



Annual Report 2019



Introduction

The Community of Saint Paul is a Public Association of the Faithful of the Catholic Church comprised of priests and laity, both men and women. Our members are from Bolivia, Colombia, Spain, the United States, Guatemala, India, Kenya, and the Dominican Republic. Our headquarters are located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the United States, and we are also present in Mexico City, Mexico, in San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in Bogota, Colombia, in Meki, Ethiopia, and in Spain.





Community Life

In 2019, the Community of Saint Paul (CSP) continued its presence in the various countries and dioceses in which it has been working over the past several years.

This year, some of the priests of the CSP moved from their previous assignments: Juan Manuel Camacho finished his service in the Dominican Republic and was named associate pastor of St. Patrick, St. Richard and St. Edward parishes in Racine, Wisconsin (U.S.A.), where he began to work with Antony Thomas, who is also a member of the CSP. Michael Wolfe, after three years at St. John Paul II parish in Milwaukee, transferred to *La Sagrada Familia Parish* in Sabana Yegua, in the Dominican Republic. Esteve Redolad replaced Michael Wolfe at St. John Paul II parish.

In the Dominican Republic, Perla Abreu finished her university studies in dentistry and has become a permanent member of the parish team in *La Sagrada Familia* Parish.

Furthermore, two young men from the Dominican Republic joined the CSP community in Bogotá, Colombia, where they are undergoing their formation in community life, while they continue their university studies. They also help in the pastoral work that the CSP carries out in the Colombian capital.

In general terms, in 2019 the members of the CSP were distributed in the various places where the community is present in the following manner: seven people in the United States, three in Mexico, five in the Dominican Republic, three in Colombia, three in Bolivia, six in Spain and two in Ethiopia.

Community Activities

Throughout the year, several members of the CSP visited community houses in countries other than where they were living, in order to become aware of how those realities differed from the ones in which they normally work, and to see up close the ministries of the CSP.

The majority of the members of the CSP that live far away from their home countries were able to visit their families and friends at some point during the year.

In November, a community retreat was organized at the center run by the Benedictine monks of Benet Lake in Wisconsin (U.S.A.). The retreat, which centered on the spirituality of community and apostolic life, was led by Fr. Curt Frederick and Dr. Barbara Anne Cusack, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



Milwaukee,
U.S.A.



In the area of academics and formation, Dennis Beltré and Denny Jacob continued in their studies at the diocesan seminary St. Francis de Sales, and José Mario Nieto in his doctoral studies at the Catholic University in Washington D.C.

In terms of pastoral work, the priests of the CSP that live in the U.S.A. worked in six parishes in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

St. Patrick's in Racine is a bilingual parish with a Spanish-speaking majority. It has a twinning relationship with *La Sagrada Familia* Parish in the Dominican Republic. The pastor, Antony Thomas, and ten parishioners visited the sister parish in 2019.



In July a three-parish cluster was created in the central city of Racine, consisting of St. Patrick, St. Richard and St. Edward Parishes. The total number of families that are registered in the cluster are 2,600. Antony Thomas and Juan Manuel Camacho are assigned to this new structure.

Javier Guativa continued to oversee the pastoral and social work continued in St. Lucy and St. Sebastian parishes in Racine, with a special emphasis on projects associated with raising awareness around human concerns. During Lent, the two parishes organized a fundraising campaign in order to help the homeless in the city of Racine and to build a house in *La Sagrada Familia* Parish in the

Dominican Republic. A collection was also taken to support the center for street children *Casa San José* that the CSP runs in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Ricardo Martín, vice chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, continued as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, also in Racine. In addition to the regular pastoral and formation-related work, a program to raise missionary awareness was carried out and the parish funded a community center in Totorani, in the municipality of Independencia (Bolivia). In August, a group of ten parishioners visited the Andean country to celebrate the inauguration of the community center, which also serves as a chapel.

In St. John Paul II Parish, located on the majority-Hispanic south side of

Milwaukee, where Esteve Redolad is the associate pastor, various pastoral and formation events were carried out for the community. The annual parish mission campaign was earmarked for *La Sagrada Familia* Parish in the Dominican Republic.

In 2019 the community house in Racine held an open house, which welcomed 150 people, mostly friends and acquaintances from the community.

Also coordinated from Racine was a campaign for mission awareness. It was held during the summer months in various dioceses around the country, and several members of the CSP that work in the missions participated in this effort.





Bogotá,
Colombia



Pastoral Work

Martí Colom and two members of the CSP in formation continued with their pastoral work in *La Resurrección* Parish, which serves the neighborhoods of La Resurrección, Granjas de San Pablo and *El Pesebre*, located in the southern part of Bogotá. Among the different pastoral activities for which Martí Colom assumed responsibility in 2019—in addition to celebrating the sacraments and visiting the sick—of note is a weekly Bible workshop, an adult confirmation group and a youth group. The usual priestly

ministry of the church is also carried out in the parish's three neighborhoods, with youth retreats, adult retreats and multiple meetings and encounters with parishioners involved in the parish's pastoral groups.

Social Work

The *Casa Garavito* Center for Community Development, that the CSP established within the parish area in 2018, continued to offer a diverse array of programs:





A sewing training center with different courses, in which 50 people, mostly women, participated in 2019. The most advanced group of students was already making clothes to be sold and in October garnered a contract with a company to make undergarments.

In the *Casa Garavito* Center there was also a school tutoring program in which 20 children participated, courses in English and guitar for children and youth with more than 50 participants, and a general education program for older adults with 15 participants.

Since September of 2019 a psychologist offered psychological and counseling services to those seeking help. This program has been well-received by the community, with wide interest among adults and children.

A College Scholarship Program was also coordinated out of the *Casa Garavito* Center. In 2019, 24 young people from the neighborhoods of El Pesebre, La Resurrección and Granjas de San Pablo were given scholarships that helped them continue their course work throughout the year at a variety of universities located in Bogotá.

In terms of direct assistance to needy families, in 2019 both *La Resurrección* Parish and *Casa Garavito* Pastoral Center served Venezuelan immigrants that had recently arrived in Colombia, meeting their needs for food, medicine and financial assistance for rent, etc.





**Cochabamba,
Bolivia**



Montserrat Madrid, Gemma Regales and Aniceto Arroyo are in charge of various programs being carried out by the CSP in the Archdiocese of Cochabamba.

Areas of Independencia and Vacas

EDUCATION

The development project of the CSP in these two rural areas of Bolivia includes a scholarship program that in 2019 benefited 33 young men and women undergoing studies in high education at the Rural Education Institute and the Bella Vista Technological Institute in the city of Cochabamba. Weekly follow-up meetings were held with the students.

Furthermore, in the municipality of Vacas, 37 primary and secondary students from ten rural villages were aided in 2019 through a program to facilitate their transportation to school. In this same

area, a tutoring program for students was also carried out.

HEALTH

In 2019, the program to Promote Health and Primary Care, coordinated by Gemma Regales and established in six rural communities of the municipality of Independencia, was able to serve 238 people. There is a full-time employee associated with this program. A basic hygiene and nutrition workshop was held, as well as vision screening where prescription lenses were given to 19 people.

As part of the health program, a construction project was carried out in four rural communities to build proper bathrooms, in an attempt to improve personal hygiene and environmental health. During 2019, the CSP was able to build fifty-eight single-family bathrooms in the area, which included a toilet and hot-water shower, representing a very important change for the people of the area. This program benefitted 522 people.

TRAINING WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING SKILLS

In the same area of Independencia, the CSP organized a training program to improve the production capabilities of those interested. Eighty-seven women from 14 rural communities participated. As a result, five women began to manufacture quality alpaca wool garments to be sold.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

The pine reforestation and fruit-tree planting project moved grew, now in eight rural communities in the municipa-





lity of Vacas and in twelve rural communities in the municipality of Independencia. One hundred eighteen families participate in this program, which includes the management of a tree nursery for pine and fruit trees (allowing them to adapt to the altitude and climate). In 2019 approximately 90,000 seedlings were produced and 70,000 trees were planted. This year, the rural communities in the municipality of Independencia spent more effort on the planting of fruit trees than pine trees, due to the favorable climactic conditions in the area and the short-term benefits that come from fruit trees.

The project to improve native sheep production in the area continued with the participation of 154 families. They have introduced 45 sheep for better breeding.

In this project rural women make up 80% of the participants.

There were 43 families that continued their participation in a project to produce camelids. This project is also run by a majority female population from the area (95% of the beneficiaries).

Technical veterinary support was made available to both the project to improve native sheep production and the project to produce camelids.

Cochabamba City

CARE TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN

In Cochabamba the CSP runs and directs the *Casa San José*, which has the aim to support the inclusion (back

to their families) of homeless children and adolescents, and those at risk of becoming homeless. The center houses them temporarily and searches for solutions to their problems with the end-goal of reintegration into their families. In 2019, the center met the needs of 87 children and adolescents between the ages of 5-14 years old, and of 137 family members. The center is run by a staff of ten people.

In 2019 we celebrated the 15th anniversary of *Casa San José*. During these years the center has cared for 1,588 children, of which 1,038 have returned to their family life—in most cases with a grandparent or an aunt or uncle—therefore allowing them to enjoy again the right to live with family. Additionally, from the center, the CSP was able to make contact with another 3,233 children in the streets, thereby preventing and halting their socialization to street life, the consumption of drugs and

their involvement in criminal activities. In 2019 six students who are studying degrees in social work and receive a scholarship from the CSP carried out their practical training of 190 hours in *Casa San José*.

Visitors

In Cochabamba, in addition to the visit of a group of parishioners from Sacred Heart Parish in Racine (already mentioned) the local community received a visit from Juan Manuel Camacho, priest of the CSP, with a group of parishioners from three parishes of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. During their visit they joined in various educational activities with the children of *Casa San José*, and they worked with the reforestation program in the rural area of Vacas. They had an opportunity to experience up close the reality of the country and the diverse development ministries that the CSP performs in Bolivia.





**Mexico City,
Mexico**



Pastoral Work

During 2019, Pablo Cirujeda, a physician and priest of the CSP, was named pastor of the *Rectoría de Nuestra Señora del Rosario* (Second Pastoral Zone, Archdiocese of Mexico), which serves some 15,000 people. There the pastoral activities include religious education, weekly Bible classes and the celebration of the sacraments.

The *Rectoría del Rosario* area covers five working-class, overpopulated, aging neighborhoods. Most of its inhabitants lack sufficient financial resources and live in precarious conditions marked by family instability, violence and general lack of opportunities. The parish offers a space for community

building with activities such as daily classes of physical stimulation for older adults, recreational activities for children, religious education, retreats and gatherings.

As a physician, Pablo Cirujeda is developing a pastoral health program to treat the numerous sick people and those older adults who are shut-ins, in many cases without access to proper medicine or other services, since they lack any coverage from social security.

Social Work

CHILDCARE

The CSP directs the San José Community Center for Childhood Development in the neighborhood of





Jardines de San Juan, Tlalpan. The Center is run by Sarah Oduor and Àngels Fornaguera, members of the CSP. It cares for children up to age six in a preschool program, provides maternity care, nutrition and infant healthcare. In 2019, 112 children attended the Center, which also provides skills training for women and social awareness raising. The Center's staff is made up of 15 people, including the teachers, nurses and support personnel.

It is worth noting that in 2019 two educational assistants of the Center finished their studies in education. In addition, an early-childhood educator continued her collaboration with individualized educational programs for seven children. Also, two ophthalmologists visited the Center and conducted eye exams on all of the children there.



**San Juan de la Maguana,
Dominican Republic**



Pastoral Work

La Sagrada Familia Parish in Sabana Yegua, in the Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, serves a population of 30,000 people. In 2019, there were 169 baptisms, 77 confirmations and 68 first communions. Of special note is the pastoral work at the local prison where 40 men participated in the preparation to receive the sacraments of Christian initiation.

Social Work

Dolores Puértolas of the CSP coordinates the social work done in the parish, which includes the following areas:

EDUCATION

The educational initiatives are based on a scholarship program for college students that in 2019 benefitted 40

young people, and on a program that provides reading, writing and math support for students in 3rd and 4th grades from five schools in the parish area. This helps students to avoid getting behind and helps them stay at grade level. Furthermore, the Nazareth Center for workplace training, with sewing and hairdressing courses, trained 80 people in 2019.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CHILDCARE

Sabana Yegua's plastics recycling program has now established 70 recycling stations.

Moreover, *La Sagrada Familia* health center offers medical consultation, laboratory, pharmacy, odontology and gynecology services. The CSP also runs a network of ten small home-based pharmacies in the most remote areas of the parish. The center for





physical therapy and rehabilitation served 290 people throughout the year, with an average of 25 people per day.

The three early-childhood centers, San Agustín (Sabana Yegua), Divina Misericordia (Alto del Ganadero) y Ntra. Sra. Del Carmen (Los Negros) offered daily preschool education and a nutritional supplement to 160 children from two to five years old. The project is coordinated by Indhira Bautista, member of the CSP and nutritionist, and the staff of this program includes seven educators and five cooks, and a doctor that conducted regular wellness checks on the children.

In 2019 various structural improvements were made to the centers, and an emphasis was placed on encouraging parental accountability in the care, hygiene and nutrition for their little ones.

SKILLS TRAINING FOR WOMEN

The Women's Ministry group met quarterly, counting on the participation of some 50 women who participated in formation talks and in recreational activities that had as their goal women's empowerment. In 2019 the group received a visit from the business association FIDEM which led a participatory seminar promoting

women-to-women coaching. The group from FIDEM comprised 18 women from Spain, through the auspices of the Spanish NGO *Nuevos Caminos*.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Yomaira Cordero (also a member of the CSP) coordinates the services of social assistance to the most vulnerable population in the parish area. These services include the San José Group, through which 100 elderly people are helped by having access to monthly food pantries, basic medical attention and special meals on holidays.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

The annual ophthalmological campaign was once again carried out in

2019. This campaign is coordinated by St. Mary Parish in Kenosha (Wisconsin, U.S.A.). 110 surgeries were performed, and 900 people were visited by the doctors. Likewise, a medical campaign addressed to the Haitian population in the area was sponsored by Holy Apostles Parish, New Berlin (Wisconsin, U.S.A.).

In an attempt to further develop the sister parish relationship between the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and *La Sagrada Familia*, various groups from Wisconsin visited the Dominican Republic during 2019. One of these was made of three Vicars General from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and also of six seminarians studying at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, as part of their formation towards the priesthood. The seminary is promoting





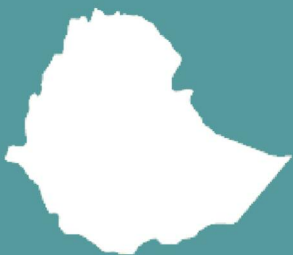
these visits so that each year a group of seminarians gets to visit the sister parish of the Archdiocese and has a missionary experience. A young adult group from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee also came to share time with the CSP in the Dominican Republic.

Furthermore, 11 young people from the *Asociación Sonríe y Crece* in Barcelona (Spain) came once again to organize a volunteer summer camp involving the children from the community in recreational and educational activities.

Leonardo Camacho (cousin to Juan Manuel Camacho, member of the CSP),

a priest of the Diocese of Socorro y San Gil (Colombia), and José Mario Nieto, priest and member of the CSP, made themselves available to help with pastoral duties during the last three months of the year and the Christmas season.

In December the parish also received the annual pastoral visit of the bishop of San Juan de la Maguana, Msgr. José Grullón Estrella. The bishop, in addition to enjoying personal contact with the parish and its parishioners, confirmed 50 youth and adults. He was also able to visit the inmates at the “Km 15 prison,” located within the parish boundaries.



Meki,
Ethiopia



Social Work

María José Morales and Mònica Redolad are in charge of apostolic work of the CSP in the Apostolic Vicariate of Meki.

TRAINING CENTER FOR WOMEN

The *Kidist Mariam* Center: The goal of this center is to provide skills to the participating women so that they can find employment. To that end, courses are offered in cooking, sewing and hairdressing. The Center functions with a team of 23 people. The students are for the most part young women who did not finish their studies, or Ethiopian women who have been deported from Arab countries where they were looking for an opportunity for work. During 2019, a total of

429 students attended the courses offered in the Center: 83 for cooking classes, 130 for sewing classes and 216 for hairdressing. 183 former students have already found work in restaurants, hair salons, industrial textile facilities, or in sewing or hairdressing cooperatives created with other students.

A new effort of 2019 was the establishment of a small fast-food restaurant in the Center. The profits will help cover maintenance costs at the *Kidist Mariam* Center.

The program that organizes community savings groups continued to function this year; 870 women participated in this effort in 2019, comprising 29 groups (two of which started up this year), in four rural zones, with thirty women in each one. These





groups allow women to save money and have access to small loans, which permit them to put in motion entrepreneurial initiatives and to have funds available in case of emergency, which, by themselves, they would not have otherwise had access to.

The project for promoting goat milk production also continued during the year, involving 114 women from the rural areas of Korke Adi and Dembel. The women are instructed on how to optimize the production of milk through safety measures and hygiene for the animals. During the year, four mating stations were built and four top-breed males were bought in order to improve the mating and the genes of the offspring.

EDUCATION

As part of the development programs, primary students as well as university students received school supplies and

assistance through scholarships.

Likewise, three schools in Meki serving 2,000 primary students benefited from a program in health education and gender equality. Students participated in a variety of activities organized to help them overcome prejudices and social traditions that impact women negatively.

Through these schools and with the collaboration of two nurses, 350 people were able to receive first aid training classes.

VOLUNTEERS Y VISITORS

Throughout 2019 various groups of visitors were able to visit the Meki mission; the visitors showed their support and offered their knowledge to the sewing and cooking teachers. Two veterinarians also visited the project.



Spain

In Spain, the NGO *Nuevos Caminos*, with Carme Bultó as president and Silvia Garriga as manager (both members of the CSP), continued to work toward fulfilling its goals and remained dedicated to raising funds for CSP projects around the world, as well as to raising awareness in Spain about the situation of the countries where the CSP is present. During 2019, special emphasis was placed on working on the Strategic Plan of the NGO for the upcoming years.



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