



**COFOA/PICO *Ciudadanía activa desde la Iglesia***

Comunidades de Fe Organizadas para la Acción

Diócesis de Zacatecoluca

El Salvador C.A.

Cuarta calle poniente #7 Zacatecoluca, La Paz El Salvador Centro América Telefax 2334 5482



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[www.picointernational.org](http://www.picointernational.org)

## **COFOA Leaders Host a Diocesan Meeting at Saint Joseph Church Las Isletas**

*July 30th, 2016*



The past Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 about 40 COFOA leaders met in Canton Las Isletas at Saint Joseph Church, for their bimonthly meeting to share their experiences and receive training from the COFOA staff.



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Leaders examined concepts like democracy, Human Rights and Social Pastoral Ministry. This meeting was important for the leaders, because it provided the opportunity to share and learn from the community organizing experiences of leaders who gathered from other parishes in the diocese.



***Lic. Alberto Velázquez, COFOA Director  
providing training for leaders.***



***Manuel Cerón, COFOA Organizer  
teaching leaders about organizing.***

The leaders from Las Isletas who hosted the meeting, provided delicious food like corn tamales, creamed and fresh elotes for their guests. These leaders were very grateful and promised to host Las Isletas leaders in the same manner when they come to visit them at their churches and communities.



***Leaders from various churches, enjoying a  
delicious refreshment.***



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The agenda provided time for leaders from each church to report on their activities and the negotiations they were conducting local authorities to find the solutions to community problems. Leaders recognized the diverse set of issues they have as Salvadorans and understand that nothing will change the way politician act if they don't exercise their position as responsible citizens.



***Andrés Rosa, leader from Usulután, sharing the actions they are taking to insure the construction of the Roldán River Bridge.***



***Marta Villalobos, leader from Santa Teresa, sharing the process to get the road repair in Los Llanos community.***

Churches and communities present at this meeting include: Our Lady of the Rosary in Rosario de la Paz; Saint Therese of Avila in Santiago Nonualco; Saint Joseph in Las Isletas, San Pedro Masahuat; the Anglican Community of San Marcos Lempa in Usulután; Saint Lorenzo in Tecoluca, San Vicente; Saint Michael the Archangel in San Miguel Tepezontes; Saint John the Evangelist in San Juan Tepezontes.



***Telma Barahona, Leader from San Juan Tepezontes, explaining the work of the Dialogue and Strategy Table (MDE in Spanish) to establish the program - "United Neighbors=Safe Neighborhoods".***