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Good News from St. Pius V

"I chose to block the [detention center] van on behalf of thousands of families who live in fear of deportation, hundreds who are deported each day and immigrant people who travel to Arizona and risk arrest and deportation because of an immoral state law."

Brendan Curran, O.P., following actions at the Broadview detention center on April 27.

Arizona Heats Up Immigration Debate

Advocates for comprehensive immigration reform, including parish leaders at St. Pius V, found support in the national outrage over Arizona's proposed legislation, SB1070, that the U.S. Catholic Bishops say "gives law enforcement officials powers to detain and arrest individuals based on a very low legal standard, possibly leading to the profiling of individuals based upon their appearance, manner of speaking, or ethnicity."

Frs. Brendan and Chuck have been actively engaged with other local leaders and such organizations as Priests for



Fr. Brendan, St. Pius V parishioners and tens of thousands of May Day marchers call on Congress to reform immigration.

Justice for Immigrants and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights to carry out actions that urge Congress and the Obama administration to forge a national policy for immigration that respects families and basic human rights without jeopardizing our nation's economy or security.

From a March rally in Washington to an April vigil and protest at the Broadview detention center to a May Day march in Chicago, St. Pius V Parish continues to be a leading voice in an ever-growing chorus of supporters dramatically calling for action.

Please view page 2 to see how St. Pius V community members are leading and supporting a nation-wide demand to fix a system that is broken and stop the deportations that are separating families.

More information and photos are available at our parish website:

www.stpiusvparish.org



Fr. Chuck inspires the crowd at the post-march rally in Daley Plaza.

Immigration Reform: Taking It to the Streets

Two bus-loads of parishioners of St. Pius V Parish journeyed to Washington, D.C., to join tens of thousands of other supporters for a rally on March 21. The activists gave notice to President Obama, who has failed to keep



Protesters block the van taking immigrants for deportation.
Photo courtesy of *Unión, Fuerza y Acción*

his 2008 campaign promise to bring immigration reform to Congress by early this year.

Parishioners next took part in an all-night vigil April 26-27 at the federal detention center in Broadview, where individuals are held prior to deportation. In the morning, 24 protesters, including Frs. Brendan

and Chuck, sat down to block a vehicle taking detainees to O'Hare Airport for flights out of the country. The "Broadview 24," arrested for disorderly conduct, voiced their opposition to current immigration policy and the need to stop deportations and the separation of families.

Four days later, Chicago saw its largest rally for immigration reform since May 2006. Over 100 St. Pius V representatives joined tens of thousands of others marching

On May 12 at Holy Name Cathedral, Fr. Brendan and other Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders denounced Arizona's unjust law, SB1070, voicing concern that it criminalizes un-



Inter-faith press conference protesting Arizona's proposed anti-immigrant law.

documented immigrants. Press conference participants demonstrated their solidarity with immigrants by holding up an empty photo frame and stating, "This could be me." The frames were decorated by children of *Casa Juan Diego*, St. Pius V's youth center.

down Washington Blvd. to Daley Plaza, where Fr. Chuck helped fire up the crowd and introduce local and national speakers, who shared stories of immigration, discrimination and hopes for reform. It has been an exciting two months and, we hope, a turning point in the struggle for justice.



One Year: 47,339 Meals

With a staggering economy, high unemployment and cut-backs in public funding for services, our parish soup kitchen and food pantry had one of their busiest years ever in 2009. The 47,339 meals went to hungry children, parents and other individuals and were made possible by the generosity of the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the Chicago Community Trust, the McCormick Foundation and many other volunteers and benefactors. We thank you!

In 2010 we continue to work for more permanent solutions to hunger in this city and a more just distribution of goods - especially for families in our community.

Celebrating the Sacraments

As every spring, St. Pius V Parish celebrated the sacraments with our young people. Twenty-four second-graders from our school as well as 170 children from our religious education program received First Communion. St. Pius V is blessed with an abundance of dedicated parents, catechists and volunteers, who prepare our children in the faith.



On May 22, St. Pius V welcomed Bishop John Manz, who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation with 63 of our parish youth. their parents and godparents. "Jesus is telling you that he needs your gifts," Bishop Manz told those being confirmed; "He needs your abilities to touch the lives of others." The celebration capped a year-long process of formation for the young people, 40 of whom prepared with our staff at Casa Juan Diego and 23 in our school.

Empowering Safe and Strong Families

Our H.O.P.E. domestic violence program enters its fifth year in partnership with Family Bridges, an area initiative that promotes relationship-building skills for healthier families and stronger communities. Family Bridges' recent annual report highlighted three exemplary families from among 150 presented by the 25 organizations in the coalition. Two of the three families were from St. Pius V.

H.O.P.E. also excelled in Family Bridges' latest audit. Couples in our program improved significantly more than those from all others in the coalition in three main areas: communication, conflict resolution and commitment. Our teens who participated in Family Bridges workshops also scored on average 15% higher than others in the coalition in areas such as communication, understanding finances, avoiding destructive behavior and safety in relationships. And our retention was off the charts with a program completion rate of 97% (compared to 74% for the coalition). These numbers reflect the great success of our program and the commitment of our participants to grow as a family.



Elia and Roman Carrion grace the cover of Family Bridges' annual report.

Community Events

Another component of the H.O.P.E. program is the community support provided to women and their families. Every spring we sponsor three events in our church hall that promote the dignity of every human person, especially



Over 150 children and their families were delighted to "clown around" at St. Pius V's Day of the Child celebration.

women and children. With food, fun, games, talks and music, we invite everyone in the community.

This year our International Women's Day celebration on March 8 brought together some 200 women and their family members and included talks on self-esteem and stories about Hispanic women overcoming obstacles in this country. With good food, raffles and prizes and a service fair that highlighted community resources, guests felt supported and inspired.

On April 30 H.O.P.E. gathered the community to celebrate the Day of the Child - an important and festive day in Mexico. Some 150 children and their parents were thrilled with games and prizes, clowns and face painting. Many children in our community witness violence all too frequently in the streets and in the home and they appreciate the spirit and warmth of St. Pius V's gatherings.

May 10 is Mother's Day in Mexico and again H.O.P.E. brought the community together to honor our moms. In addition to presenting hundreds of rosaries to mothers at the May 9 Sunday liturgies, we hosted a celebration for 50 moms and their families, including music, games and gifts for the guests of honor.

News from Casa Juan Diego

Each June our youth center, Casa Juan Diego, transitions from the after-school program to summer day camp. The schedule still includes academic assistance (to keep our young minds sharp) but with extra time for swimming, ball games, field trips and other summer fun.

Last month we hosted a bicycle safety workshop for our students. They learned the rules of the road, some tips for safe riding and even how to fix a flat tire.



In a neighborhood plagued by high levels of gang activity and drug dealing, Casa Juan Diego educates children regularly on the dangers of each. The Chicago Police Department recently gave a workshop to our students on avoiding gang involvement and the devastating effects of drugs. We thank parents and friends from the community for supporting our efforts to keep our kids drug-free and away from gangs!

St. Pius V School

One of many hidden treasures at St. Pius V is our preschool's new partnership with the UIC Early Reading First program. This federal initiative provides an early literacy expert to coach our pre-K students, teachers and parents in



Liz Gracia leads children in a reading lesson.

helping our children, most learning their first English in preschool, to learn to read early and often. The program is having dramatic results at other sites and St. Pius V is off to a great start.

Our Early Education (preschool) already boasts two of our most popular and effective teachers, Ethel Humphrey and Liz Gracia. The early literacy focus makes our school even stronger.

Awards for Our School

As reported in our winter newsletter, our school is graduating a class of 8th-graders with a 100 percent acceptance rate at the Catholic high schools where they tested. While some graduates will be going on to selective-enrollment or other public schools, we take pride in their perfect achievement. Six of our future Catholic high-schoolers have

Many of our generous benefactors choose to support the mission of St. Pius V Parish through an online donation. It is convenient, secure and makes a positive impact on the lives of those in need. To donate online go to: stpiusvparish.org/donate. Thank you!

¡Noche Mexicana!

Over 200 guests packed River North's Zocalo Restaurant on April 29 to enjoy delicious Mexican cuisine, drinks, a Silent Auction and wonderful conversation all in support of St. Pius V School. The annual event continues to grow each year and provides much needed assistance for our school families. We thank our many sponsors, donors and guests for making *Noche Mexicana 2010* the best ever!



Velia Rodriguez and Ted and Maria O'Keefe at *Noche Mexicana 2010*

earned highly competitive scholarships based on academic achievement and their entrance exams. We are proud of our 8th graders - and their parents and teachers - for continuing the St. Pius V tradition of excellence!

St. Pius V School was selected as one of four finalists for the Cardinal's Award this year. This prestigious honor recognizes schools supported by the Big Shoulders Fund that have shown the greatest improvement in standardized test scores from one year to the next. The recognition testifies to our faculty's experience and their team approach to teaching. Congratulations!

The National Campaign to Stop Violence honored two of our 7th-graders, Fernanda Estrada and James Fisher, for their entries in the annual "Do the Write Thing" essay contest. Fernanda and James reflected on violence, its causes and solutions, and were ranked in the top 100 out of 1,100 total entries.

St. Pius V School is online at: www.saintpiusv.org



Thank you!

We thank you for your continued support of the families and individuals served by St. Pius V Parish. Your generosity makes it possible for us to reach those most in need. May these summer days be a time of relaxation and rejuvenation for you and your loved ones.

Brendan Curran, O.P.
Pastor



Charles W. Dahm, O.P.
Associate Pastor



Matthias Mueller, O.P.
Associate Pastor

