



WELCOMING OUR IMMIGRANT SISTERS AND BROTHERS



January 4, 2009
Feast of the Epiphany

“...there are no more
distinctions between
Jew and Greek,
slave and free,
male and female, but all of
you are one
in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:28

Activities for Adults

Explore Family History: Invite each family in your parish to bring in their oldest family photo. Ask them to answer the following questions about the photo:

- What story does the photo tell?
- Who is in the photo?
- When was the photo taken?
- How are the people in the photo related to you?
- Who took the photo?
- Who kept the photo?
- Why was the photo saved?
- Why is the photo special to your family?
- What other information do you have about this photo?

Photocopy the family photo and have families write stories using the above questions. Mount photos and stories on squared cardstock. Frame each picture and story on a larger piece of construction paper and invite children to illustrate the frames. Create a large quilt with all the pictures. Display the quilt in the gathering space of your church.

Grandparent and Grandchild Day: Host a luncheon or tea party for grandparents and grandchildren. Provide an opportunity for children to interview their grandparents and record their responses in homemade books. Children should be encouraged to ask questions about their ancestry.

Forum on U.S. Immigration Policy: Host a forum on immigration policy. Invite speakers from your community (business, education, faith and legislative). Examine current immigration policies in both the United States and Minnesota. Consider a variety of viewpoints on several controversial issues related to immigration, and discuss the issues in light of past, current and proposed legislation. Use one of the books listed in the *Resources* section of the *Statewide Immigration Sunday Planning Guide* as a starting point.

Family Tree: Host an evening on family ancestry. Invite a speaker from your local historical society to speak about performing family history research. Please see the *Resources* section of the *Statewide Immigration Sunday Planning Guide* for ancestry and genealogy resources.

Distribute family tree charts to parishioners.

[Family Tree Chart.pdf](#)

[Family Tree Chart II.pdf](#)

[Sample Family Tree Chart.pdf](#)

Welcome Newcomers: Offer refreshments after liturgy to welcome newcomers.

Catholic Social Teaching: Offer a parish education program on Catholic Social Teaching on immigration. Invite your diocesan social action, social concerns or social justice office to speak.

Posada: Offer a parish screening of *Posada*, a documentary about the plight of unaccompanied immigrant children arriving in the United States. Please see the *Resources* section of the *Statewide Immigration Sunday Planning Guide* for other film titles.

<http://www.posadasproject.com>

Sponsor a Family: Help your parish sponsor a migrant or refugee family building a new life in Minnesota.

Supply Drive: Collect backpacks, lunch boxes and school supplies for refugee and migrant school children.

Diocesan Resettlement Programs: Learn more about refugee resettlement efforts in your diocese. Contact your local Diocesan Resettlement Office or Catholic Charities and request a speaker.

Parish Service Day: Plan a parish service day, offering home repairs and skill sharing, in a neighborhood where migrants and refugees live.

ESL Class: Establish an English as a Second Language (ESL) class or offer a parish tutoring program for immigrants, migrants and refugees.

Meal: Host a weekly or monthly meal for migrant workers in your community.

Justice for Immigrants Campaign: Join the *Justice for Immigrants* campaign.

<http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org>

Parish Advocacy Committee: Participate in or start a Parish Advocacy Committee, hosting monthly educational programs and legislative workshops.

Ethnic Food Festival: Host a parish ethnic food festival, or a multi-cultural potluck supper, to celebrate the diverse food traditions in your community.

**Throughout the year, celebrate different ethnic feasts and holidays as a parish.*

Book Study: Host a book study on one of the books listed in the *Resources* section of the *Statewide Immigration Sunday Planning Guide*.

Use the attached *Discussion Guide* on Edwidge Danticat's *Brother, I'm Dying*

Perform a Play: Read through, or perform, the play, *Line in the Sand*.

<http://crs.org/dramaproject/>

Take the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Test: Host an evening gathering to discuss immigration. At the beginning of the gathering, invite parishioners to take the USCIS Naturalization test. However, do not tell parishioners where the test is from until after they have completed it. Discuss the test.

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=2de5bece24e7b110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=2de5bece24e7b110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD>