

## RGBM Parish Partnership Brief

### **Mission of RGBM:**

Rio Grande Borderland Ministries (RGBM) is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande serving in the borderlands of New Mexico and Far West Texas. RGBM has been engaging with long-term systemic needs on the border for decades by working collaboratively to provide humanitarian support to vulnerable people in our border communities. We help to ensure that our migrant neighbors are embraced in the service of justice, the interest of dignity, and the spirit of love. The compassionate response of RGBM is simple — to feed, shelter, and care for our neighbors on both sides of the border.

### **Short Summary of Work:**

RGBM supports shelters for vulnerable communities on both sides of the US/Mexico border serving asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, and indigenous persons in our border communities of Ojinaga and Juarez, Mexico. RGBM also partners with Boquillas and Beyond Mexico Mission to help bring solar power to rural areas, as well as the Our Lady of Las Palomas Interfaith Center and Women's Co-op in Palomas, Mexico.

### **Introducing RGBM Parish Partnerships:**

RGBM partner parishes/organizations commit to working in collaboration with the RGBM leadership team to provide borderland education, support advocacy initiatives and lead fundraising efforts in local communities.

### **In partnering with RGBM, parishes are making 3 commitments: Stewardship, Prayer, and Time**

- Stewardship - Giving at one of three levels:
  - \$25,000
    - The impact of \$25,000:
      - Feed and supply one shelter for 142 days,
      - Pay for 1½ solar powered classrooms, or
      - Support the bridge chaplaincy ministry for 4½ months
  - \$5,000
    - The impact of \$5,000:
      - Feed and supply one shelter for 28 days, or

- Cover travel costs for asylum seekers for 2 months
  - \$1,000
    - The impact of \$1,000:
      - Feed and supply one shelter for 5 days

*NOTE: All partners will have the same opportunities and communications regardless of the level the pledge to give. We hope that parishes will discern what they are able to commit to, whether it is at one of these levels or any other level.*

- Prayer - Commitment to including RGBM in the parish prayer cycle
- Volunteer Time - Engaging with RGBM online and/or in pilgrimages/outreach trips.

*NOTE: Our primary goal in our parish partnerships is to build relationships and share stories - pilgrimages are trips focused on building relationships and sharing stories, outreach trips are trips built around a specific service project. We can help you discern what would work best for your congregation.*

### **What we can provide**

- Consistent apolitical communication for service leaflets that will attract a broad audience
- Prayers for monthly rotation in the Prayers of the People
- In-person and online volunteer opportunities
  - Partner parishes have priority for pilgrimages and outreach trips
- Monthly/weekly updates on the state of immigration and the borderland community
- The RGBM Development on occasion may arrange team meetings with parishioners, as well as serve as guest preachers/speakers

**Ministry Covenant**  
between  
**Rio Grande Borderland Ministries and**  
**[INSERT PARISH NAME, CITY, STATE]**

Every congregation has unique God-given gifts for mission and ministry that we offer together as the Body of Christ. Carrying out God's mission through the church's ministries is the responsibility of all ministers – lay and ordained.

Having discerned a calling from the Lord Jesus Christ and desiring to serve Him through specific ministry, we joyfully enter into covenant with the body of Christ at [INSERT PARISH NAME, CITY, STATE] and Rio Grande Borderland Ministries, Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande.

We promise, with God's help, to walk together in Christian love; to make a place in our prayers for this church and RGBM; to serve faithfully in discharging our commitments.

[INSERT PARISH NAME, CITY, STATE] wishes to walk alongside the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande and its ministries in RGBM.

*All partners will have the same opportunities and communications regardless of the level the pledge to give. We hope that parishes will discern what they are able to commit to. We are grateful for any level of support in prayer, stewardship, and time.*

**As Covenant Partners our shared values include the following:**

Specific components of the Covenant are as follows:

1. The RGBM Development Team will:

- Maintain parish partnership webpage to include up to date information and opportunities for continued conversation related to issues of migration and the borderland.
- Meet regularly with parish partners to discuss progress and the current state of the borderland.
- Provide technical assistance to build the capacity of [INSERT PARISH NAME] to meet its strategic volunteer goals and needs.

- Provide limited project management support for skills-based projects posted on riograndeborderland.org.
- Periodically spotlight partner's work and highlight partner's volunteer opportunities via electronic and/or mailed communication.
- Offer their assets to the success of the partnership.
- Provide a monthly cycle of prayer
- Commit to operating in good faith, prioritizing a transparent, direct and authentic relationship. This includes working in the spirit of togetherness to solve challenges that may arise.

2. [INSERT PARISH NAME] will:

- Discern commitment level of 3 commitments (stewardship, prayer, volunteer time)
- Provide additional program goals, to be mutually agreed upon
- Offer their gifts to the success of the partnership
- Commit to operating in good faith, prioritizing a transparent, direct and authentic relationship. This includes working in the spirit of togetherness to solve challenges that may arise.

3. The Diocese of the Rio Grande will:

- Provide an annual certificate of partnership issued by the Bishop
- Provide tax receipts and all other necessary reporting
- Hold partnership in prayer
- Commit to operating in good faith, prioritizing a transparent, direct and authentic relationship. This includes working in the spirit of togetherness to solve challenges that may arise.

This Covenant may be amended or revised through mutual discernment of [INSERT PARISH NAME] and RGBM.

Should either RGBM and/or [INSERT PARISH NAME] wish to dissolve this covenant, they may do so at any time with written notification.

Upon entering this Covenant and the Commissioning of the Ministry Team(s), an annual certificate, to act in accord with the responsibilities of each role, will be issued by the Bishop and will remain in effect through June 31 of that year.

Before a new certificate is issued RGBM and [INSERT PARISH NAME] will review the past year and offer positives, constructive ideas, and evaluative comments in order to continue building a fruitful and effective partnership. .

This Covenant between The Rio Grande Borderland Ministries and [INSERT PARISH NAME, CITY, STATE] entered into on (XX) day of (month) in the year (XXXX) at \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The Rev. Canon Lee Curtis

Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Nellie Fagan

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