

# Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester Migrant Ministry 2022 Newsletter



**PASTORAL SERVICES**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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Diocesan Migrant Ministry  
Annual Newsletter is a  
publication of Catholic Migrant  
Ministry for the Department of  
Pastoral Services, Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Rochester, NY.

#### **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**

Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe,  
Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and  
Yates Counties



*Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Marion, New York (Wayne County)*



*Comunidad San Juan Diego/Tepeyac Migrant Center  
Leicester, New York (Livingston County)*

## LETTER FROM THE DIOCESAN DIRECTOR



December 2022

Dear Friends of Catholic Migrant Ministry of the Rochester Diocese,

For over thirty years, the Diocese of Rochester has been blessed with a vibrant Catholic Migrant Ministry. The gift of our migrant communities has spread across the twelve counties. Each year we offer a glimpse into this faith-filled community, which we accompany in the spirit of Pope Francis in his recent Encyclical, Fratelli Tutti:

“Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be defined by four words: *welcome, protect, promote, and integrate*. For it is not a case of implementing welfare programs from the top down, but rather of our taking a journey together.”

Those four words Pope Francis uses — *welcome, protect, promote, integrate* — are powerful ones because they suggest that migrant ministry is a dynamic process. Migrants coming from outside our community are not only brought within it but are also encouraged to be active and contributing members. Migrant ministry, more than a simple act of just helping, is an outreach and inclusion of those who become our sisters and brothers in the common Christian mission of building the Kingdom of God.

And many, many people and institutions have been reaching out. Let me list some of them:

- Donors like yourselves (some of you have given generously over many years);
- Nazareth College, in partnership with the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, via grant support;
- Diocesan staff of both Catholic Migrant Ministry and Pastoral Ministry Services;
- Parishes and volunteers;
- Bishop Matano, whose support of this critical work has been inspirational.

Our outreach has not been a one-way effort. It has been met, strengthened, and transformed by the dedication and labor of the migrant communities themselves. It is through such collaborative effort that the Kingdom of God is built.

We hope you will consider continuing that effort during the coming year. To that end, enclosed is an envelope for mailing whatever donation you can during what we know are uncertain times. Thank you again for your financial support in the coming year and for your prayers.

On behalf of everyone involved in migrant ministry — all the supporters named above as well as the migrant communities — may I wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bernard Grizard, Diocesan Director  
Department of Pastoral Services  
Office of Migrant Ministry

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DIOCESAN MIGRANT MINISTRY

Our Diocesan Migrant Ministry dedicates much of its energy to going forth to encounter and welcome newly arrived migrants in the diocese and to continue building relationships with those already here. Given their unfortunate realities, workers arrive every season in the thousands due to displacement by violence and climate disaster in their home countries, and/or a desire for better living conditions for themselves and their families. Our ministry engages families who come either together or gradually in groups. We welcome individual workers who arrive from their home countries with an H2A Visa and are already under contract. Many are committed to finish their seasonal work and then to return to their countries of origin. Others are joining families already here. Our ministry respectfully approaches all to get to know them and discover their challenges, whether human, social, legal, or those involving justice or faith. We serve as liaisons connecting new arrivals with agencies or organizations that can help them with necessities. Our ministry encourages them to connect with a faith community and little by little to become part of it.

Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: **welcome, protect, promote, and integrate.** For it is not a case of implementing welfare programs from the top down, but rather of undertaking a journey together.

[Fratelli Tutti 129]

## BEING AND FORMING COMMUNITY

Building the future with the migrants ... means **recognizing and honoring what each one of them can contribute to the learning process.\***

Many migrants, whether as family groups or as individuals, who have already established themselves for some years feel welcomed and at home in Catholic faith communities. Normally what we find is a faith experience cultivated from their original Latin American origins. That's why discovering new community life in our area encourages them. Slowly they begin to recover the communal

experience they've been missing. A process of integration awakens in them, through cultural identification and through the spontaneous richness of their exchanges with other new arrivals, for example, families from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Ecuador, and more. Community participation leads to the yearning to promote their children's growth in faith, through catechesis and sacramental formation. We see this growth concretely in the increase at the Sunday gatherings from 200 to 300 persons both at St. Francis de Sales in Geneva and at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Marion. Those numbers decrease during the summer as work demands increase. This is, after all, a young population of couples and working parents. But despite many difficulties and uncertainties, including those caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, 22 youth received Confirmation in June 2022 at Our Lady of Guadalupe, as well as 5 from Leicester and 3 from Brockport.



*Confirmation; Geneva, NY*

## FORMING LEADERS



*Eighteen children celebrated First Communion,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Finding and forming individuals to serve as leaders in their own communities is central to our work. We look for those who can inspire their community's progress in faith. An example are catechists who, along with parents, encourage children's human and faith development. Others are called as liturgical leaders for community celebrations. Some contribute by making effective contact with Anglo communities in order to foster bicultural understanding and mutual support. Still others are able to solicit assistance from various service agencies.

The migrants' labor itself is already a crucial mission—a truth easy to grasp when one sees how dedicated they are in their work in cultivating the fields, milking cows, constructing houses and larger buildings.

Their labor takes another dimension when they embrace a mission that is specifically evangelizing—as often happens—when they invite work mates to join the celebration of the Eucharist in the fields in Our Savior's honor. That mission extends further when they show their solidarity by supporting one another during illness, accidents, deaths, joblessness, family food insecurity or simple emergencies. This also extends to helping when someone lacks transportation for moving or needs immediate help with an immigration issue.

The arrival of migrants and Catholic refugees **brings new energy to the ecclesial life of the communities** ... These new arrivals are often bearers of revitalizing dynamics and encouragers of vibrant celebrations.\*

\*MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 108th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2022 (25 September 2022) "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees"





## PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NAZARETH COLLEGE & DIOCESAN MIGRANT MINISTRY



This year marks the second year of our partnership with Nazareth College; an important initiative made possible through grants with Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and the Greater Rochester Health Foundation. El Cuidado de Nuestros Vecinos (Caring for Our Neighbors) is a collaborative program between Nazareth College and our Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester Migrant Ministry. We are extremely grateful to Nazareth College, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, and the Greater Rochester Health Foundation for the dynamic and impactful work begun over a year ago to address the mental and public health needs of our migrant communities, especially heightened with the pandemic our world faced. Working together with our Migrant

Ministry team—Fr. Jesús Flores and Luci Romero in Wayne County; Jorge Salgado and Carmen Rollinson in Livingston County—are two interdisciplinary Care Teams from Nazareth comprised of licensed professional members of the faculty and graduate students. There are four focus areas: Community Empowerment, Health and Wellness, Graduate Level Clinical Intervention/Treatments, and Public Health Education. To highlight some of the experiences, our migrant brothers and sisters have participated in:

- Women's Retreat
- Men's Retreat
- Six-week Summer Camp Youth Programs
- Language Education Initiatives (English as a Second Language & Spanish)
- Camp Stella Maris Weekend Experience
- Licensed Professional Social Work and Mental Health sessions for Adults, Youth, Families and Special Needs individuals

Funds have also been invested in equipment such as Chromebooks and in facility improvements which will bring long-term benefits to our migrant community.



*Camp Stella Maris weekend experience*



*Comunidad San Juan Diego Summer Camp~ Faith & Music Day*

## EL CUIDADO DE NUESTROS VECINOS (CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS)



The partnership between Nazareth College and the Diocese of Rochester Migrant Ministry provides a pathway for our students and faculty to work alongside

members of the Rochester Diocesan Migrant Ministry in responding to Mother Cabrini's invitation to care for migrants by showing that "today love must not be hidden ... it must be living, active and true."

*~ Mary Dahl Maher, PhD  
Chair, Nursing and Public Health  
Nazareth College*

The Beatitude, "Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" manifests its blessing each time that the Nazareth College students and I are in the presence of the migrant community who share their grace, wisdom and knowledge. The sacred spaces of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and the Comunidad San Juan Diego/Tepeyac Migrant Welcoming Center create a safety network to learn, engage, laugh and experience fears together. I feel deep gratitude for the spiritual gifts provided to me, by the Diocesan Migrant Ministry community.



*~ Marie L. Watkins, PhD  
Director, Community Youth Development  
Nazareth College*



*Mustafa Alhabib & Eric Almquist, Nazareth Graduate Students, showcasing completed Comunidad San Juan Diego Food Pantry*



*Dr. Marie Watkins, Nazareth College & her entourage preparing for "el baile folklórico de Mexico"*



*Nazareth Students engage youth in literacy & wellness lesson as part of a migrant summer school program*

## FR. TOM FLOREK, SJ, CATHOLIC MIGRANT FARMWORKERS NETWORK

Fr. Tom Florek, SJ, Executive Director of the Catholic Migrant Farmworkers Network, visited in June to listen and learn about our pastoral migrant ministry work in the twelve-county Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester. Fr. Florek met with several migrant communities, accompanied by members of our Migrant Ministry team. Below is an excerpt from his report:

“On Saturday morning I had breakfast with Luci, Fr. Jesus and a group of women and men who have become friends in their organization as folkloric dancers. Their friendship has resulted in gaining identity and confidence as a community centered on Christ and Christian service to the greater catholic community.

Like the Pauline description of a diverse community with one common Spirit, each of these women and men bring knowledge, skills and contacts to this ‘domestic church’ strengthening bonds of community for ‘missionary discipleship.’ Pope Francis’ encyclical Fratelli Tutti gives yet further understanding of this ecclesial foundation.”



*Domingo de Ramos (Palm Sunday) ~ April*



*Camp Visit with Fr. Jesus Flores (left), Fr. Tom Florek, SJ (back row, left) and Luci Romero (right)*



*Folkloric Liturgy Dancers at Women’s Retreat ~ May*



*Día de los Muertos/Fieles Difuntos (Day of the Dead/All Souls) ~ November*

## A LOOK AT 2022

### JANUARY

***Día de los Reyes Magos/Three Kings Day***  
First Communion 18-week Group Formation  
begins—Leicester, Marion  
Four-month English as a Second Language  
Workshops begin—Marion  
Camp Stella Maris Experience for Youth—Marion

### FEBRUARY

Cocinando Juntas (Cooking Together) program  
begins—Leicester

### MARCH

Synod Migrant Community Discussion—Brockport  
Women's Retreat—Marion, Leicester & Brockport  
women participated  
Finalized purchase of Comunidad San Juan Diego/  
Tepeyac Migrant Center—Leicester, NY  
Camp Stella Maris Experience for Youth—Marion

### APRIL

Camp Stella Maris Experience for Youth—Marion  
Sacrament of Initiation—Leicester  
Camp Visits

### MAY

Synod Migrant Community Follow-up  
Conversation—Brockport  
Camp Stella Maris Experience for Youth—Marion  
Camp Visits & Masses celebrated

### JUNE

First Communion  
Confirmation  
Fr. Tom Florek, SJ, Catholic Migrant Farmworker  
Network  
Camp Visits & Masses celebrated

### JULY

Six-week Summer Camp for Youth—Leicester,  
Marion & Sodus  
Camp visits on farms, distributed personal hygiene  
bags to migrant dairy farmworkers—Leicester  
Migrant Community Retreat led by Fr. Jesus Flores—  
Brockport  
Welcome Mass for seasonal migrant workers—King  
Ferry  
Camp Visits & Masses celebrated

### AUGUST

Festival de Verano (Summer Festival)—Leicester  
Backpack & School Supplies distributed to youth—  
Brockport, Marion & Leicester  
Camp Visits & Masses celebrated

### SEPTEMBER

Bienvenida (Welcoming) Celebration—Brockport

### OCTOBER

Women's Retreat

### NOVEMBER

***Día de los Muertos/Fieles Difuntos***  
(Day of the Dead/All Souls)—Mass & Reception

### DECEMBER

***Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*** (Our Lady of  
Guadalupe)—Mass & Reception  
***Las Posadas*** (Christmas Rituals)  
***La Navidad*** (Christmas)

## DIOCESAN MIGRANT MINISTRY COORDINATORS



*English as a Second Language Class (ESL)*



*Camp Visit ~ Fr. Tom Florek, SJ (L), Fr. Jesus Flores (R)*



*Luci Romero & Faith Formation Group*



*Women's Retreat*



Everywhere in the world the presence of migrant persons is both a gift and a challenge. During these many years that I've experienced the grace of sharing in pastoral service with the migrant communities of our diocese, I've discovered that my life and my pastoral vision have changed. To get to know our migrant families, to accompany and learn from them as they face each day's challenges: this is a sign of how God makes Himself present in our lives, in our societies, and in our Church.

*~ Fr. Jesus Flores  
Diocesan Migrant Ministry Coordinator*



Sharing my life with the migrant community has been salvific for me.

*~ Luci Romero  
Regional Migrant Ministry Coordinator*



## DIOCESAN MIGRANT MINISTRY COORDINATORS



Like all of us migrant ministers, I am guided by the verse in St. Luke's gospel: "I am among you as the one who serves," (Lk 22:27). We walk with the migrant community to serve them, spiritually and materially, supporting and sharing in their journey to become even more faithful Christians and even more productive members of their communities.

*~ Jorge Salgado, Regional Migrant Ministry Coordinator, Comunidad San Juan Diego/ Tepeyac Migrant Center Coordinator*

I am a servant and a student in this ministry, and humbled by it all. I have been granted the gift of working with the migrant community where every encounter brings its own beauty. I am not blind to the challenges and hardship, but during it all, I witness the strength, compassion, humility, and unexplainable blessings along the way. And, with the ladies of "Cocinando Juntas," there is laughter, comradeship, and new cooking skills!



*~ Carmen Rollinson  
Project Manager, Diocesan Migrant Ministry*



*Fr. Marc Roselli, SJ, Easter Vigil*



*Cocinando Juntas*



*Festival de Verano (August) ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual celebration to thank migrant farmworkers*



*"El baile folklorico de Mexico"  
Youth & Leah Greenwich, Nazareth student*



*Festival de Verano, Soccer Tournament Champions*





**¡Deseándoles  
una Feliz Navidad  
y un próspero  
Año Nuevo!**





*Fr. Jesús Flores ~ Family celebrates Wedding & Baptisms*



*Fr. Marc Roselli, SJ ~ Youth receives Sacraments of Initiation*



*Fr. Jesús Flores ~ Mass to welcome seasonal migrant farmworkers newly arriving*



*Hno. Francisco Serrano, OFM & Fr. Jesús Flores ~ Celebrating Mass at a camp with migrant farmworkers & families*