese of Charleston**

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston comprises the entire state of South Carolina with Charleston as its See city. Founded in 1820 by Pope Pius VII, it is one of the oldest Catholic dioceses in the United States.