



NEWSLETTER FOR CATHOLIC MIGRANT MINISTRY

# THE JOURNEY

## *El Camino*

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL SERVICES

SPECIAL EDITION FOR CHRISTMAS 2017

### SEEDS IN THE DESERT

*A Message from Fr. Jesús Flores,  
Diocesan Coordinator of Catholic Migrant Ministry*

There is much to be thankful for this year.

On October 21<sup>st</sup> of this year, representatives from our migrant communities, coming from different corners of the rural areas of the Diocese, participated in the Diocesan Fifth Encuentro held in Peace of Christ Parish at St. Ambrose Church. I was pleased to notice a strong presence of these communities at such an important event.

The community of Our Lady of Guadalupe gratefully celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for 21 young people from migrant families. The Faith Formation team of



Saint Benedict Parish helped us in the catechetical process. It was a good experience of intercultural collaboration in the formation of faith for our youth.

The Hispanic community in Geneva enthusiastically organized itself to raise funds for the people of Mexico that were affected by the recent earthquakes. A great gesture of solidarity!

In Livingston County, the lively community meets twice monthly, once to celebrate the Eucharist and again mid-month to read and reflect on the Word of God. Jorge Salgado, Pastoral Minister for Western Monroe and Livingston Counties, and a missionary team from Brockport Nativity Parish, guides them.

Even with these signs of hope, the tension and suffering of the families of our communities hurts us when they are forced to separate. The impact of recent migration policies has been devastating in the lives of children and those who remain in the country. Those who are deported also suffer from the uncertainty.

A number of our young people, who I have personally known since their childhood, received their Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) permit to remain in the country. For our young adults, some of whom already have their own families, it means they are now able to study and work. It is our hope that Congress will work towards a good proposal which will allow these individuals to stay permanently.

We want to be the supportive and “The Good Samaritan” Church that accompanies these families and assures them that they are people with dignity. I ask you to pray for these communities and those who accompany them.

*In Christ, Fr. Jesús Flores*



*Thank you, Father Brendan Buckley*



This year, we say goodbye to Father Brendan Buckley, OFM, Cap., who has been serving Hispanics in Cayuga County since 2015. He has been a great advocate and minister for the working community of the dairy farms in the area. Father Brendan has been assigned by his Superior to a parish in Brooklyn, New York. We thank him for his time with us.

## *The Journey/El Camino*

is published by the Catholic Migrant Ministry for the Department of Pastoral Services of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, New York.

### ***Our Mission Statement:***

“Catholic Migrant Ministry, rooted in the Church’s teaching that we are all sisters and brothers, seeks not only to build up migrant workers as people of faith, but also to foster a mutual sharing of gifts, both material and spiritual, between all migrant workers and the other faith communities of the Diocese of Rochester.”

### ***Editorial Team:***

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### ***Diocesan Migrant Ministry Sites:***

- **Wayne County**  
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Marion Lucila Romero, Pastoral Minister
- **Yates/Ontario Counties**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Geneva, and St. Michael, Newark Sr. Kay Schwenzer, R.S.M., Pastoral Minister
- **Western Monroe/Livingston Counties**  
Nativity Church, Brockport, and St. Thomas Aquinas, Leicester Jorge Salgado, Pastoral Minister



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



*Workers in Cayuga County, Mass in King Ferry*



*Mass in Martin's Camp, Celebration of the Divine Child Jesus*

✧ Each person in Latin America knows the delicate and tender presence of the Virgin of Guadalupe. In a unique way, migrant families and communities experience her maternal closeness. They recognize her on all roads and see her in all circumstances, even when the circumstances are most difficult. In the month of December, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will bring us all together, to sing with her and remember that, in her heart and under her care, the poorest will always find a place. ✧

✧ We are grateful for the generous support through which you allow us to continue pastoral services to migrant communities each year. The needs of our ministry continue to be great, and are in fact increasing under the pressure of the continued oppression of the migrants among us. Your contribution to Catholic Migrant Ministry will be deeply appreciated. We respond with our personal thanks to every contributor. If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks payable to **Diocese of Rochester**, note **Migrant Ministry** in the memo and return to: Diocese of Rochester, Attn: Pastoral Services/Office of Migrant Ministry, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624. Thank you for your support! ✧

## ***Prayer for the Fifth Encuentro***

God of infinite Mercy, you sent your Risen Son to encounter the disciples on the way to Emmaus. Grant us today a missionary spirit and send us forth to encounter our sisters and brothers: to walk with them in friendship, to listen to their hopes and dreams with compassion, and to proclaim your Word with courage, so that they might come to know you once again in the breaking of the Bread.

Make us all missionary disciples, and stay with us always, as we seek to share the joy of the Gospel with people of all generations, from every race, language, culture, and nation. We ask you this with burning hearts, filled with the Holy Spirit, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and through the loving intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization in the Americas. Amen.



**"And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger."**

*(Luke 2:12)*



***Have a Blessed Christmas!***