

Immigration Matters – September-October 2016
Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, Sisters of Charity of New York



The Ankle Bracelet, A Little Child, and The Umbrella

It was a rainy day – September 19. We were to meet at 8:45 AM on Webster Ave and 189th Street. It was a bustling morning with a lot of activity up and down the streets. Our building was on a street with an empty lot, some graffiti and metered parking. Bruce Segall met Morgan, who worked for New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City, and Irma whom we were accompanying. Irma wanted very much to have the Ankle Bracelet removed and she brought some copies of her passport hoping it would be enough.

We walked up the stairs to ISAP (Intensive Supervision Appearance Program) There was a small waiting room but there were about 15 people in the room. It was mostly women and children but with two fathers also present. A little child

entertained us for a few minutes. He smiled and put his one hand on his pants and tried to act a little tough. His mother shook her finger so he continued to stroll from one person to the next and moved about the room. We were delighted to have such a treat. Then a man appeared from an inside office and called for Irma. Morgan and I also stood up and followed. When we got to the door he would not let us come in.

About 10 minutes later Irma came out and we went outside to talk. They would not take off her ankle bracelet. She had to wear it a few more weeks and go to an office downtown where they said she could probably get it removed. She spoke to Juan Carlos and seemed consoled. We went down the stairs and went to go outside when we realized it was raining very hard. Irma tried to open her umbrella and many of the ribs broke. She was a little concerned about how to get home. I offered her my umbrella. Gratefully she said, Gracias. We each went our way.

The Vincentian Family Celebrates its 400th Anniversary of the Birth of the Vincentian Charism of Charity. The Immigration Task Force invites itself and all sisters, associates and colleagues to reflect on the questions that Fr. G. Gregory Gay, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, offers us:

- Who are the strangers in our midst?
- How are we currently supporting them?
- What new needs are emerging?
- How might we respond to these needs?
- Might we be the strangers in need of welcoming?



Shadow Summit/US Response to Central American Refugee Crisis at the Center for Migration Studies –

On September 20, Bruce Segall participated in this shadow summit which was a preview to President Obama’s call to address world-wide migration and refugee situation.

1. Crisis in the Northern Triangle (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador), 21 million Refugees-only @300,000 settled
 - a. El Salvador is most violent and on a par with Syria.
 - b. A study of 53 families (155 people) showed most are young and young families. 85% have lost jobs. 63% left schools. There are trafficking complications and human rights violations
 - c. Mexico says they want to help but only 3 offices to assist.
2. US Response
 - a. US has given \$5 Billion and granted permanent status to @100,000. BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH AND THEY MUST DO BETTER.
 - b. Asylum seekers have tripled
 - c. Serious need for due process and more legal assistance. 70% have no legal representation.
 - d. Dr. Allen Keller – NYU program for survivors of torture
Feels that American policies at border are “cruel, misguided, and close to Torture”
(no cots, put in ice box, accused of lying, flashing lights)
 - e. Ankle monitors are a more humane response but still very difficult for many.
 - f. Refugee problem is being responded to by Law Enforcement and Deterrence and it is not working
 - g. Obama must provide Temporary Protective Status.

Thank you to Miriam, her friends and the Share and Build Fund for their support of Naouras, a student from Syria, now attending Manhattan College. What a wonderful witness! Truly charity alive!

The Sisters of Charity of New York was one of many congregations that endorsed the October 7-10 Convergence at the Border in Nogales Arizona/Senora. Purpose was to increase awareness of the militarization of the US-Mexico border and Latin America, as well as the criminalization of immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees and people of color.

Bill Hurley attended the Green Light NY advocacy training. It trained participants how to lobby for a change in NYS law regarding drivers’ licenses. Citizens and undocumented attended. It was thorough and inclusive.

Bruce Segall, Coordinator for Immigrant Matters, October 26, 2016