Executive Director Search

We want to share some significant news regarding our leadership and express our deepest gratitude to Charlie Petro, Executive Director, as he steps down from his position to accept a new role with Maryknoll Lay Missioners. We are immensely grateful for his leadership, partnership, and faith-filled, mission-centric focus. The Ixim Board wishes Charlie the very best in his new position.

As we look to the future, the Board will be conducting a search for a new Executive Director. Until a permanent replacement is found, an interim team will step in to oversee the daily work and continuity of Ixim's mission. Please join us in thanking Charlie for his eight years of exceptional service and wishing him abundant blessings in his new journey with Maryknoll.

If you have questions or know of anyone who is bilingual and may be called to mission work, please contact Christine Baldwin:

baldwinpc@comcast.net

Goals for 2027

In 2027, Huehuetenango will have a new bishop, Miguel Angel Martinez Mendez. We hope to get our own Archbishop Miguel together with the new bishop to build relationships that will endure throughout both of their times serving our dioceses. We're very grateful for the support that Cardinal Ramazzini, the outgoing Bishop of Huehuetenango, has given us over the past fifteen years.

We want to expand the opportunities for Iximeros to return to Huehuetenango with experiences beyond the core mission trip. In 2027, we will open the consecration trips—which are usually in the fall—to more than just the sponsors of the Disciples being consecrated. Look for more details in the coming spring.

In the upcoming core mission trip, we will expand our health offerings to include education and preventative services in a health fair setting. The health fair will engage all missionaries in the same work for at least one part of our time in La Libertad this summer.

Ixim: Spirit of Solidarity is an archdiocesan ministry cultivating relationships of friendship, faith, and solidarity between the Archdiocese of Omaha and the Diocese of Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Visit us at ixim.org.

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TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

Ixim: Spirit of Solidarity 2026 Annual Report

Successes in 2026

Trip 21

This year's group included 17 men and women from seven parishes across the Archdiocese of Omaha, 12 of whom had never traveled to Huehuetenango. The group included working parents, two married couples, and two people of Guatemalan descent.

Fr. Jairo Congote, pastor of Divine Mercy parish in Schuyler, joined us as our priestly support. One day he heard over 150 confessions from the people in La Libertad.

Our medical clinic had four clinicians—two joining through telehealth—and four nurses who saw almost 300 patients in a four-day clinic. The clinic served both the parish center and a smaller village.

Our community team worked with children in La Libertad and in a school in the town of Ixtahuacán. In both places, groups of missionaries taught a mathematics lesson and a religion lesson to all students.

Missionaries also continued our annual fluoride treatment program in both towns, applying fluoride to all children in the parish and school. This treatment was accompanied by dental hygiene instruction, new toothbrushes, and rosaries distributed by the local pastors of the two parishes.



Clean Water



One exciting part of Trip 21 was seeing the advancements at the water plant Ixim built in the town of Ixtahuacán. Further investment from the parish has updated the facility to meet commercial water production sanitary standards in Guatemala.

The plant now provides clean water for thousands of families at a cost nearly half that of other water available in local shops.

The plant also employs several people involved in water purification, sanitation, and distribution.

Disciples

Four women took their final vows this year: Sr. Eulalia Gaspar, Sr. Francisca Lopez, Sr. Juana Juan Pedro, and Sr. Estela Ramirez.

These consecrations bring the number of Disciples to 41 with 29 of them having consecrated their lives to Christ by taking perpetual vows.

We anticipate two more Disciples will take their final vows in 2027. We still have a couple of new Disciples who need sponsors. Please consider whether you might be able to take part in this special service for them.

Financial Report

The fiscal year ending in June 2026 was another record-breaking fundraising year for Ixim. Thank you for your generosity!

Our one-time donations increased by 13% from $73,780 to $83,424. Our pledges increased from $47,514 to $50,641. Our coffee sales increased from $23,018 to $25,122. These were our highest numbers ever in all three categories.

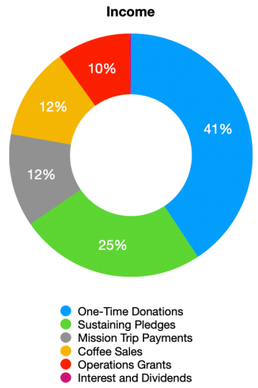
We still had a total loss for the year due to two main factors. First, inflation meant that our standard trip fee was insufficient to cover transportation, accommodation, and other trip costs. We lost over $3,000 on the trip. Our trip fee will be adjusted for Trip 22 to account for the increased costs.

Ixim has committed to providing a standard amount of money to the Disciples of the Good Shepherd on a quarterly basis. This funding is sent based on the number of Disciples regardless of whether the Disciple has a sponsor. The death of a sponsor, along with the entrance of three new women into the congregation, led to expenses for the Disciples being greater than income from their sponsors.

Our Finance Committee has been working to find new ways to use our cash-on-hand to our advantage. This should lead to better interest and dividends for the current fiscal year.

Our coffee program also continues to expand to more parishes. We anticipate an increase of at least 40% in coffee sales based on results during the fiscal year so far.

Income	
One-Time Donations	$83,424
Sustaining Pledges	$50,641
Mission Trip Payments	$25,280
Coffee Sales	$25,122
Operations Grants	$20,000
Interest and Dividends	$391
Total expenses	**$204,859**



Expenses	
Mission Program Support	$90,939
Disciples of the Good Shepherd	$51,293
Mission Trip	$28,971
Diocese of Huehuetenango Support	$17,000
Health and Education Programs	$12,307
Coffee Costs	$11,336
Total expenses	**$211,847**

