

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

December 2016 – February 2017, SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity



New Sanctuary Coalition NYC
Bruce Segall and others will be accompanying Ravi Ragbir (far left in picture) to his March 9 immigration hearing at Federal Plaza. Mr. Ragbir faces possible deportation. Ravi, coordinator for New Sanctuary NYC, has been a valuable committed colleague for many years. When he shared his story with the Sisters and Associates at the Convent of Mary the Queen, we got to know

him even better. Please keep Ravi, his family, and all those who face deportation, in prayer. New Sanctuary NYC has coordinated many meetings following Mr. Trump's election. Early in January the focus was on understanding "Sanctuary" in its many varieties. Rev. Harrington has captured that in his article, "4 Ways Your Community Can Prepare for Sanctuary." The Immigration Task Force has been implementing many of these ideas. In late January New Sanctuary NYC sponsored a major conference at the historic Riverside Church with "Consulates" to review and answer questions regarding the legal rights of their nationals.



February 28th, 2017 visit to office of Representative Eliot Engel On February 28th, members of the Immigration Task Force and representatives from Catholic Charities and Christ Church in Riverdale met with Representative Eliot Engel's Chief of Staff Bill Weitz. Bruce Segall, Sisters Eileen Judge and Carol De Angelo have been working with NETWORK Lobby staff and LCWR Region 2 Peace and Justice Representatives to strategize best ways to effect change and exercise our democratic responsibilities. NETWORK and other national groups requested that citizens

schedule in-district visits with their US Representative. Bruce Segall, Coordinator for Immigrant Matters, coordinated the visit. Issues that were addressed were the BRIDGE Act, the Affordable Care Act, and Energy and Climate concerns. We thank Representative Engel, Mr. Bill Weitz (third from right) and his staff for their work on behalf of immigration, health care and climate. Sister Eileen Judge with colleagues from Dutchess County will be visiting with Rep. John Faso, the newly elected congressman in the 19th district of NY in April.





National Migration Week and Beyond

The USCCB declared December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe) as National Prayer Day for Refugees and Immigrants. Many parishes around the country had services and vigils. They also declared January 8 – 14, 2017 National Migration Week. The Immigration Task Force outreached to pastors and/or parishioners of several parishes inviting them to use the resources in the National Migration 2017 Toolkit. A letter was also sent to Cardinal Dolan thanking him for his support of immigrants with a request that the National Migration Week Toolkit be shared. Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York, Dr. Timothy McNiff, replied with a gracious letter informing us that the Archdiocese is sponsoring a March event for high school students at the Sheen Center for Thought and Culture, titled “*Diverse America*” *A Catholic Lens* “on 3/10/17 and thanked us for the Toolkit resource.

JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS (JFI): One of the real services that JFI provides to Justice groups around the country is a monthly National call in and periodic webinars. With the President’s recent Executive Orders JFI was very informative regarding the Bishops’ position and the necessary distinctions as to what groups were being targeted. The progress of the BRIDGE Act (extends the DACA program through legislation), ACA (the health issues of the Affordable Care Act), and the status of Sanctuary Cities were all addressed on the call. Information on Asylum Reform and Driver’s Licenses was also given. Please visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org for updates and action alerts.



The NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION (NYIC) Although we have always been in touch with NYIC we recently became official members of the active organization. The mission of the NYIC is to achieve a fair and more just society that values the contributions of immigrants and extends opportunities to all. They

promote immigrants’ full civic participation, foster their leadership and provide a voice and vehicle for New York’s diverse immigrant communities. A recent email from them offered the following information: To report raids/ICE actions contact United We Dream “MigraWatch” Hotline at 1-844-363-1423 and/or Immigrant Defense Project at 212.725.6422. You can and should also contact a local immigration advocacy organization. Visit www.thenyic.org for more information.

Submitted by Bruce Segall, Coordinator for Immigrant Matters for Sisters of Charity of New York Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, February 28, 2017.