

## Alliance of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and St. Raymond of Pennafort Parish for the purpose of serving immigrants and refugees

### 1. Scope of the Alliance

St. Vincent parish joined the New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) of Philadelphia in 2012 in an auxiliary function along with a number of other faith communities to serve the undocumented immigrant community of Philadelphia, a community which finds itself under fire from the federal government.

The St. Raymond parish formed a ministry (REST) in 2017 to legal refugees from different countries who were being resettled by agencies like Bethany and Catholic Social Services.

The NSM committee at St. Vincent promoted the goals of the central organization especially in accompanying immigrants to immigration court and several other local courts like the criminal court. In addition, the parish reached out to a number of immigrants with special needs, some of whom started out with undocumented status but became legalized while others who were undocumented got aid through the Tithing Committee ministry of St. Vincent.

St. Raymond parishioners in REST volunteered their time and efforts to aid refugees to resettle in a new country. Such efforts included ESL, tutoring, taking people to doctors' appointments, driving children to school, and helping wherever something came up as an opportunity to support and aid the refugees in their difficult process of inculturation.

### 2. Reason for the Alliance

When the scope of each parish's ministry became known (through Dan and Siobhan McVay), it seemed appropriate to connect them. Given the hostile atmosphere these days toward undocumented immigrants and even legal refugees, it became not only appropriate but urgent that there should be an alliance.

### 3. How to Promote the Alliance

In order to bring the parishioners of each parish on board with our efforts, we need to promote the alliance to the parishioners. How to do that is the question. The following steps could be employed:

- (1) Alert the pastor and the parish councils to get their approval. Set up an information session if appropriate.
- (2) Given the approval of the pastor and council, schedule an opportunity to inform the parishes in general.
- (3) Produce a simple flier as a handout to the parishioners. The handout should include a response mechanism.
- (4) Informing the parishioners should be done in such a way as to reach the maximum number of parishioners. A social hour of some sort could provide an appropriate setting. Photos and videos of past efforts, along with descriptions of what has been done, should be a part of the social hour. The challenge of aiding immigrants and refugees who seem no longer to be welcome in our country should be addressed.

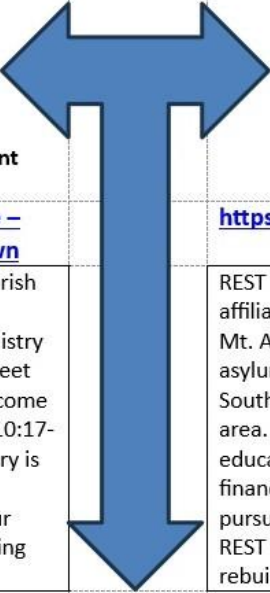
- (5) An invitation should be extended to the NSM of Philadelphia to participate for the purpose of actualizing the current status of immigrants and refugees. Members of REST should bring parishioners up to date on services performed.

Paul Witte

You can find more information on the church web sites using these links:

- ❖ <https://www.saintraymond.net/refugeesupport>
- ❖ <https://www.saint-vincent-church.org/new-sanctuary-movement-committee/>

## Somethings happening here...

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|  <p><b>St. Vincent's New Sanctuary Movement committee</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                    |  <p><b>REST in Philly</b><br/>Refugee Empowerment Support Team</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b><u>New Sanctuary Movement Committee – St.Vincent de Paul Church, Germantown</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                    | <p><b><u><a href="https://www.saintraymond.net/refugeesupport">https://www.saintraymond.net/refugeesupport</a></u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>We are a ministry of St. Vincent De Paul Parish that collaborates with the New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) of Philadelphia. The ministry guides the parishioners of St. Vincent to meet the objectives of the NSM. That is, we welcome the stranger in the spirit of Deuteronomy 10:17-21 and Mathew 25:31-40. Today our country is going through a difficult time because of opposition to refugees and immigrants. Our proposal is to support the NSM by promoting their efforts, programs and actions.</p> |  | <p>REST in Philly, established in 2017, is a social ministry affiliated with St. Raymond of Penafort Church in East Mt. Airy. Its mission is to walk alongside refugees and asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East, and South America as they resettle in the Philadelphia area. REST provides vital support in areas such as education, healthcare, employment, housing, and finances, helping families achieve independence and pursue citizenship. Through its dedicated efforts, REST fosters hope and new beginnings for those rebuilding their lives in a welcoming community.</p> |
| <p>Recent discussion between these two groups resulted in a decision to merge and work together. United we stand. Will you join us as we welcome the stranger, advocate for immigrants, provide hospitality, accompany individuals with tasks to help them integrate into new surroundings.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Weekly actions you are welcome to attend at the Philadelphia ICE office (8 <sup>th</sup> and Cherry)<br>114 N 8th St, Philadelphia, PA 19107. These are ongoing events |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Monday 11 AM                                                                                                                                                           | A vigil organized by Sen. Art Haywood and interfaith clergy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Wednesday Noon                                                                                                                                                         | New Sanctuary Movement Philadelphia interfaith prayer service. If your congregation or community would like to lead a future vigil with New Sanctuary Movement for their weekly Wednesday noon vigils outside the Philadelphia ICE Field Office, you can indicate your interest on a form - <a href="#">sign up here</a> |
| Friday 3 PM                                                                                                                                                            | Pray the rosary, read relevant news articles, start and end with a song.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |