

DIOCESAN MIGRATION MINISTRY RESOURCES: 2022 Annual Report

The DMMR committee meets monthly by using Zoom. We discuss migration-related news items, activities of local refugee and immigrant organizations, and ways to educate parishes and people about resettling refugees and immigrants into our communities. We consulted and worked with Episcopal Migration Ministries, Church World Service Lancaster/Harrisburg, Catholic Charities Harrisburg, and Pa. Immigration and Refugee Women's Network.

We participated in monthly Zoom sessions with many diocesan locations throughout the country. Episcopal Migration Ministries coordinated the sessions to help us to learn about how other dioceses are confronting the massive and urgent need to find homes for refugees and to provide the necessities of life.

We worked with St. Stephen's Cathedral (Harrisburg) to provide a location for refugee and immigrant families to display and sell handmade crafts and artwork during Artsfest Weekend. Families served by Church World Service and Pa. Association of Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network sold items, which helped to support their family's monetary needs.

In cooperation with the Diocese Communications staff, we posted a series of daily stories to the DMMR webpage during the week leading up to World Refugee Day on June 20th.

We maintained contact to learn about refugee resettlement activities (attempted or fulfilled) undertaken by St. Edward's Church (Lancaster), All Saints Church & Derry Presbyterian (Hershey), St. John's Church (Lancaster), St. Stephen's Cathedral (Harrisburg), Prince of Peace Church (Gettysburg), and All Saints Church (Hanover).

During Zoom meetings, we had guest presenters from Catholic Charities Harrisburg, Church World Service, and Jewish Family Services of Greater Harrisburg, Inc. They told us about their organization's structure to serve refugees and immigrants. They requested donations of household items that would be needed for placing families in temporary housing.

During August and September, we carried out a donation appeal for school backpacks to be given to newly arriving refugee children. Filled backpacks will be distributed among Church World Service, Catholic Charities Harrisburg, Parish Resource Center (Lancaster), and International Service Center (Harrisburg).

The DMMR committee meets via Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 PM (one hour). Join a DMMR's monthly Zoom session by contacting Gerry Garber at phillies75@comcast.net.

ACTIVE MEMBERS are David Castonguay, Gerry Garber, Fred and Rosemary Hartman, Joan Horn, David Martin, The Rev. Beth Mollard, The Rev. Dr. Gregory Welin, and Sam Ward. Carolyn Patterson was an active member during most of 2022. ADVISORY MEMBERS are Sandra Elion and The Rev. Rebecca Myers.

Report Submitted by Gerry Garber (September 2022)