



RamTell E-Newsletter November 2023

Reflection

Ministering to the marginal in our society.

Our Christian values call us to welcome the least of our brothers and sisters—especially those who are fleeing to save their lives and find safety from untenable situations, but also those who have left their homeland to pursue a better life for themselves and their families. We must treat all these individuals with the same compassion and dignity that Jesus showed to those on the margins of society in his time.

According to Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Pope Francis' representative to the United States, "Despite the various advances in technology and social communications, it seems that the mission of evangelization is stifled because often we only speak with those with whom we agree and do not listen enough to those at the margins of the Church and of society,"

Ministering to the marginal members of our communities demands recognizing the common, inherent human dignity of each person like welcoming the migrant fleeing persecution or certain death, as is the case with so many migrants.

We are called to extend to all the unconditional love of Jesus: To welcome strangers, and to make everyone feel at

home. We should support our nation's efforts to secure our borders, and to regulate the processes that govern immigration and refugee resettlement. However, in all instances the rights of individuals and families must be protected, and concern for human dignity should be placed above political or practical expediency.

Peace and prosperity should be available to all peoples regardless of their race, ethnic origin, and religious preferences. We should be open to all, welcoming of all and respectful of both the differences that divide us and the fundamental humanity that unites us.

Pope Francis reminds us that Jesus, Mary and Joseph were once refugees who fled the political tyranny and vicious brutality of King Herod. They were immigrants who spent years living in a foreign land, a situation now shared by millions of people who have left their homes desperately seeking safety and a better life.

Whatever we do to the least of these brothers and sisters, we do to Christ. Let's share their journeys. Let's welcome them with open arms and a loving embrace in Jesus' name.

Profile

In each issue of this newsletter, we will provide a brief profile of organizations that RamTell has supported that are making a difference.

ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Seymour, Indiana 47274
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Father Dan Staublin was appointed Pastor of St. Ambrose Catholic Church on a “temporary” basis. Thirteen years later, he remains the pastor there and sincerely hopes that he can continue in this assignment until he’s ready to retire.

Father Dan loves his pastoral ministry at St. Ambrose. The Latino population—which includes people from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, and other Spanish-speaking countries—represents 25 percent of the parish and is growing to the point that lack of adequate space for worship, educational programs and other ministries is the parish’s greatest challenge.

When he was first assigned to St. Ambrose, Father Dan apologized to the people because he is not fluent in Spanish. He quickly learned that many of his Latino parishioners speak other dialects, such as Chuy, and are struggling with both Spanish and English! Somehow, with lots of help from others, Father Dan succeeds in communicating with all parishioners. He celebrates five Masses every weekend—three in English and two that are Bi-lingual.

With assistance from RamTell, and generous support from parishioners, St. Ambrose

provides a wide range of assistance to individuals and families in need, especially those who are considered to be on the margins of mainstream American culture. Care for pregnant mothers is critical, Father Dan says, because often the Church is the only institution they trust. St. Ambrose partners with the Clarity Pregnancy Services in Seymour, Indiana, to provide care before, during and after childbirth.

The parish also assists with rent, food and medical supplies without asking questions about residency or legal status. St. Ambrose’s active St. Vincent de Paul Society responds generously to the needs of people who would not otherwise ask for assistance, but who will accept help from the Church.

Father Dan says that his years at St. Ambrose have helped him to appreciate greatly the gifts that people from other cultures bring to the Church in the United States including their devotion, spirituality, respect for the family, and the variety of distinctive perspectives that each diverse Latino community contributes to the life of their parish community.

“In the end,” Father Dan says, “we are one parish family enriched by our diversity and blessed by the shared gifts and talents of all.”



Rev. Daniel Staublin