



Memo

Date: December 11, 2017

To: Priests, Deacons and Liturgy Coordinators

From: Kat Doyle, Director, Justice & Peace Ministries; Office of Life, Dignity and Justice

Re: Share the Journey – “Pitch a Tent” for 2018 National Migration Week and World Day of Migrants and Refugees

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, as an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants who are fleeing war, persecution, natural disasters and economic devastation, including immigrants, displaced persons, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

This year from **Sunday, January 7 through Sunday January 14, 2018**, in celebration of National Migration Week and World Day of Migrants and Refugees, and in support of the international *Share the Journey* campaign introduced by Pope Francis in September 2017, the Archdiocese of Atlanta asks every parish to share in the journey of migrants by pitching a small tent in the front of your church with a [horizontal](#) or [vertical](#) sign proclaiming “Love Your Neighbor – Share the Journey.”

In addition, we hope you will invite other faith traditions in your community to do the same. This is truly a multi-faith initiative in which we are all called to shine a light and lead the way. Imagine all of our north Georgia faith communities pitching tents in front of their places of worship and visibly standing in solidarity with our migrant brothers and sisters, all deserving of dignity and love!

We hope that you will join us in celebrating this important week and be intentional in building relationships with the migrants in your community. Please see the attached flyer and additional attachments. For more information on the *Share the Journey* campaign, visit <https://www.sharejourney.org/> or contact me at kdoyle@archatl.com for additional National Migration Week resources.



NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK ~ January 7-13, 2018

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ~ January 14, 2018

Does your parish stand in solidarity with migrants? Show your support through the Archdiocese of Atlanta's National Migration Week campaign:

Pitch a Tent ~ Share the Journey

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In addition, we hope you will invite other faith traditions in your community to do the same. This is truly a multi-faith initiative in which we are all called to shine a light and lead the way. Imagine all of our North Georgia Faith Communities pitching tents in front of their places of worship and visibly standing in solidarity with our migrant brothers and sisters, all deserving of dignity and love!

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Catholic Principles of Migration

Our approach to migration is rooted in the Gospel and in the rich tradition of Catholic social teaching. A recent example of this teaching is in [*Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*](#), a pastoral letter concerning migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States.

I. Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland.

All persons have the right to find in their own countries the economic, political, and social opportunities to live in dignity and achieve a full life through the use of their God-given gifts. In this context, work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need.

II. Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.

The Church recognizes that all the goods of the earth belong to all people. When persons cannot find employment in their country of origin to support themselves and their families, they have a right to find work elsewhere in order to survive. Sovereign nations should provide ways to accommodate this right.

III. Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders.

The Church recognizes the right of sovereign nations to control their territories and their borders. However, wealthier nations, which have the ability to better protect and feed their residents, have a strong obligation to

accommodate migration flows.

IV. Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.

Those who flee wars and persecution should be protected by the global community. This requires, at a minimum, that migrants have a right to claim refugee status without incarceration and to have their claims fully considered by a competent authority.

V. The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected.

Regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all persons, possess inherent human dignity that should be respected. Often they are subject to punitive laws and harsh treatment by enforcement officers from both receiving and transit countries. Government policies that respect the basic human rights of the undocumented are necessary.



Discerning How To Welcome Your Neighbor

Each of us wants to be part of a welcoming community, but we often find ourselves at a loss as to where to start. We know the Lord calls on us, but how? What if I don't have the space or the means to provide shelter? What if there are no immigrants in my community? What if those around me are reluctant to learn about immigration?

Addressing these questions requires careful discernment. Instead of listing what you don't have, turn inward and allow God to illuminate your community's strengths. Take a moment to reflect on the Prayer of Saint Ignatius and consider the questions below.

Who is your community?

Tailor your actions to the needs of your community, not the other way around. Take into consideration your congregation, your neighbors and your locality. Who might need help? Who needs to hear the stories of their neighbors? Who is already engaged? Who might be uncomfortable? Are there organizations with which you can partner?

What does your community need?

Are you prepared to ask people directly what they need? Your goal should not be to speak for others or make assumptions, but instead to create a platform and start a dialogue.

What can you offer?

Think about the resources your community already has, but be mindful of your limitations. Resources aren't limited to money or time. You may have more than you realize.

Remember: All efforts, regardless of size, are beneficial and essential when advocating for social justice. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; in all your ways be mindful of Him, and He will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Prayer of Saint Ignatius

Dear God,

Teach me to be generous
To love and serve you as you deserve
To give and not to count the cost
To fight and not to heed the wounds
To toil and not to seek for rest
To labor and to look for no reward
Except that of knowing that
I do your Holy Will.

Amen

Get More Resources

To learn more about how to help immigrants in your community and find free resources about taking action, visit cliniclegal.org/welcome.



CATHOLIC LEGAL
IMMIGRATION
NETWORK, INC.

What can I do?

Once you have discerned who your community is, what they need, and what you're able to offer, consider the action options below. Many of these actions require collaboration. Find a list of CLINIC affiliates at cliniclegal.org/directory.

An important note about safety: Be mindful about not putting immigrants at risk while trying to help. Do not publicly advertise that groups of undocumented immigrants will be at an event or publicly expose the identity of an undocumented person. Exercise extreme caution at all times.

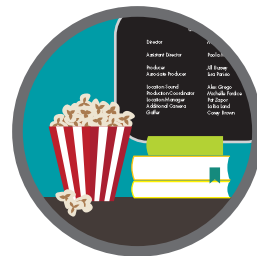
Although offering sanctuary may be most likely to carry consequences, be aware that many of these options may have consequences. An important part of your discernment process may be reflecting on risks and seeking legal counsel as necessary.

For more information and resources, visit cliniclegal.org/welcome.



Support immigrant-owned businesses

Identify and support immigrant-owned businesses locally and beyond. Use immigrant-owned restaurants to cater events.



Increase fellowship

Host a prayer/discussion group, book club, movie night, or other event to create a dialogue on immigration and refugee issues.

Resources: cliniclegal.org/cst/parish



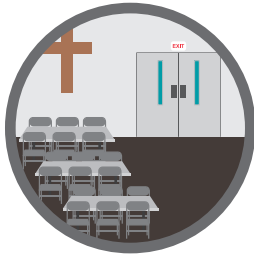
Form partnerships

Collaborate on a project with other local groups. Host a potluck to discuss issues affecting immigrants and refugees. Organize a food/supplies/resources drive to support an immigrant family in need or a church that is providing sanctuary. Furnish the apartment of a newly arrived refugee family. Some of these activities may constitute harboring, seek legal counsel as necessary.



Make a plan

Help immigrants at risk of detention or deportation connect with local legal service providers (find one at cliniclegal.org/directory). Create a referral list of local legal services and consulates. Have it translated.



Offer free space for community education events

Host a workshop or class for people in the area. Examples: Know Your Rights trainings, immigration screenings, family emergency planning for parents who are at risk of deportation, English as a Second Language classes, citizenship test preparation classes.

Resource: cliniclegal.org/resources/know-your-rights



Provide financial support

Fundraise to cover the costs of legal filing fees, to provide micro-loans, or otherwise support vulnerable immigrant and refugee families.

Resource: cliniclegal.org/feeincreases



Speak out

Support immigrants and refugees via social media or write an op-ed or letter to the editor to a local newspaper or magazine. Please be sure to carefully review the note about safety before doing media work.



Engage your leaders

Write a letter to your church leadership, local bishop or state bishops' conference, religious community leadership or the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops supporting their legislative efforts around immigration. Let your conference know how important these issues are!



Advocate for pro-immigrant policies

Hold a phone bank, rally, or respond to a specific piece of legislation affecting immigrants or refugees in your locality, state, or on the federal level.

Resource: cliniclegal.org/state-and-local



Walk with your neighbor

Accompany immigrants to their Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services appointments.



Offer someone a ride

Provide rides for immigrants who are afraid to drive for fear they may be stopped by police. This activity may have consequences, seek legal counsel as necessary.



Offer sanctuary

Although this is a powerful action and statement, it may carry serious consequences, including fines, criminal prosecution, jail time, etc. Anyone considering this option should consult with an attorney first. You might be agreeing to house, clothe, and feed a person (or family) for an indefinite amount of time. Make sure you have the resources.

How welcoming is your faith community towards immigrants and refugees?

Please complete the survey by choosing yes or no for each question. Each “yes” answer is worth one point. Use the rubric below to review your results.

Do we promote immigration as a benefit to our community?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we include immigrant integration in our mission statement?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Are immigrants represented among our staff and volunteers?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we offer services in languages other than English?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we offer ESL, language exchange, or citizenship classes for our immigrant members?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we foster friendships between newcomers and the receiving community through our programming and public events?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we connect our immigrant members with local immigration legal services?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we connect our immigrant members with local social services?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we ask the immigrant community how they would like us to provide them with additional assistance or support?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we assist our eligible immigrant members to register to vote?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we advocate for immigrants within our community at the local and state government levels?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do we support public education events given by local immigration legal and refugee resettlement services with our resources? (Such as volunteers, available facilities, promotional network, etc.)

☐ YES ☐ NO

0 points

Poor

You have some work to do, but this list gives you a good idea of where to start.

1-4 points

Fair

You're off to a good start, but there are definite opportunities for more active efforts

5-8 points

Good

You do a great job of actively seeking to integrate new neighbors as members of the community!

9-12 points

Excellent

You work hard at making new immigrants feel welcome. Keep looking for allies and share your strategies!

Want to learn more? Visit cliniclegal.org/welcome.

