



NEWSLETTER FOR CATHOLIC MIGRANT MINISTRY

THE JOURNEY

El Camino

A PUBLICATION OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL SERVICES

SPECIAL EDITION FOR CHRISTMAS 2019



SEEDS IN THE DESERT

*Bernard Grizard, Diocesan Director
Department of Pastoral Services*

The Advent season is a great time for reflecting on our call to solidarity with migrants who live in our midst. As one family of Faith, we are challenged to reach out with grace and humility to them and open ourselves to the gift they bring to us. Like Mary and Joseph opening their hands to receive Jesus in this world, we welcome our migrant brothers and sisters who live among us. Welcoming all of God's culturally diverse children into the life of our local church makes us stronger and allows us to experience Emmanuel, "God is with us." Merry Christmas to all of you and many thanks for supporting the hard work of the Migrant Ministry team.

PHOTO:

Mission Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Marion, NY). The statue was installed late 2018 and blessed by Bishop Salvatore R. Matano this year. The plaque, added this year, reads:

“¿...no estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre? ¿No estás bajo mi sombra y resguardo?”

TRANSLATION:

“Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?”

The beautiful stonework and garden is a gift from friends at Saint Benedict's Parish, Canandaigua. Thank you!

TRUE WITNESSES, DISCIPLES AND FRIENDS ~ Howard & Loretta Bartlett

By Fr. Jesus Flores, Diocesan Coordinator
of Catholic Migrant Ministry

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

While it's hard for me to recall when the Latino community began gathering in St. Gregory's Church in Marion, Howard Bartlett always remembered the exact date. And he'd correct my memory of how long the community has gathered in that church since, now renamed Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Howard and Loretta were present there from the first, to "welcome the strangers." Both were excited to see St. Gregory reopened. Having already gone through the sadness of seeing it closed and put up for sale, they'd worked hard to refurbish it and get it ready. For our part, we in the Latino-migrant community never dreamed we'd have a place of our own – let alone one carefully made ready for us.

Howard, a rural North American with a university background, converted to Roman Catholicism in mid-life. He then became a "bridge-builder." He quickly got to know the Mexican campesino community. In his eighties, he thought it so important to understand and celebrate the faith he shared with that community, that he immediately began studying Spanish, so that he could communicate with fellow worshipers. There never was a faith celebration he



wasn't present at, together with Loretta. They tried to sing our songs. They applauded our dancing groups.

Howard and Loretta knew it wasn't enough to shake someone's hand in greeting. They gave a hug to whomever they greeted. Both knew too that language isn't necessarily a barrier. They gave time to understanding through gestures and tone and other means what people wanted to say to them. They may not have understood everything, but Howard and Loretta couldn't rest until they connected with each person as deeply as they could.

We never knew what their politics were. What we were sure of was their solidarity with our community.

At times I suspect that the mystery of Guadalupe enthralled them as it had enthralled Juan Diego. Every celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe found them there.

Later I found out that the human and Christian values they'd instilled in their family were those that motivated their service to both communities they lived in, both Anglo and Latino. They were authentic Christians through and through.

I have faith that the example of Howard and Loretta's lives and service will bear fruits of unity in a diverse and welcoming community – fruits growing from Gospel commitment.

On August 24 we accompanied Howard's family in saying farewell to him and entrusting him, united now with Loretta, to his new life in Jesus Christ.

TEPEYAC WELCOMING MIGRANT CENTER

Migrants are a treasure to be revealed. In response to the growing need to accompany and support our migrant brothers and sisters during this challenging transition, our Migrant Ministry team is excited to announce the **Tepeyac Welcoming Migrant Center** – "The Place of Many Miracles" to be established in Livingston County next year. Access to information and assistance in the following areas will be our focus:

- ~ Immigration
- ~ Health and Well-being
- ~ Language
- ~ Transportation

In seeking to offer these services, our objective is to bridge with area partners, develop resources, recruit volunteers and provide pastoral care. If you would like more information about the Center and how you can help, please contact Jorge Salgado, Migrant Center Project Coordinator at (email) Jorge.Salgado@dor.org or (phone) 585-328-3228 ext. 1340.

The name of the Center comes from The Hill of Tepeyac (TEH-peh-yak), in Mexico City. It is the site where Saint Juan Diego received the iconic image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A Catholic chapel was erected at the site, "the place of many miracles." The gift of our logo comes from Frida Isabel, a young high school student from Hermosillo, Mexico. It portrays the tremendous daily work of our farmworkers and the fruits of their labor.



"It is not just about migrants: it is about building the city of God ..."

Pope Francis ~ World Day of Migrants and Refugees (May 2019)

EVENTS IN 2019



Bishop Salvatore R. Matano celebrates Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe (Marion)



(top photo) Bishop Salvatore R. Matano with Confirmation Candidates; (bottom) group photo in front of the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Marion)



Young musicians purchase their own instruments to form this group for liturgy



New Altar Services (Geneva)



Baptism (Geneva)

JAN * Feast of the Epiphany (El Día de Los Reyes) * Feast of Our Lady of Altigracia, Dominican Republic

FEB * Feast of Our Lady of Suyapa, Honduras

MAR * Hispanic Leadership Conference Pastoral Juvenil (V Encuentro); Annual Diocesan Volunteer Recognition at the Conference

APR Holy Week & Easter * Migrant Stations of the Cross (NW Churches) * Way of the Cross on Good Friday (Geneva)

MAY * Bishop Salvatore R. Matano celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe (Marion) * Confirmation (39 teens) * Cruz de Mayo Rosary (small community in Newark prays the rosary each night in the chapel or someone's home)

AUG * Week-long Camp Stella Maris Program for Youth

SEP * Bienvenida Celebration * World Day of Migrants & Refugees

OCT * Month of the Rosary: Small community in Newark gathers to pray the Rosary each night

NOV * Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) * Feast of Our Lady of Providence * End of the Harvest, final Mass in Wolcott before workers go home

DEC * Novena & Rosary from house-to-house in preparation for the feast day * Las Mañanitas * Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe * Las Posadas * Merry & Blessed Christmas



Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe (Heberle Camp)



Diocesan Volunteer (Geneva) Recognition at Hispanic Leadership Conference



Volunteer, cooks monthly for farmworkers (Geneva)



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The Journey/El Camino is published by 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.”

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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 with the immigration challenges. Your contribution to Catholic Migrant Ministry will be deeply appreciated.

If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks payable to Diocese of Rochester; and note Migrant Ministry in the memo. Mail to:

Diocese of Rochester,
Attn: Pastoral Services
Office of Migrant Ministry
1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624

Thank you for your support!



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

God of power and mercy, you blessed the Americas at Tepeyac with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. May her prayers help all men and women to accept each other as brothers and sisters. Through your justice present in our hearts may your peace reign in the world. Amen.



*Have a
Blessed Christmas!*