

## 2019 Mission Endowment Fund Recipient – Santa Maria in Exile

### The Church is Coming to Me!



*In 2019, the Mission Endowment Fund granted \$80,000 to 29 ministries. This is one of the ministries.*



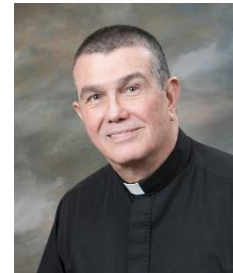
“Go! Don’t wait for them to come!” That is the outreach theme of Santa Maria (In Exile) in Irving, Texas. The NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund grant has continued to help support this three-year old worshipping community financially. The congregation is rebuilding its membership in a new and exciting manner. Pr. Gus Vinajeras and his congregation put this program into place so that the members will go to their neighbors – not wait for the neighbors to come to the church! They are bringing their mission into the homes of members, inviting others to join them.

This ingenious outreach program follows the command of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 to take the Word and Sacraments to the homes of members and into the community.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.”



Pastor Vinajeras reports that the church also scheduled a five-day Vacation Bible School program based on the Parable of the Sower. They had three age groups and 15 children and 12 adults participating. In June of this year, the Church is Coming to Me had reached 149 people and more will be reached.



Pastor Vinajeras offers this advice to other congregations who know want to put new outreach programs in place: “Don’t wait to finish the plane to fly it. Fly it while it is still under construction!” That shows the enthusiasm and the courage of Santa Maria to act on faith!



Thank you, Pr. Vinajeras for sharing this information.