



**ST PIUS V
PARISH**
.org

Good News from St. Pius V

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1919 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60608 • Phone: 312-226-6161

Winter 2014

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

Good News Surrounds the Christmas Crèche!

Dear Friends,

As we gather around the Christmas crèche, we count ourselves blessed. We remember the Christ child huddled with Mary and Joseph in a stable and later displaced and endangered as undocumented immigrants. Here, in the

midst of our city, we find the Holy Family in our immigrant brothers and sisters struggling for a safe community and a more prosperous life for themselves and their families.

As a consequence of the executive order President



**“Do not be afraid!
I bring you tidings
of great joy!
Today in the city of David
a son is born for you,
who is Christ, the Lord.”**

Obama recently signed, many of our families feel the weight of deportation lifted from their shoulders. Thanks to your generosity, St. Pius V has helped so many families who have lived in fear these past decades.

Clemente arrived in Chicago 25 years ago, eager to work and build a better future for himself and his fiancé, Maricela. She arrived a year later and they married. Within a year their son, Eduardo, was born a U.S. citizen. Several months later, Eduardo began having seizures and slipped into a coma that lasted three months. The doctors predicted he would not live, but Clemente and Maricela prayed hard and kept the faith. Eduardo survived but with serious developmental and physical disabilities. His parents decided they had to stay in the United States for his benefit.

Although not active in the church in Mexico, they came to St. Pius V to pray, and eventually enrolled Eduardo in our religious education program for children with disabilities, SPRED. The family found a community of love and support and eventually the parents became catechists, too. As Clemente says, “We found our faith at St. Pius V.”

Eduardo and his family will celebrate Christmas this year with renewed faith because his parents, living for 24 years with the threat of deportation, now qualify for permission to remain and work in their adopted country.

This family is one of many your generosity has helped heal, strengthen, and keep united.

Thank you for your generous support and prayers. May you and your family experience the love of the Christ child this Christmas season and throughout the New Year 2016!

More good news! Fr. Brendan’s term as pastor was extended to July 2016. This will allow us to have his leadership a little longer as we continue to work toward immigration reform and begin the capital campaign that will help us continue our ministry for decades into the future.

Peace and all good!

Fr. Brendan Curran, Fr. Chuck Dahm,
Fr. Matthias Mueller, and Fr. Tom Lynch



MAKING PEACE, WELCOMING A NEW ARCHBISHOP

A St. Pius V “Peace Dividend” for Pilsen?

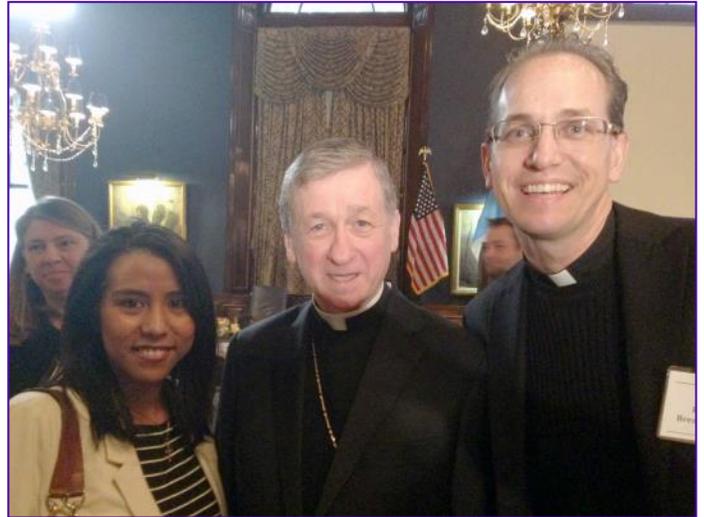
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” At St. Pius V School, peacemaking is the core value taught to students. Students are taught from the earliest grades to solve conflicts, include others, and create an atmosphere where everyone feels safe and happy. Students are keenly aware, though, that peace is not so easy to achieve and that many in the world struggle with war, inequality, and injustice.

For this reason, students celebrated International Peace Day by taking the values taught in school out into the streets of Pilsen. Students created signs with slogans such as “Know Jesus, know peace,” and “Spread love around the world,” and displayed them proudly to traffic passing on busy Ashland Avenue. Commuters were supportive, honking horns and shouting encouragement as they drove by. We hope that meaningful gestures such as these will help spread the word that the world can be a more peaceful place if we all work together for peace.

Students Welcome Chicago’s New Archbishop

St. Pius V students were happy to welcome our new archbishop, Blase Cupich. They watched his installation Mass on television and got an inside look at the news-making process when Telemundo visited the school to get the students’ reaction. Several students were interviewed for the evening newscast and shared their thoughts. “I think he will do a great job because he seems very kind,” said 6th grade student Nancy, “Also, I think Pope Francis is very wise, he made a good decision for us.”

From top, Fr. Brendan Curran, OP, and Resurrection Project organizer Erendira Rendon with Chicago’s new archbishop Blase Cupich at Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s breakfast welcoming the new archbishop; Casa Juan Diego participants and instructor Lisseth Gonzalez perform folkloric dance at a fundraising concert by *Sones de Mexico*; Fr. Tom Lynch, OP, and the St. Pius V School preschool “saints” at the All Saints Day liturgy. Below, St. Pius V School students organized a rally for International Day of Peace.



FAMILY SUPPORT JEOPARDIZED BY FUNDING CUTS

For reasons of economic necessity, Maria and Vicente Ramirez lived apart for 11 years, Maria and their four children in Mexico, Vicente in Chicago where he worked three jobs to support his family. Worn out by the separation, Maria decided a few years ago to come to Chicago with their children. Soon after arriving her dream of being reunited with her husband began to fray. Her teenage son was not doing well at school and he and his father barely spoke.

Counselors at the school referred the teen to Magdalena Galván, St. Pius V's child and adolescent counselor, who, implementing a parish model that integrates family services, worked with his parents and two of his siblings to get the help they all needed.

The counseling team supported the whole family. After initial counseling the parents participated separately in the women's and men's weekly support groups run by Carlos Lopez, Veronica Flores, and Maria Cardenas, then took advantage of the parish's 30-week parenting course, never missing a session. The couple wanted to reinforce the skills

they learned so they took the course a second time. Veronica commented, "They resolved their marital problems, drew more closely together, and helped their children feel better about themselves and do better in school." Our program for family services, HOPE at St. Pius V, helps hundreds of families like the Ramirezes each year to strengthen their love and find peace.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The challenge we face now is assuring other families benefit from the excellent parenting support our parish staff has been providing at St. Pius V for twelve years. This fall we learned that the City of Chicago, because of a change in focus, will no

longer fund our parenting services, leaving us with a \$32,000 budget shortfall.

Can you help keep families healthy through HOPE at St. Pius V? Earmark your donations for the parenting program this Christmas, and help other families find their way to healthy, loving relationships! Thank you!



The HOPE at St. Pius V staff at the October Domestic Violence prevention month rally at the Thompson Center in Chicago. From the left: Veronica Flores, Maria Cardenas, Luis Chavez, Magdalena Galván, Dolores Tapia, Dulce Cira, Carlos Lopez.

"With All Your Heart"

PARISHIONERS PARTICIPATE IN RENEWAL PROGRAM

With All Your Heart
Con Todo Nuestro Corazón



This fall St. Pius V began an evangelization process called *With All Your Heart* – *Con Todo Nuestro Corazón* in Spanish. The goal is to strengthen our life of prayer, commitment to service, desire to share resources and talents, and ability to bring the Gospel to others. The program began with a parish retreat that drew nearly 200 participants.

We are a pioneer parish in the new program designed for congregations with Spanish and English-speaking members. Fr. Tom Lynch, OP, is coordinating committees of parishioners who will facilitate the liturgical and catechetical programs throughout the two-year process.

For a taste of the renewal program, visit our website and click on the *With All Your Heart* logo to access the bilingual family prayer and reflection resources our parishioners are using.



Casa Juan Diego instructor Leonel Romero and youth group members Andrea Mondragon and Michelle Navarro enjoy a break during the opening retreat of *With All Your Heart*, the parish renewal program that is attracting widespread participation in the parish.

Thank you! Muchas gracias!

DONORS MAKE IT HAPPEN AT HARVEST BANQUET

Thanks to parishioners and friends who supported our parish banquet, *Celebrating the Harvest*, Oct 25. It was a huge success, raising almost \$100,000 to support our ministries. Thanks to parish staff and volunteers who organized the event. A special thanks to Socorro Flores and her kitchen volunteers for a delicious meal, and to our many donors.

Those who donated \$1,000 or more are listed here:
El Milagro ♦Patti Solis Doyle ♦St. Anthony Hospital ♦Lisa Jusino, Allstate ♦Monterrey Security ♦Carnicerias Jimenez ♦ComEd ♦Woodlawn Funeral Home ♦Howard Wolfson ♦The Resurrection Project ♦Tom and Judy Herbstritt ♦Martha Maddock & family ♦John Madden ♦Nick Paoella ♦Dr. Thomas Caron ♦Senator & Mrs. John Cullerton ♦Alderman Danny Solis ♦MB Financial Bank ♦Sinai Health Center/Holy Cross Hospital ♦Juan Ochoa, Miramar Group ♦J.L. Gonzalez Produce, Inc. ♦Blue Island Produce ♦Teamsters Local 703 ♦Alivio Medical Center ♦Raul Raymundo & Family ♦Rebecca Shi, Illinois Business Immigration Coalition

Thanks as well to those whose in-kind donations made such a delicious meal possible: ♦Billy Lawless, The Gage ♦BomBon ♦Carmichael's ♦Economy Meat ♦Pepe's ♦La Hacienda ♦Zarlengo's Italian Ice♦

God bless you all for your generosity!

Top: Fr. Brendan presents the Family of Faith award to Antonia Orozco and her husband Daniel Espino for their tireless volunteer work with SPRED, the religious education program for children with special needs. Parents of a disabled child, they have responded with love for their daughter and for hundreds of other children with disabilities. **Right:** Arturo Fernandez and his wife Clotilde celebrate his Community Service Award, given for his generous care for our parish buildings. As an experienced contractor, Don Arturo has provided expert advice and money-saving services in repairing, remodeling, constructing, and maintaining just about everything at St. Pius V. Muchisimas gracias!



Referendum passes

Will there be a Higher Minimum Wage in State?

Campaigning for Illinoisans to support an increase in the minimum wage, actor Martin Sheen and Gov. Pat Quinn attended Mass then spoke to parishioners, community members, and the media in front of St. Pius V Church on Sunday, Oct. 5. Illinoisans supported a referendum calling for a higher minimum wage, which we hope will pass during the current lame duck session.

Fr. Brendan and actor Martin Sheen, left, listen as Governor Quinn speaks in favor of a higher minimum wage in Illinois.

