



MISSIONARY SISTERS  
of the SACRED HEART of JESUS  
*Bringing Christ's love to the world*

THE UPDATE

January 10, 2019

## This is National Migration Week

January 6 - 12



National Migration Week 2019

Building Communities of Welcome

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2019, **“Building Communities of Welcome”** draws attention to the fact that each of our families has a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

Unfortunately, in our contemporary culture we often fail to encounter migrants as persons, and instead look at them as unknown others, if we even notice them at all. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious or fearful of them. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as community members, neighbors, and friends. To do so, we will look at the important role that foster care plays in the lives of unaccompanied immigrants and refugees, highlight MRS' Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees, and examine local initiatives that are making important contributions in this regard. ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

## Share the Journey: Meet Our Neighbor

The Faces of Migration feature this week is courtesy of the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, a JFI core member organization. In the story, a lifelong resident of the U.S./Mexico border region shares her thoughts about life and values in the area where she lives. You can read the entire story [here](#).



### **What a border resident thinks of border policies**

With so much heated rhetoric and misinformation, it's hard to have a clear picture about what's really happening in the US/Mexico border region. That's why it's crucial to listen to the people who know it best: border residents. Cynthia Gonzalez\* is a native resident of the US-Mexico border region and is currently pursuing a Masters in Social Work. Cynthia has volunteered with different community organizations in El Paso, TX, including: Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Centro Agrario Sin Fronteras, and the Columban Mission Center. At the Columban Mission Center, Cynthia supported different faith-based, immigration advocacy efforts. She has also participated in advocacy and leadership development projects with the Hope Border Institute, an advocacy and research office in the Diocese of El Paso, and volunteers at their immigrant and refugee shelter.

### **What changes have you seen on the US/Mexico border over the decades?**

The most significant changes started taking place after 9/11. Residents began to see a drastic increase in law enforcement presence. This presence inevitably made my community change. For instance, it made it more difficult to commute between Ciudad Juárez and El Paso. The high-level of security and the long waiting lines started to deter people from traveling between cities. For us, this had a huge impact because we are one community of two cities. Most of us have family on both sides of the border and commuting is just part of our daily life.

### **What are your thoughts on the rhetoric surrounding the border?**

We are a welcoming community. Our people are generous and kind. The rhetoric about our communities is dangerous and untrue. My city, in particular, has been noted as one of the safest cities in the U.S. I believe this is thanks in part to our large immigrant population and our diverse roots. We take care of each other. We support each other. Any rhetoric that portrays something different is a result of misinformation.

### **From your perspective, what do border communities need?**

We need policies that reflect the reality of the border and seriously consider the challenges that we experience here. I believe policymakers would really benefit from hearing our perspective when they try to write effective policy.

### **Why is faith-based advocacy on the border important?**

Our community is driven by faith and moral values. We understand the importance of helping those who suffer and are vulnerable – just like the Gospel asks us to. Faith-based advocacy organizations have been a vital support to our region. The various religious organizations have been at the forefront, leading the way to protect the most vulnerable.

### **What do you want people who don't live on the border to know about border communities?**

I want them to know that we are strong, we are unique, and we are welcoming. To anyone not living on the border, I personally want to invite them to come and see it for themselves. I guarantee that they will be surprised by the kindness and hospitality that this community offers. ~ *Justice for Immigrants*

*\*Image has been changed.*

# BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF WELCOME



On the feast of the Epiphany, the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrated their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Liturgy for the opening of National Migration Week. The Mass was held at Holy Name Cathedral and was a truly multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-racial experience. About 25 countries were represented in native garb in the entrance procession, an indication of the beauty of the diversity in this archdiocese. Those gifts were expressed also in the readings, the intercessions and the choral expressions of those cultures. A children's choir, Hispanic and Polish, brought out the richness of those cultures as only these little ones can. Each



Intercession was read in a different language including one from Sr. Magdalena Tkaczyk, CSFN, who shared her gift of her knowledge of Arabic in her prayer.

This was truly an experience of the richness of our faith, of the appreciation of the gifts that each member of the church here in Chicago has to offer and of a true spirit of unity in diversity. It was a privilege for Nancy Golen and Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN from Cabrini Retreat Center to be part of the planning of this wonderful celebration. One couldn't help but feel welcome in this atmosphere.

*~ submitted by Sr. Cathy Fedewa, CSFN*



*And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod  
They left for their own country by another road.  
~ Matthew 2.12*

## *The Blessing of the Magi*

This work by Jan Richardson about the Magi, seems particularly relevant to today's journeys of our immigrant, migrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

There is no reversing  
this road.  
The path that bore you here  
goes in one direction only,  
every step drawing you  
down a way  
by which you will not  
return.

You thought arrival  
was everything,  
that your entire journey  
ended with kneeling  
in the place  
you had spent all  
to find.

When you laid down  
your gift,  
release came with such ease,  
your treasure tumbling  
from your hands  
in awe and  
benediction.

Now the knowledge  
of your leaving  
comes like a stone  
laid over your heart,  
the familiar path closed  
and not even the solace  
of a star  
to guide your way.

You will set out in fear.  
You will set out in dreams  
But you will set out  
by that other road  
that lies in shadow and dark.

We cannot show you  
the route that will  
take you home;  
that way is yours  
and will be found  
in the walking.

But we tell you,  
you will wonder  
at how the light you thought  
you had left behind  
goes with you,  
spilling from  
your empty hands,  
shimmering beneath  
your homeward feet,  
illuminating the road  
with every step  
you take. ~ Jan Richardson



This work of art by Jan Richardson is entitled *Wise Women Also Came*.

You might know that some folks celebrate the Epiphany (January 6) as Women's Christmas. Originating in Ireland, where it is known as *Nollaig na mBan*, Women's Christmas began as a day when the women set aside time celebrate life as the holiday season draws to a close.

Let us be mindful of those whose lives are uncertain and without a home and the joy of celebration.

# Prayer Requests

## ***Sr. Celia Cid, MSC***

Please continue your prayers for Sr. Celia who remains in hospice care at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Please pray for her comfort and serenity.

## In Loving Memory

## ***Sr. Regina Casey, MSC***

Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Regina Casey, MSC former General Superior and former President of Cabrini College. Sr. Regina went home to the Lord on December 26<sup>th</sup>, Her funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

A passage from her funeral Mass worship aid read:

*“Sr. Regina was a woman of strong faith and great humility. She held the Sacred Heart of Jesus as her intimate love and center of her life. She had unflinching trust in Jesus. In her reflections Sr. Regina shared that she never felt adequately prepared for the different ministries to which she was called. Yet, like Mary, she responded by putting all her heart and energy into whatever was asked of her.”*

Sr. Regina is now at home with the Good Lord. She will be a powerful intercessor for her beloved Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Top photo: Sr. Regina Casey, MSC in a more recent photograph

Bottom photo: Taken in 1971 in Radnor, PA, when Sr. Regina served as the President of Cabrini College, as well as, serving as an Assistant General of the Institute. Sr. Regina was elected MSC General Superior in 1972.



## ***Fr. Charles Currie, SJ***

Jesuit Father Charles Currie, a social justice advocate and longtime leader in Jesuit college education, died January 4 after a recent illness. Fr. Currie was the former president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities who had also served as president of Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia, and Xavier University in Cincinnati. Fr. Currie is the cousin of Sr. Eileen Currie, MSC. Fr. Currie’s funeral Mass will be held on January 12<sup>th</sup> at Holy Trinity Church in Washington, D.C. Our prayers go out to the extended Currie Family at this sad time.

***Marte Fenton***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marte Fenton, friend of seventeen years of Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC. Ms. Fenton's passing was sudden and truly unexpected. Please pray for Sr. Regina and the friends and family of Ms. Fenton.

***Dennis Havens***

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dennis Havens, the father of Cabrini (College) University alumna Hollie Havens '98. Mr. Havens passed away on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the Havens Family in your prayers.

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*Special Request*

Buena Kittelburger Joshi would enjoy hearing from her Missionary Sister friends via U.S. Mail or email. Her contact information is:

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