



**ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

PASTORAL CENTER: OFFICE OF VICAR GENERAL
13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

MEMO

TO: ADMINISTRATORS, PASTORS, PRESIDENTS AND PRINCIPALS
FROM: Fr. Steve Sallot, Vicar General
Mark F. Dubeau, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer
Bill Milligan, Director of Real Estate
DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2016
SUBJECT: PARISH & SCHOOL TRIPS WITH CORAZON TO MEXICO

A number of years ago the Diocese ceased participation with Corazón in supporting the needs of people living in poverty in Mexico. Due to an increase in violence in Mexico, the U.S. State Department issued travel warnings for U.S. citizens traveling in Mexico and so as a precaution for safety and liability reasons, the Diocese no longer permitted volunteer participation with Corazon or similar organizations to Mexico. However, in it's over 40-year history of service, there has not been a single instance of crime related violence experienced by Corazón volunteers. This coupled with mandatory Diocesan guidelines for participation in a Corazón trip has resulted in the Bishop's approval to reinstate our support to the Corazón mission.

Corazón is known for their "One-day House Build Program". In a single day of effort, Corazón and volunteers construct a simple home for a needy family and literally hand the keys to the new home owners at the end of the day. Sponsoring parishes and/or schools fund the purchase of materials for the build and send a group of volunteers to the build site in Mexico. With the leadership of Reverend Brendan Manson, Pastor of St. Edward the Confessor, the Diocese has established mandatory guidelines intended to ensure the safe participation on Corazón trips. The guidelines are included as an attachment to this communication.

The materials included in this communication provide some background on Corazón and additional supporting materials to the mandatory guidelines. We ask that you review the guidelines if you are considering sponsoring a house build. If you have any questions or concerns about the guidelines, please contact any of the individuals sending this communication, or Father Brendan Manson at St. Edward the Confessor Parish.

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