



Virginia Grosh, an Immigration Parish Coordinator at Blessed Sacrament Parish, shares insights on immigration at a retreat.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity
Immigration Ministry
Cardinal Meyer Center
3525 South Lake Park Avenue
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“I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”

—Matthew 25:35

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IMMIGRATION MINISTRY

IMMIGRATION PARISH COORDINATOR

“The Jubilee Year of Mercy gave me the grace to continue to take action in native-born parishes that have been part of my life for years during this time of division.”

—Dan McGuire, IPC, Mary Seat of Wisdom

“Being an IPC is a great honor and sometimes challenging. . . it is my hope that more parishes will become involved.”

—Virginia B. Grosh, IPC, Blessed Sacrament

“Love and compassion and human dignity are at the center of everything.”

—Angie Brady, IPC, St. George, Tinley Park

“To go and see the power of prayer. . . incredible! [Congressman Dan] Lipinski shows it can be done.”

—Eileen Griffin, IPC, St. Mary of the Woods

To learn more visit us at catholicsandimmigrants.org or on Facebook at [office.for.immigrant.affairs/](https://www.facebook.com/office.for.immigrant.affairs/)

The Immigration Ministry invites immigrants to respond to the baptismal commitment to engage in service and justice actions as leaders in the parish community.

To learn more about becoming an Immigration Parish Coordinator, please contact:

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“From this place of welcome, of encounter, and of service I would like you all to ask yourselves these questions: Do I kneel down to someone in difficulty or am I afraid to soil my hands? Am I closed in on myself, focused on my things, or do I notice those in need of help? Do I just serve myself or am I able to serve others as Christ did to the point of giving his life? Do I look into the eyes of those who seek justice or do I look the other way so as not to look into their eyes?”

—Pope Francis, message to Jesuit Refugee Service

An Immigration Parish Coordinator (IPC) serves a vital role towards fulfilling the mission to “welcome the stranger.” IPCs are committed to work on behalf of immigrants and immigration issues in the context of Catholic social teaching. An IPC is a volunteer lay person who coordinates efforts in education/conversion, advocacy/solidarity, and empowerment/accompaniment with the native-born congregations of their parish.

IPCs serve as a liaison between their parish and the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Immigration Ministry.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Committed to work on behalf of immigrants and immigration issues
- Familiar with Catholic social teaching
- Appointed or approved by their pastor

(Photo courtesy of Karen Callaway)

EDUCATION AND CONVERSION

- Ensure Immigration Ministry ads and/or announcements are printed in the church bulletin
- Offer speakers, forums, or an immigrant immersion experience to educate parishioners about the immigrant experience (e.g., visit day worker corner, meet a Dreamer, visit a Pastoral Migratoria parish, etc.)
- Attend the annual IPC formation gathering and other vicariate/cluster meetings

ADVOCACY AND SOLIDARITY

- Stay informed on current immigrant issues and legislation at the local, state, and federal levels (e.g., deportation, DACA)
- Organize parishioners to participate in advocacy actions in collaboration with the Immigration Ministry (e.g., postcard campaigns, visit to legislators, voter registration)
- Recruit parishes to participate in the annual Posada for immigration reform in downtown Chicago (during Advent), National Migration Week Mass (early January), and the Keep Hope Alive annual fundraising benefit (spring)

EMPOWERMENT AND ACCOMPANIMENT

- Organize parishioners to visit the Friday interfaith prayer vigil at the Broadview detention center
- Collaborate on an event or meeting with a local immigrant parish or Pastoral Migratoria parish
- Participate in the annual Warm Coat, Warm Heart Drive that collects coats, sweat shirts for men held in detention centers

BY THE NUMBERS

127 native-born congregations have representation by Immigration Parish Coordinators

200 local high school and university students participated in youth/young adult immersion

6 Hispanic and **6** native-born parishes celebrated together in “Immersion Posadas”

1,129 coats were collected by **12** native-born parishes and delivered to the Broadview Detention Center and other detention centers in the midwest



Nydia Rodriguez, *Pastoral Migratoria* leader from St. Frances of Rome Church, speaks to immersion participants from native-born parishes with the Maryknoll missionaries.



IPCs and volunteers sort coats collected for detainees at the Broadview Detention Center.