



Religieuses de l'Assomption  
Religiosas de la Asunción  
Assumption Sisters

## **USA-Central America Collaboration in Chaparral, II.**

The sharing of April 6, 2020 on the Experience of AC Cuba-USA, expressed the experience of the sisters who have come to support us in Chaparral. Now, in the midst of this global pandemic, we want to share with you a little of what the collaboration and support of the Central America-Cuba Province is meaning for our small community of Chaparral.

The first big reality that emerges from mentioning this collaboration is: **SOLIDARITY.**

Yes, Solidarity. Not only with our community of Chaparral but with the very people in whom the Assumption is living and serving in Central America-Cuba. Daughters of our time, we face, together with our peoples, social, economic, and ecological realities that go beyond and exceed our borders.

Our peoples, submerged in poverty, violence, drug trafficking, natural disasters, corruption, inequality, extortion, "dream" and seek alternative ways of life and future for their families. The rivers of refugees who have been heading for the US borders in recent years are fleeing from unsustainable realities in their own countries. There is still no answer.

This migratory context is what originally generated our sharing and invitation to collaboration with CAC.

The reality of refugee welcoming has taken a radical turn in the USA. Presidential decisions -without the participation of elected legislators to establish laws in accordance with the founding values of this country-

have generated a very serious migratory and humanitarian chaos. Civil society, NGOs, and churches are those who continue to collaborate and search incessantly, how to make possible a dignified and effective reception of those who are in transit through our border.

Since the agreement to return asylum seekers to Mexico or Guatemala came into effect, until it is their turn to appear in immigration court to hear their case, the burden and responsibility has shifted from the USA to these countries.

It is in this changing social context that the Solidarity of the Sisters of Central America Cuba with Chaparral is situated. They themselves have experienced the progressive changes on this side of the border. We had Carmen Amalia "confined" with us, in the midst of the uncertainty about her dates of return. From the original date of departure, March 1, to the end of August when she finally could go back, some months have passed... And we are VERY thankful for the great flexibility and solidarity of the CAC Province to "wait for the right moment", and for Carmen Amalia's patience in the midst of the chronological ambiguity.!

On the Asunción level, for our community in Chaparral, the presence of the CAC Sisters is a blessing. I don't want to dwell alone on the immense help that their "hands, feet, hearts" of service to the people mean. I am pointing to the enrichment of community life. It broadens us and connects us with the realities of the various CAC countries. We give "names and faces" to sisters there, thanks to the excellent system of communication that Odessa and its different communities have with the sisters here. The liturgy is enriched with songs, psalms, beauty and care in the chapel. The "sororal" sharing helps us to know more about the different works and situations that the communities and the countries are living. We feel solidarity and pride in having among us a "founding" sister of the new community in Nicaragua, BlueFields. Another who returned to El Salvador, another to Guatemala.

What we never imagined was finding a full-time Spanish teacher in our own community for our sister Nha Trang. Nha Trang, (NT), arrived in Chaparral at the end of September with a burning desire to "learn Spanish", and be able to communicate with people... That's a big challenge. With Miriam they communicated in English... With Milagro by gestures... and laughter... But NT wanted classes to understand the structure of the language, the grammar... Carmen Amalia came to him like a "ring to the finger" and like a "stone in the shoe"... for her insistence. These days we start to hear NT phrases in Spanish..!! and laughter as she

stops to think about "verb tense"... Now she doesn't just repeat sounds, words... But she stops and looks inside herself for the word, the genre, the comparison... What a level...

I re-read this time of collaboration between our two provinces as a satisfactory and stimulating response to our Intercontinental Walk. The migratory reality of our peoples led us to give a joint response. Now we feel confirmed by the CGP 2020. We continue to walk, to seek, to be grateful for each step taken, and to entrust to God whatever He wishes to propose to us in this mutual effort to walk together on the continent, according to the realities of each province...

Thank you, Central America-Cuba. Thank you, dear Sisters América, Miriam, Milagro, Carmen Amalia, Odesa and her Council, each community that makes this collaboration possible. Each sister has left a very personal TRACK and has lived with generosity and joy the famous "interculturality" of our Assumption. Our community in Chaparral and the USA province is encouraged and enlivened by your participation. THANK YOU. Thank you very much, dear sisters.

May the Lord allow us to remain attentive to "Mother Reality" and Love of Our Time, as a source of discernment and collaboration at the service of the Kingdom in the peoples of our Continent.

Very united

The Community of Chaparral, USA