

ASCENSION

A Newsletter from the Church of the Ascension



Pray for us *Ruega por nosotros*

Por los enfermos y los que están sufriendo de nuestra comunidad.

For the sick and suffering in our community:

**Brian Beaubien,
Les Steinberg,
John Cavanaugh,
Brenda Kemmerick**

Por nuestros amados difuntos, que descansen en los amorosos brazos de Jesús.

For our beloved dead, may they rest in the loving arms of Jesus:

**Mary Ann Rilley,
Jean Conroy,
Tom Bednarczyk
(first anniversary of death), Sr.
Mary Margaret McKenzie,
VHM (third anniversary of death).**

Big step forward for Emerson Village

Community leaders came together at Ascension Friday to celebrate the symbolic groundbreaking of the Emerson Village project.

Mayor Jacob Frye was among those who praised the persistence of the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative that drove this project to reality. Emerson Village, being built at 18th and Emerson Ave. N, will provide 40 apartment homes for families whose annual income is less than \$30,000. On-site support services will be adapted for each member of the family.



Ascension is a member of the Beacon Collaborative, and members of the Social Justice Group have worked on behalf of Emerson Village.

Movie Night features parishioners

"Off the Beaten Path: Aaron's Story" is an award-winning documentary film by Steve Date featuring the story of Aaron Westendorp, the son of parishioners Krista and Doug Westendorp. Born with multiple neurological handicaps, Aaron's doctors told his parents he had no chance of survival. His parents ignored the doctors' advice and took him home. Now 38 years old and living independently, Aaron has defied the odds and lives life on his own terms. Come enjoy this inspiring account of Aaron's life journey on the big screen, followed by conversation with the filmmaker, Aaron's family, and Aaron himself.

Saturday, Sept. 30, St. Jane House

6:15 p.m. - Arrivals, snacks and drinks

7 p.m. - Film showing

8 p.m. - Post-film conversation

RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$5-10.



Scan the code or go to tinyurl.com/4h2ccj7v.

Learn about co-creation

Dr. Ilia Delio, Franciscan sister and brilliant, creative theologian will speak at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29, at the Church of St. Frances Cabrini, 1500 Franklin Ave SE, Minneapolis. Her topic will be: Deep Incarnation and Co-Creation in an Unfinished Universe. Music will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Register for the free event: cabrinimn.org/tegeder-talks

Interested in Prison Ministry?

How might you want to as you answer Jesus's call, "...I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36 Learn the value of this ministry from those affected by it and how you can participate in activities both outside and inside the prison walls. Enjoy lunch with presenters to ask questions. This free event is at Guardian Angels in Oakdale. To register go to tcprisonministry.com/workshop-at-guardian-angels-church/

Eve of Synod Worship Service

At 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, there will be a worship service hosted by St. Joan of Arc parish in Minneapolis. Joan of Arc is the home parish of Dr. Cynthia Bailey Manns, a Synod Delegate. This will be a beautiful time to gather and pray on the eve of the opening of the Synod. You can attend in person at St. Joan of Arc, 4537 3rd Ave. S, Minneapolis or virtually. Register at tinyurl.com/3af4jx6d to receive the virtual meeting link via email.



Pray Together during Synod

All are invited to gather on Tuesdays in October at 11 a.m. to pray for a synodal Church. This will include a short reflection on a mystery of encounter each week, followed by a decade of the rosary. (October is the month of the Rosary.) We will also hear weekly dispatches or brief updates from Discerning Deacons who will be in Rome. Register: discerningdeacons.org/event/october-rosary-for-a-synodal-church/

REFLECTION / REFLEXIÓN Anne Attea

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Last night, I finished the book *Solito*, the memoir of a 9-year-old boy who traveled from a small town in El Salvador by boat, bus and foot to reunite with his parents in California. Clearly, the Spirit was at play in correlating this read with World Migrant and Refugee Sunday.

My senses came alive as the author/poet Javier Zamora recalled sights, smells, sounds, tactile images and even tastes, some that were beautiful and others unimaginable, yet I know he speaks truth. Some of our parishioners have similar migration stories in crossing the southern border to reunite with family here in the United States. My heart broke time and again as Javier and his companions met challenge after challenge; then it soared with joy and hope with each little victory, each touch of compassion that strangers gifted to one other, and the resounding resilience of these travelers.

The fundamental bottom line is that migrants and refugees are first and foremost human beings, beloved children of God, just like you and me. Most are on the move to reunite with family, or fleeing desperate and/or violent conditions; they would rather not make such a harrowing, difficult, dangerous journey. But the Spirit of Life and Love propels them forward to risk it all. May each of us move beyond the broad categories of “migrants” and “refugees” and see each beautiful, traumatized individual asking us to embrace the Lord’s way: love thy neighbor.



Sept. 24: World Migrant and Refugee Sunday

2:30 p.m. dancers, 3 p.m., Mass of Solidarity, Basilica

Día Mundial de los Migrantes y Refugiados

Misa de solidaridad, dom, 24 de sept

2:30 p.m. bailadores, 3 p.m. MISA

Basilica de Sta Maria

AMA TÚ PRÓJIMO

Anoche, terminé el libro *Solito*, las memorias de un niño de nueve años quien viajó de un pueblito en El Salvador por lancha, bus y pie para reunirse con sus padres en California. Claramente, el Espíritu estuvo presente en animarme a terminar este libro justo para el Día Mundial de los Migrantes y Refugiados.

Mis sentidos se pusieron vivos mientras que el autor/poeta Javier Zamora escribe acerca de lo que se ve, huele, escucha, toca y aun saborea, algunas imágenes hermosísimas y otros inimaginables, pero sé que habla la verdad. Algunos de nuestros feligreses tienen historias similares por haber cruzado la frontera del sur para reunirse con miembros de sus familias aquí en MN. Mi corazón se rompía vez tras vez mientras que Javier y sus compañeros enfrentaban desafío tras desafío; y después mi alma alzaba con gozo y esperanza con cada pequeña victoria, cada toque de compasión regalado entre extranjeros y la rotunda resiliencia de estos viajeros.

Lo fundamental es que los migrantes y los refugiados son seres humanos, hijos e hijas amadas de Dios, como tú y como yo. La mayoría salen de sus países de origen para reunirse con seres queridos, o tienen que huir de condiciones desesperados o violentos, y verdaderamente no quieren tomar un viaje tan horroroso, difícil y peligroso. Pero el Espíritu de Vida y Amor los empuja para arriesgar todo. Hoy día en adelante, veamos más allá de las categorías de “migrantes” y “refugiados” para ver cada individuo, bello y traumatizado, pidiéndonos que abracemos el camino del Señor: ama a tu prójimo.