

# *Basilica de Santos Pedro y Pablo*

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY  
JANUARY 2019 - DECEMBER 2019



ONE CHURCH WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING TO THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus AD- GENTES  
Sister Maria Imelda Quechol MAG

We started this year with the Invitation to participate in a meeting with Chattanooga Police Chief Roddy. Many had questions about a new law that was implemented on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, HB2315/SB2332 that prohibits local and governmental entities from adopting 'Sanctuary City' policies. This created a lot of fear in our community.

Also, during this time we had President Trump visit our city, this made people scared of going close to the area where he was because of fear of police or supporters. We celebrated Mass at the House of Prayer Inmaculada on Rossville Blvd with close to 200 participating.

With a great blessing we began the Lent with the Stations of the Cross and a group of adoration to the Blessed Sacrament with the Hispanic community from 7:30pm. to 7:00am every Friday during Lent.

After Lent, we have Adoration only every first Friday of the month from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 am.

The attendance was 200 people throughout the night.

On March 23, we had a couples retreat with 250 people participating.

In the RCIA process at Easter, 14 baptisms of children, 10 catechumens and 22 candidates were baptized. We also had 31 young people celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Stika on February 29.

We continue with the preparation of sacraments of initiation for adults and children.

This November 9 we had Community Weddings and the next ones are planned for February 8, 2020. This date is for couples who are receiving Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Choir rehearsal on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 pm to 8:00pm.

Religious Education for Children Saturdays at 10:00am

- We Pray the Rosary in the months of May, before Mas Sundays and in October, November and December, and in the homes of some of the families.
- We participated during Easter in the Sacraments of Initiation.

Mass attendance has increased from 650 to 800.

As part of the permanent leadership formation we continue with classes, retreats and courses for all our leaders and volunteers.

- Formation of Catechists in the diocese and in Dalton, Ga.
- Courses in the month of June, and after religious education.
- Bible Study
- Formation of preachers for the Prayer houses.
- Training of lectors

- Formation of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
- Formation of altar servers, boys and girls
- Ushers training
- Training of Traffic Guides
- Bathroom Safety training
- CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH (Women and men)
- Participation in meetings of the diocese with different deaneries, to report activities that we carry out in our communities.
- Virtus course for leaders.
- Evangelization School San Andres
- Youth participating in different activities in the dioceses
- Participation in the V Hispanic Encounter regional meetings

Also as part of our duty to serve others and our own community we carry different services to many of them.

- Visits to the sick.
- Praying in homes (with the help of leaders)
- Help translate or find someone who can take them to immigration courts, food banks, or to the hospital
- Family counseling
- Counseling for couples
- Visits to families
- Mother's Day celebration.
- Celebrating Father's Day.
- Promote English classes.
- We take people to Memphis for immigration appointments we look for volunteers to help us.
- Supporting immigrants with lawyers.

In the Spiritual Life, we exhorted and help them to make their visits to the Blessed Sacrament and encourage them to

- Attend the sacraments of reconciliation and communion.

- Make Spiritual Communion
- Pray the rosary every day
- Read the Bible
- Retreats are held for leaders and children.
- Reflections are made after each meeting.
- Annual concerts of Catholic songs are held in the prayer houses.
- The parish performs two annual penitential services.
- Corpus Christi Procession
- Participation in Holy Hour every month.
- Opportunity to be able to confess each Sunday.
- Prayer of the Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent.

At the end of May the coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary took place.

First Holy communions were held in the celebration of Corpus Christi on June 23, we had 29 children received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time.

We started classes of catechesis on August 24, with 205 children who are participating.

In the month of August, Manuel Macias, a preacher from Mexico came to help us keep forming leaders and continue their training, he came two times this year. And 65 leaders participated.

We also have a group of young people who after Confirmation continue participating in these meetings is a group of 40 young people, it is an achievement that the young people who made the confirmation continue to be catechized.

In the month of September, 45 leaders participate in the Diocese of Knoxville and in the parish of San Jose in Dalton, Ga. 25 catechists in a training course for catechists and leaders.

Also, during this month we celebrated Sister Imelda's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Vows.

And gave children a Religious vocation retreat with 180 kids participating. Parents also received classes about vocation, we had 52 couples participating.

On the weekend of November 23 and 24 we will have the retreat of Christ renew his parish for women.

The training growth of women after retirement will take place on Saturdays at 3pm in the auditorium each 15 days. The team of the Archdiocese of Atlanta will come to support us for this retreat.

On October 26 and 27, we had Christ Renews His Parish Retreat for men, with 72 men participating.

On Saturday October 26 we had Preacher Rafael Diaz who preach about participation about more participation in church. This was held at the House of Prayer Inmaculada with 300 people participating.

We continue with the formation of the Evangelization school San Andres to create more leaders

We will have a retreat on March 14 and 15, 2020 for leaders.

This year we had the course of John and next year we will have the next one on the stages to form stronger disciples.

### **THESE ARE THE FIRST 7 STAGES OF COURSES.**

**First stage:** Fundamentals of the Christian life

**New Life:** First announcement.

**Emmaus:** Encounter with the Word.

**John:** Formation of disciples.

**Jesus in the 4 Gospels.**

**History of Salvation:** Our own history.

**Moisés:** Formation of liberators.

**Blessed are you: Way of happiness.**

Popular traditions

- Preparation of the novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe, We pray in 9 different homes. (December 3 to 11)
- Procession (Feast of Lady of Guadalupe)
- Mañanitas to our lady of Guadalupe. (December 12 or depending on what the diocese indicates)
- Novenario de Posadas (16 to 24) We remember the path of Mary and Joseph until the nativity of our Savior. We Will celebrate in the different Houses of Prayer.
- Pastorela (representation of the nativity) made by children of the catechesis this year at 10:00am in the academy of all saints.
- Celebration of All Saints November 1

We have a new music group that helps us with the procession of Our lady of Guadalupe.

The RE children will have a posada on December 21 at 10:00 am in Varallo Parish Hall.

We will have a representation of the birth of the Child Jesus, made by the youth and children of catechesis.

This year are participating in the dioceses 5 young adults as part of the youth pastoral council: Yulman Elismeo Gonzalez, Ruben Escobar, Ronald Alexander Polanco, David Lopez, Julio Quinilla

We also have some of our leaders taking a SEPI course. Mario Perez Telesforo, Apolonio Lopez, Jorge A Lopez, Olegario Cardona Perez, Raquel Vasquez, Edilzar Garcia and Marcelino Vicente.

In March 2019, we had 3 couples take a Natural Planification Course to become facilitators and be able to give these classes to others.

Quinceañeras are only to receive a blessing on their special day, these to teach of the importance of the Sacraments.

We will start a class for couples and young people, to appreciate the sacrament of Marriage and to wait until marriage to start living together. The plan is to celebrate Mass for couples who wait until marriage to show others of the importance of the Sacrament.

The next year we are thinking of making a small procession for All Saints Day since it falls on a Sunday.

- Attendance 2015-2016 children in catechesis (98)
- Attendance 2016-2017 children in catechesis (200)
- Attendance 2018-2019 children in catechesis (205)
- Altar servers 30
- Youth group 40
- Young Adults 37 Meetings are in the House of Prayer Inmaculada on Fridays
- Catechists 9 Hispanic, 1 American and 5 assistants.
- Ushers 28
- Extraordinary Ministers of Communion 25
- Lectors 28
- Parking guides 20
- Bathroom Safety 15
- Prayer House Santa Cruz attendance of 250 people each Saturday from 9 to 11 p.m. This house has 2 praise ministries

- Immaculate Prayer House Located on Rossville Blvd 320 people from 9 to 11 p.m. This house has 5 praise ministries
- Each prayer house support themselves and pay rent, water, electricity, etc. for each house.

PROJECTS OF THE DIFFERENT GROUPS		
<b>Christ Renews His Parish Men's Group</b>	The retreats will be made every year and we will continue with the growths after each retreat.	This year we had 72 men participating. Our largest group so far.
<b>Christ Renews His Parish women's Group</b>	The retreats will be made every year and we will continue with the growths after each retreat.	We've been working on preparing our next retreat which will be take place this November 23 and 24.
<b>Usher Training</b>	4 teams of ushers have been formed for each Sunday liturgy.	training is every second Sunday.
<b>Traffic Guide Training</b>	Four teams of traffic guides have been formed for the care of the parking lot and the continuity of the people who travel to the Church.	training is every third Sunday.
<b>Leaders</b>	Formation of leaders by apostles of the word, Apologetic consists of giving an answer to those who ask us for what we believe and hope, doing it with simplicity and respect (cf. 1 Peter 3, 15-16).	For three tables once, a month. 9:00am – 4:00p.m. Regular training every fifteen days at 5:00 p.m.
<b>Lector and EMHC Training</b>	It has been possible to have a lector group of 30 participants with their respective leader.	Meetings every second Monday of the month 6:00 p.m.
<b>Spanish Ministry of Families</b>		
<b>Choir Practice</b>	Group consisting of 15 adults and 20 children	Practices every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30p.m. at 8:00 p.m.
<b>Altar Server Training</b>	It was possible to establish a group of 25 children participating in the liturgy on Sundays and in bilingual ceremonies.	Practices every 2 Monday of the month for girls and every Wednesday for children 5:00 p.m.
<b>Sacramental Preparation</b>	Wednesdays at 6:00pm Saturdays 4pm	
<b>Adoration</b>	First Friday of the month 9pm-7pm	
<b>Religious Education</b>	Saturdays 10am	
<b>English as a Second Language</b>	Saturdays 10am	
<b>Youth Group</b>	Saturdays 10am-12pm	
<b>School of Evangelization</b>	Sundays 4pm	March 14 and 15 we will have a New life Retreat
<b>"APOSTLES OF THE WORD"</b>	Next March we will have a mission of visiting homes.	
<b>HISPANIC PASTORAL CONCIL</b>	Every Second Sunday 6:00pm	

Living in constant availability to the needs of others is a way of imitating Jesus, who, being God, did not come to be served but to serve.

May God bless our projects and may we continue to work for the good of the Church and our brothers and sisters in Faith.

Sister Imelda Quechol MAG