Dear (Delegation Leader):

CRISPAZ is very excited that you are planning on visiting with the people of El Salvador. In preparation for your visit we would like to address certain issues regarding the safety of the group.

CRISPAZ takes the safety of your delegation very seriously. Our staff in El Salvador constantly remains aware of situations that may affect delegations. The U.S. State Department annually updates its travel advisory for El Salvador. We realize that this advisory (which is not a prohibition of travel for United States citizens) may bring up questions as to the advisability and safety of coming to El Salvador. We at CRISPAZ believe that the travel advisory deserves a more in-depth look to more accurately help assess the picture of El Salvador for those considering a delegation. For over 35 years we have taken, and continue to take, active security measures to provide a safe and meaningful experience in El Salvador. Over the years we have not had any major instance in which the well-being of our delegation participants has ever been threatened.

The January 29, 2019 Travel Advisory

Our many years of solidarity work in El Salvador enables us to add some perspective to the concerns mentioned.

As previous State Department travel advisories point out, the violence in El Salvador in no way targets United States citizens. El Salvador’s General immigration office reported that in 2018 425,992 U.S. citizens visited El Salvador; this was an increase of 13% when compared to 2017. Also, according to the National Civil Police in 2017 and 2018, no violent crimes occurred to any U.S. citizen either as residents or tourists.

Earlier advisories indicated that 38 US citizens were homicide victims since 2010. According to official data from the Government of El Salvador, the records show that these citizens were Salvadorans with dual citizenship. This violence was not associated with tourism or solidarity work.
Members of CRISPAZ delegations are never left to wander on their own, and CRISPAZ intentionally avoids locations and situations that might be prone to violence. Gang territorial disputes are the most common reason behind the violence.

We recognize that El Salvador is still healing from a long and protracted war which ended in 1992 and that it continues to battle against poverty and a host of other social issues. However, the country is by and large, safe, and the occurrence of violence is limited to particular areas that are known for Gang and organized crime activity. CRISPAZ closely monitors the local situations so our delegations avoid these areas.

**Delegation Safety**
CRISPAZ has hosted hundreds of delegations since 1984. And in the last five years (2014-2018), we have hosted 101 delegations with over 1,500 delegation participants. These CRISPAZ delegations have had no issues with violence or criminal activity. While no program can guarantee the total safety of its participants, CRISPAZ has always placed participants’ safety as its top priority. In addition, it is enormously helpful that our staff leadership team is made up of Salvadorans who have an intimate understanding of their own country and are vigilant in obtaining current information about potential problem areas.

**CRISPAZ Safety Measures**
CRISPAZ provides the following safety measures for all of its delegations:

**Housing:** Participants stay at an enclosed guest house with a CRISPAZ representative present; contact information for the guesthouse and representative is provided prior to the trip. Rural stays are arranged in communities where we have long, well-founded relationships and which have been free from violence for many years.

**Office:** So as to avoid attracting attention, the CRISPAZ office is in a residential neighborhood where other offices are located. This area is not isolated and coincidentally, there is a police station a few blocks away.

**Transportation:** CRISPAZ uses only one company which is properly certified every year for this service. The company has well-maintained, up-to-date micro buses so as to avoid breakdowns anywhere. All the buses are air-conditioned to avoid having to have the windows open at any time while driving.

**Program:** A CRISPAZ representative is with the group at all times. Participants remain together as a group and, as in any large city or unfamiliar country, participants are reminded to move in pairs or groups. At no time will be taken into a known dangerous area. The Executive Director is in constant contact with the CRISPAZ delegation leader throughout the time the group is in El Salvador and periodically accompanies the group during its visit.
Over the more than 35 years of CRISPAZ history, Board members regularly lead delegations. CRISPAZ delegations have not encountered any major issues since the safety of all delegations is the primary focus of our staff in El Salvador. We would be glad to provide you with any additional verification about the safety of our delegation to El Salvador by putting you in touch with any of our board members.

Thus far, in 2019 we have hosted 10 delegations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Union Theological Seminary, Manhattan, NY</td>
<td>University of Dayton, Dayton, OH</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Harrison, OH</td>
<td>University of Michigan, St. Mary Student Parish, Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>Boston College, S.T.M., Boston, MA</td>
<td>Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA</td>
<td>2nd Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY</td>
<td>University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI</td>
<td>High Schools of Cincinnati: Archbishop Moeller HS, Saint Ursula Academy, Mount Notre Dame HS, Ursuline Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA</td>
<td>John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH</td>
<td>University of Dayton, Dayton, OH</td>
<td>Fordham University, Bronx, NY</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Harrison, OH</td>
<td>2nd Presbyterian Church Regina, SK, Canada</td>
<td>Xavier University Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>Boston College STM Boston, MA</td>
<td>University of Notre Dame Notre Dame, IN</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>John Carroll University Cleveland, OH</td>
<td>University of Dayton Dayton, OH</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s University Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>Fordham University Bronx, NY</td>
<td>Le Moyne College Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>Loyola University Chicago Chicago, IL</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Harrison, OH</td>
<td>Second Presbyterian Church Louisville, KY</td>
<td>Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Boston, MA</td>
<td>St. Mary Student Parish at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Marian University Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>University of Portland, Portland, OR</td>
<td>Salesianum High School, Wilmington, DE</td>
<td>Canisius College, Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC</td>
<td>Loyola University Maryland Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>The University of Scranton, Scranton, PA</td>
<td>Archbishop Moeller High School, Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>Mount Notre Dame High School, Cincinnati, OH</td>
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Sincerely yours,

Kelly Czajka
CRISPAZ Board President