

- **Women's clothes**

In addition to winter coats, parishes have also provided women's clothes, which we have distributed to 18 parishes connected with Pastoral Migratoria and Polish Immigrant-to-Immigrant Ministry.

Creating Awareness on Immigration

An IPC not only seeks their parish's participation in collecting clothes, but also encourages their engagement in education opportunities to learn where the winter coats go and why people are deported. As a result of this outreach, two parishes organized advocacy actions, six parishes became actively involved in Office for Immigrant Affairs planning meetings for 2014 advocacy actions, two parishes organized prayer vigils at their parishes, and two

parishes visited Broadview.

IPCs preparing coats and delivering them to Broadview detention center.



"From this place of welcome, of encounter and of service I would like you all...to ask yourselves this question: 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, 2013



Office for Immigrant Affairs &
Immigration Education
3525 S. Lake Park Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653
www.catholicsandimmigrants.org

For more information on the IPC ministry, or if you would like to participate, please contact:

Sr. Lisa Polega, SLW
Lpolega@archchicago.org
312-534-8104

Updated: 06/12/14

Find us on

facebook

The information on this [brochure or website] is for general education and guidance purposes only. The Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education (the "Office") makes no claims or guarantees concerning the accuracy or completeness of this information. Nor does the Office endorse or guarantee in any way the service providers listed or the quality or results of their services. Any use of the information on this [brochure or website], including but not limited to the use of the listed service providers, is on the condition that, including but not limited to personal injury including death.

Immigration Parish Coordinator



Office for Immigrant Affairs
& Immigration Education
(OIA)

An **Immigration Parish Coordinator (IPC)** serves a vital role towards fulfilling the mission to “Welcome the Stranger.” This person is committed to work on behalf of immigrants and immigration issues in the context of Catholic social teaching. The IPC coordinates efforts in education/conversion, advocacy/solidarity, and empowerment/accompaniment in the non-immigrant congregation of their parish.

In this volunteer role, the IPC serves as a liaison between their parish and the Office for Immigrant Affairs of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



IPCs at Broadview Detention Center

IPC Qualifications

- Committed to work on behalf of immigrants
- Familiar with Catholic social teaching
- Appointed or approved by the local pastor

If you are interested in becoming involved in this ministry of service and justice, please contact
 Sr. Lisa Polega, SLW
 lpolega@archchicago.org
 312-534-8104

The work of an IPC includes among these activities within their local parish:



Education/ Conversion:

- ⇒ Ensure the printing of immigration ads in the church bulletin
- ⇒ Offer a speakers’ panel or other education forum
- ⇒ Attend the annual IPC formation gathering and local vicariate/cluster meetings.



Advocacy/ Solidarity:

- ⇒ Stay up-to-date on current immigration legislation at local, state, and federal levels (e.g. deportation, immigration reform)
- ⇒ Organize parishioners to actively participate in advocacy actions in collaboration with OIA.
- ⇒ Recruit parish participation in the annual Posada for Immigration Reform in downtown Chicago.



Empowerment/ Accompaniment:

- ⇒ Organize a parish visit to the Friday prayer vigil at the Broadview detention center.
- ⇒ Collaborate with a local immigrant parish or the Immigrant-to-Immigrant Ministry (Pastoral Migratoria)
- ⇒ Offer direct support to the immigrant community (e.g. accompaniment of separated families, professional resources)
- ⇒ Organize a clothing drive for the men and women being deported or school supplies for children in immigrant parishes.

Accomplishments

Below are a few examples of IPCs’ work in 2013-2014.

• Prayer Vigil at Rep. Dan Lipinski’s Office

In April 2014, more than 40 parishioners (representing 22 parishes including six from Rep. Lipinski’s district) organized a prayer vigil for the congressman’s conversion in regards to immigration reform. Five IPCs from his district talked to his chief of staff and gave him Pope Francis’ “Joy of the Gospel” for Rep. Lipinski. Parishioners from his district also signed a petition.



IPCs participating in prayer vigil at Rep, Lipinski’s Office

• Winter Clothes

18 parishes participated in the collection of 700 articles of clothing for the Broadview detention center. Many people who are deported do not have appropriate winter clothes because they might have been detained during the warm season. Early in the winter, Immigration & Custom Enforcement’s district director asked us to also provide winter coats to his office so they could distribute them to other detention centers in his region (6 States).