

## Take Action to Help Children at the Border

Many of the participants in the prayer service for the children at the border have asked for steps that they could take to help solve the situation. Below are a few suggestions:

- **Call** on your congressmen to oppose the humanitarian crisis with children and families at the border, stop ICE raiding our communities and separating families, and engage in bipartisan immigration reform. U.S. congressmen. Senator Richard Blumenthal 202-224-2923, blumentahl.senate.gov. Senator Christopher Murphy 202-224-4041, murphy.senate.gov. Representative Jim Himes 202-225-5541, himes.house.gov.
- **Donate** food, clothing, supplies and money to one of the following organizations or the organization of your choice:
  - ARISE, McAllen, Texas. ARISE is in need of donations and supplies to support the
    extensive work they do at and around the entry points and detention centers. The
    Stuart Center has a close relationship with ARISE and strongly supports its work with
    immigrants. Contact Lourdes Flores, executive director of ARISE.
  - <u>Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley</u>. CCRGV is in constant need of material (money) support so they can provide soap, food, clothing and help with bus tickets that those released from ICE detention need. Sister Norma Pimental is the executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley.
  - Annunciation House in El Paso does similar work as Catholic Charities and was the subject of the Dinner with a Cause in April, 2019.
- **Educate** yourself and others on the history and underlying issues regarding border security, legal asylum, immigration reform and global migration, especially as it affects those who are trying to enter our country.

## Suggested resources:

- "As a nation we must honor the humanity and basic needs of migrants," by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez
- o <u>Ignatian Solidarity Network</u> website includes an overview of the current problem, history of immigration and migration, and stories from immigration and those migrating.
- <u>Franciscan Action Network</u> website includes resources for educating ourselves and acting in light of <u>Catholic Social Teaching</u>.
- o Pope Francis' Video Ahead of World Day of Migrants and Refugees
- o Society of the Sacred Heart United States Canada Province statement on immigration
- The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) statements and resources on immigration and migration