

Welcome the Stranger



Pentecost 2010

Dear Sisters and Associates,

The feast of Pentecost is rich with imagery of the Holy Spirit descending in wind and tongues of fire. Like the first disciples we, too, are called to be open to receive the Holy Spirit and to do our part “to renew the face of the earth.” Throughout this liturgical year we have prayed with scripture and our SSJ core values. We have reflected on the signs of our times and the needs of our immigrant brothers and sisters. The fruit of our prayer and the call of Chapter 2009 urge us to consider the many needs of the immigrants in our country and challenge us to respond to this misery of our day.

As we embrace the challenges of Pentecost, the Immigration/Human Trafficking Committee of the Commission for Justice thought that it might be worthwhile to look back at the materials that were suggested for your consideration throughout the year. These materials were intended to assist all of us as we engaged in continuing reflection and conversation on the issue of Just Immigration Reform. Based on the liturgical year we offered the following resources for prayer, reflection and consideration. We invited each other to reflect on the following materials and to consider - How can I/we *Welcome the Stranger* in our everyday lives?

Ordinary Time (Fall 2009)

Immigration: The Basics (Education for Justice)

A quiz on *Gauging Attitudes toward Immigrants* and the Answer Key

Prayer *Remember the Immigrant*

Advent (December 2009)

Pastoral Letter – Bishop Anthony Taylor (Diocese of Arkansas)

Immigration Study Guide

Advent Scripture passages

Justice for Immigrants (JFI) Postcard Campaign

Epiphany (January 2010)

Resources for Immigration and National Migration Week were cited as available on the Justice for Immigrants website

Lent 2010

“The Root Causes of Immigration” by Rev. Thomas Smith, OFM. Conv. (Justice for Immigrants)

“Migration of the Desperate” by Sister Marlene Perrotte (¡ Viva Mercy! June, 2008)

“Get off the Fence” by Joshua Hoyt (US Catholic, February, 2010)

Prayer - The Way of the Cross of an Immigrant (Adapted, Houston Catholic Worker, April)

This Pentecost let us reclaim the Holy Spirit. Let the fire of God's love give us courage as together we Welcome the Stranger. We offer the following for your prayer, reflection and consideration.

Pentecost 2010

- ◆ Review the Immigration materials that were offered throughout the year:
 - Seasonal materials prepared by the Immigration/Human Trafficking Committee
 - C/SSJ Federation Statement on Immigration
 - Ron Roche's presentation on immigration at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of our Justice Ministry
 - All of these materials (and more) are on the Immigration page of our congregational website: <http://ssjphila.org/Immigration.html>

- ◆ Suggestions/ Challenges for your consideration
 - One cluster with an immigration focus has already formed. Would another SSJ Cluster commit to focusing attention on the issue of immigration?
 - To experience the richness of our diversity would you consider worshipping at an ethnic parish one Sunday in the coming weeks/months?
 - Would you evaluate this year's suggestions and resources? An evaluation form accompanies this letter and we request your response by June 21st. We would be most grateful for your feedback.
 - Those of us on the Immigration/Human Trafficking Committee are from the Philadelphia, Newark or Metuchen dioceses. Could you inform us about what is happening in other geographic areas to *Welcome the Stranger*?

Together let us pray: "Lord, send out your spirit, and renew the face of the earth. Come, Holy Spirit come!"

Gratefully,

The Immigration/ Human Trafficking Committee of the Commission for Justice

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