



ACTIVITIES FOR ACCOMPANIMENT OF IMMIGRANTS IN DETENTION CENTERS AND PROCESS OF DEPORTATION

WHAT: *Prayer Vigil, 1930 S. Beach St., Broadview, IL*

WHEN: Every Friday at 7:15 a.m.

DESCRIPTION: For over five years, God’s faithful have been gathering early on Friday mornings in front of the immigrant detention center in Broadview, IL to pray the rosary. It’s a powerful expression of solidarity and prayerful support for our immigrant brother and sisters in Christ as they are being loaded onto buses for deportation from the U.S. The gathering, led by religious women of the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants organization, is orderly and peaceful - all participants stay outside physical boundaries established by the Broadview facility. The public rosary lasts about a half hour and draws attention to a U.S. immigrant detention system that deprives detained immigrants, who have not violated criminal law, protection of basic liberties afforded inmates in the criminal system. The unjust system of detention, which can become indefinite without recourse to remedy, falls under the radar screen of most of the American public.

DIRECTIONS: To reach the Broadview facility, take the Eisenhower to 25th Avenue South; at the top of the ramp turn left to Lexington (the stop light). Turn right on Lexington to Beach (the next street). Turn left on Beach and look for the barbed wire fence on the right hand side, in front of the detention center building.

LOGISTICS: Meet at the location by 7:15am. There is no ongoing commitment – come as often as you can. For questions, contact Sr. JoAnn Persch (773) 779-6011 or Elena Segura at (312) 534-5333.

WHAT: *Immigration “Court Watch” at Detention Court, 525 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL*

WHEN: Monday – Thursday: 9am-12pm, 1pm-4pm. Friday: 9am-12pm

DESCRIPTION: A court watch program has been established by the religious women of the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants network of volunteers that help monitor what is happening at Chicago Immigration Court’s Video- Teleconferencing Deportation Hearings. Since 2002, videoconferencing has increasingly become a substitute for in-person deportation hearings for immigrant detainees, who during court proceedings remain in a holding cell at a remote site – without an interpreter or even the attorney representing them at their side as their fate (and potential permanent separation from their families) is decided. Volunteers sit in the courtroom during the hearings in the role of observer to help keep the judge and litigators accountable for providing immigrants fair and humane treatment and representation.

LOGISTICS: The Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants organization facilitates participation and scheduling of prospective volunteers in Court Watch, since there is a courtroom-access procedure and observer seating is limited. The program is best suited for people who are open to a regular schedule of participation. If interested, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Naftzger at (773) 373-7805 or maryandbob.n@sbcglobal.net.

For more information on the Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education, please contact Elena Segura, Director, at (312) 534-5333 or esegura@archchicago.org