

Report of the Hispanic Committee

Since Convention 2009, Hispanic ministry has continued to grow in the southwestern corner of our diocese. Under Fr. Palma's leadership, average attendance has grown in Noel from 19 (Jan 2010) to 39 (with a high of 80 on Easter), and in Carthage from 27 (Jan 2010) to 29 (high of 36 on Pentecost). Active weekly groups meet in both congregations for bible Study and Choir. In Noel, 10 baptisms and one marriage have taken place, along with one "quinceanera" and 12 blessings of new infants. Eleven are studying for confirmation later this autumn. In Carthage, a retreat was held in March for 35 Hispanics from four counties, including a few from Oklahoma. Confirmation classes have just begun for next spring's visitation. In both congregations, more than half of the active membership is now pledging to the annual budget of the congregation.

Fr. Palma led a diocesan workshop on Hispanic ministry last November, and planned a worship service at the Cathedral for February (which had to be rescheduled due to weather and conflicts with Kansas City schedules). He remains available for weekday and, on occasion, Sunday leadership of worship for Spanish-speakers throughout the diocese--those interested should contact Fr. Steve Wilson at Grace Church (gracechcar@sbcglobal.net or 417-358-4631 to arrange for such times.

On September 16, Fr. Palma was naturalized as an American citizen in a ceremony in Kansas City; a member of the Carthage congregation, Norma Hernandez, was naturalized the following Wed, Sept 22. Citizenship and English classes continue to be held in both congregations working with local educational institutions.

Plans for the autumn include area celebrations for Dia de los Muertos (Nov 1), Opor Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 8), and the Posadas, a "travelling Christmas pageant," the final week of Advent.

Respetuosamente sometido,
STEVEN WILSON+