

## **DIOCESAN MIGRATION MINISTRY RESOURCES: 2021 Annual Report**

The DMMR committee met monthly by using Zoom and we discussed migration-related news items, activities of local refugee and immigrant organizations, and ways to educate parishes and people about the administrative process of resettling migrants into our communities. Our primary contact sources for obtaining information included Episcopal Migration Ministries, Church World Service Lancaster, Catholic Charities Harrisburg, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Pa. Immigration and Refugee Women's Network, Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pa., and Pa. Immigration and Citizenship Coalition.

The pandemic prevented us from fulfilling our plans to promote a better understanding of the encounters refugees face at the southern border. We planned to offer travel grants for interested parishioners to accompany Borderland Pilgrimage of the Diocese of the Rio Grande contacts and to observe refugee crossings and sheltering. The plans were put on hold.

The committee offered parishioners and their friends three Zoom sessions to discuss the book *'How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child'* by Sandra Uwiringiyimana. A non-fiction story about a girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who tells how she survived a massacre, immigrated to America, and overcame her trauma through art and activism.

We supported a new state legislative initiative for people, regardless of their residential status, to obtain a Pa. driver's license. The campaign, known as *'Driving Pa. Forward'*, promoted having a law to allow people with a Tax Identification Number to once again be eligible for a driver's license, as well as providing assurance that driver's license information will be kept private, unless there is a criminal warrant to access it. A 2021 convention resolution has been presented.

Several members of the committee completed Stephenson School For Ministry courses entitled *'Shaped by Faith: Navigating Immigration'* (two sessions). Highly recommended for everyone.

The Diocese's Communications staff did outstanding work to help us promote World Refugee Day in June by posting daily facts about immigration on DMMR's webpage.

The DMMR committee meets via Zoom (one hour) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1 PM. Everyone is welcomed to join us. Receive a Zoom link by contacting Gerry Garber at [phillies75@comcast.net](mailto:phillies75@comcast.net).

Committee members include Gerry Garber, Fred and Rosemary Hartman, Joan Horn, David W. Martin, The Rev. Beth Mollard, Carolyn Patterson, The Rev. Dr. Gregory Welin and Sam Ward. ADVISORY MEMBERS: Sandra Elion, The Rev. Daphne Messersmith and The Rev. Rebecca Myers.

Report Submitted by Gerry Garber (September 2021)