



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2019

NAC's Director Travelling to Honduras & El Salvador to be in Solidarity with the People & Learn their Stories to Change the Narrative in the U.S.

Lawrence E. Couch, Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, travels to **Honduras and El Salvador** on Tuesday, March 12, to visit Good Shepherd Sisters, learn of their work, show solidarity and identify push factors contributing to the migration crisis in our hemisphere.

While in Honduras, Couch also will participate in a **75-person interreligious Root Causes Pilgrimage**. The pilgrimage is a follow-up to last year's witness trip to Honduras with 40 faith leaders where they stood in solidarity with the people and protested a fraudulent presidential election.

"Last year in Honduras, I witnessed civil unrest and protests. According to reports, while protests appear to have subsided, the violence, fear and oppression remain, as does government harassment. But most in the United States have not noticed," said Couch. "As I encounter our brothers and sisters, I will bring back their stories and learn what U.S. policies and legislation will help change the narrative and improve their lives."

"I leave for Honduras and El Salvador to be in solidarity with their people. I carry the love and compassion of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in North America. I hope to serve as a witness and to share what I witness with the sisters and with **Members of Congress** upon my return," said Couch.

During the 18-day trip, Couch will send back photos, thoughts and observations that the National Advocacy Center will share on its [blog](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. Hashtags to follow along are: #RootCauses19 #NAC4Justice

The Good Shepherd Sisters arrived in Central America in 1921 where they began serving women and girls, started houses for re-education, safe houses, vocational training and more. Their focus is on assisting the most impoverished and deprived women, children and their families by offering education, counseling and employment opportunities through micro-lending. **Their principal aim is to create economic independence and sustainable livelihoods for the women.**

Accompanying Couch to Honduras and El Salvador is Jeanette McDermott, the Communications Coordinator for the Province of Mid-North America of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The mission trip is made possible by generous funding from the worldwide Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and from the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity.

"The Good Shepherd Sisters have a strong presence worldwide and a long-term commitment in Central America, especially among the poorest of the poor. The United States has had a troubling presence in the region. And while often unintended, negative consequences for the people have been cruel and have resulted in a region losing its population to the pull of the United States," said Couch.

[The National Advocacy Center](#) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in over 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

-30-