

Education Across Borders/ The Pentecost Project

Solidaridad con Quisqueya

Service-Learning Immersion in the Dominican Republic

Two-Week Summer Program

This program offers participants a unique opportunity to know and come into solidarity with the poor of the Third World. We will journey to the Dominican Republic, immersing ourselves in its rich history and culture, and meet the poor—in their own communities, on their own terms—so as to understand their reality and the reality of most of our world. Participants will be challenged to grow intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually as they become intimately familiar with the life of coffee growers (and the impact of Fair Trade coffee), of city dwellers who work in the sweatshop industry, and of Haitian immigrants who harvest sugar cane and other crops. Participants will stay in the homes of Dominican families for part of this experience. The group will be invited to collaborate in on-going community development projects that address the roots and manifestations of poverty in this country. Reflection, in both individual and daily shared-prayer format, will form an integral part of our experience.

Program Itinerary

- Day 1: **arrive in Santiago/Puerto Plata**
Orientation at retreat center; primers on 3rd World living
Evening meal and prayer at retreat center
- Day 2: **visit to Santiago/Puerto Plata**; historical/cultural tour of city
La Raza Dominicana: Tainos, Spaniards, and West Africans
King Sugar: legacy of colonialism
DR/US relations
Option for the Poor: What does it mean, here and now?
- Days 3-9: **visit to Franco Bidó, Juncalito**
Group stays with families in the community
Collaboration in community project: *Construcción de casas*
Coffee Crisis: a community's perspective and response
Focus on Education/ Health/ Youth (charlas and/or intercambio)
Celebration of Eucharist; shared daily prayer
- Day 9: **return from Franco Bidó to retreat center**
Charla on *el campo*; processing, and preparing for the future
Evening meal and shared prayer

Day 10: **visit to Santiago: Cien Fuegos and One Respe**
The hope of the city—fact or fiction?
Life inside and out of the sweatshops
The Church standing with the poor
Living with and responding to HIV/AIDS
Taller de Artesanía: candles and other hand-made gifts

Days 11-12: **visit to Batey Libertad, Esperanza**
Immigrant life, including perspectives on racism
Human Rights of “Invisible” Haitians
Examination of work of Catholic Relief Services and other NGOs
Collaboration in community project: *Construcción de casas*

Day 13: **closing rituals; return to US**
What’s Your Response? What Will We Build?