

GOOD NEWS!

A SPIRIT-FILLED ADVENTURE HAS COME ALIVE IN THE RE-ENVISIONED IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE MINISTRY

Kevin Kuehl has been hired as **Coordinator of the Immigrant & Refugee Ministry, a six-parish collaborative of which your parish is a member.** Kevin lives in South St. Louis and is a member of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish. Ignatian Spirituality impacts his life decisions. His ability to collaborate, energy to re-create something new with others, passion for justice and charity, a warm and compassionate demeanor are among gifts that make Kevin a good fit for Coordinator.



Kevin is bilingual and served in Trujillo, Honduras, Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas. Locally a few of his experiences include Solidarity at the Border Pilgrimage Planning Committee, Archdiocese of St. Louis, and accompanying a refugee couple from Afghanistan as they settle in St. Louis. Kevin is an employee of St. Pius V Parish and will have an office there. He begins August 1, 2023. Financially, we are hoping for a grant from the ACA and grants from other organizations. Each collaborating parish will contribute as well to secure the Ministry in its first year and beyond. Donations are always welcomed.

The collaborating Churches are St. Anthony of Padua, St. Cronan, St. John the Baptist, St Margaret of Scotland, St. Pius V and St. Vincent DePaul. The Board is comprised of a representative from every collaborating parish, immigrants and refugees and others from the community at large. **Your parish representative is Julie Hesed.**

WHAT IS THE IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE MINISTRY?

Back story: The Immigrant & Refugee Ministry grew from a ministry that was part of St. Pius V for over 30 years. After the previous Coordinator moved on, a re-visioning process began. The decision to widen the ministry to include more parishes became an exciting Spirit-filled adventure when a planning committee was formed “calling us to be neighbor” to women, men and children coming to our city for the first time. Participating parishes have the support of the pastors currently serving in those faith communities.

New story: The Immigrant & Refugee Ministry is a relational, welcoming ministry that strives to uphold the worth and dignity of each person. ***The Immigrant and Refugee mission is to welcome, assist and advocate on behalf of immigrants/refugees and create bridges among members of participating parishes and immigrant/refugee families.*** IRM’s work will be done without regard to parish boundaries, religious preference, ethnic or national background.

The Ministry augments and fills gaps in services provided by the city, state and/or community. Kevin will be asking for help from volunteers in all the parishes as problems appear that require a solution not available through other existing resources. By connecting collaborating Church volunteers with immigrants and refugees and/or educating them about the local, state, and national policies that affect Immigrants and refugees, the IRM will deepen the commitment of volunteers and church members to work for greater justice for our brothers and sisters who come new from homelands far away from St. Louis.

We are proud of this NEW COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY and hope you will be too.