



April 24, 2020

Dear friend of the Mission of Friendship,

First of all, I hope that you and your family are doing well during this time of business closures and “stay at home” orders. The coronavirus epidemic is the most serious danger our world has faced in decades. Every family on every continent is affected. Some have family members suffering with the virus, others are suffering loss of jobs and economic hardship, and others are experiencing the loneliness of isolating at home.

Our friends in the Yucatan are suffering just as we are. Many in Mexico have been infected with the virus; schools are closed and most people are ordered to stay at home – just like here in the United States. Unfortunately, Mexico does not have the same unemployment or emergency support benefits that we are blessed to have here. The programs of the Mission of Friendship are currently closed, and the Mission is struggling to continue paying their staff. If the staff were to be laid off, they would not be able to provide for their own families, and would be forced to find employment elsewhere, causing us to lose valuable employees when the Mission is reopened by the government.

I write you this letter asking, if you can, to make a special donation to help the Mission of Friendship through this difficult time of crisis. Many individuals and organizations which support the Mission are now facing financial difficulty themselves and their support is in jeopardy. So, I am seeking donations to the Mission in general, which can be used to assist them during this time of crisis. Honestly, we are concerned that the Mission may not survive a prolonged shutdown without additional funds. For this reason, I am asking your help. I know that you may be facing similar financial uncertainty, and so a donation may not be possible. That is completely understandable. But if you can, any amount will help. Donations can be made online by going to <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=7494a8> , or a regular check can be made out to “Mission of Friendship” and mailed to me at the Mission Office, St. Mark Catholic Center, [429 E Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504](#).

In any case, I ask your continued prayer for the staff and families served by the Mission of Friendship in Yucatan. Together we will get through this crisis and be stronger. Know that you are very much in my prayer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Indira Suarez".

Indira J. Suarez
Director, Diocesan and International Mission Office
Diocese of Erie