



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Diocese of Charleston partnered in 2008 with the Sisters of Bethany in Guatemala, the second poorest country in the American hemisphere, to assist with missionary teams in their care for the children, adults, and vulnerable inhabitants of San Pedro La Laguna and surrounding villages. The Sisters run a Catholic school and a small clinic in a rural, Mayan territory of Guatemala. We proudly support them with a sponsorship program for the children at the school and two medical missions per year to help the community.

As in our country, the pandemic has taken a toll on Guatemalans and rural communities like San Pedro La Laguna. The lack of technology, medicines and appropriate medical care makes our support imperative from a Christian perspective. Unlike the United States, there is no government funding to individuals or businesses in Guatemala during these challenging times. While the economy is recovering in our country, families in the Mayan territory of San Pedro La Laguna still struggle to put food on their tables today and obtain the needed health care.

The Diocese of Charleston, however, recognizes the mandate to preach the Gospel to all people. We are called to serve the poor, the forgotten, and the homeless here in South Carolina and worldwide. Most importantly, Christ taught us to share with others, whether from our personal experience of richness or financial scarceness. Mindful of that calling, I ask for your support to the international ministries and the medical missions to Guatemala by contributing generously to the second collection this Sunday, November 7th, 2021. Your donation will help us continue our Christian missions.

In the Lord's Peace,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston