

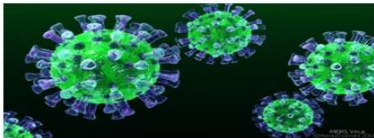
Strangers No Longer Newsletter



Special Edition March 2020

"In a pandemic, self-isolation is called quarantine. In Buddhism, it is called retreat. From the cave of our home, like the meditators of ancient times, we can consciously kindle the lamp of compassion and connection."

~ Lama Willa Miller



THE COVID-19 VIRUS IS CHANGING EVERYTHING!

We hope you are staying healthy during this unprecedented time. In light of the situation, we have to amend our calendar. This special edition of the newsletter will tell you about the changes.

ASSEMBLY OF CIRCLES MEETING FOR MARCH 28TH IS MOVED TO MAY 9TH

We had scheduled an Assembly of Circles meeting for 9:30 on March 28th to be followed by a meeting of the new Board of Directors.

Those meetings are cancelled. We hope to reschedule them for Saturday, May 9th. We will have to reevaluate as that date gets closer.

THE NEW BOARD IS FORMING—IS YOUR CIRCLE REPRESENTED?

Some circles have not let us know if they are sending a representative to the new Board of Directors or not. If you have not responded, please let Kathy Faba know at strangersnolonger11@gmail.com

EMERGENCY HELP NEEDED

The COVID-19 shut-down is affecting many immigrant families as day-to-day income is shut-off with no hope of unemployment compensation of any kind. Some families are approaching our Circles of Support for help with groceries, medicines or partial-rent payments. STRANGERS NO LONGER responds as possible to parish Circles of Support asking for help so they can respond to the families in crisis.



Donations to STRANGERS NO LONGER are most welcome in this time of crisis so that we can make funds available as necessary to Circles of Support. **Checks should be made out to Jesuit Community UDM, and mailed to Strangers No Longer, 19972 Shrewsbury, Detroit MI 48221.** Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged by the Jesuit Community. Questions: Bill O'Brien, 313-549-0421.

STRANGER NO LONGER EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

The following events have been cancelled. But please keep struggling immigrants in your thoughts and prayers.

STRANGER NO LONGER EVENTS THAT HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

Christ the Good Shepherd

1540 Riverbank St, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

Friday, March 20th

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish

Our Lady of Fatima Church

13500 Oak Park Blvd, Oak Park, MI 48237

Saturday, March 21

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Presentations by Padre Melo, SJ, of Honduras, originally scheduled for April 2nd, 3rd, 4th.

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

9844 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI

Saturday, April 4th

10am - 11am

FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS – IMMIGRATION POLICY AND COVID-19

“Given the extreme public health concerns related to COVID-19 and the heightened vulnerability of immigrants at this time, we wanted to update you on this important issue. Regarding these important issues we have been and will continue to engage Congress and the Trump Administration to ensure that immigration-related protections are robust and that any information generated is widely disseminated.

1. Access to health care for all regardless of status.
2. Ending all enforcement around sensitive locations such as hospitals and clinics.
3. Suspension of the implementation of "Public Charge" during this time.
4. Regarding USCIS office closures, extension for certain Visa categories, including DACA renewals, given substantial impact office closures could pose.”

For more information:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/>



A NEW BLOG IS BEING CREATED TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED

We are in the process of creating a “blog” which is a website that allows for discussion and comments. Our purpose is to allow our community to share comfort, prayer and thoughts with each other.

We’ll let you know when it is ready.



KEEP PUSHING FOR A FACE TO FACE MEETING (WHEN THE CRISIS IS OVER)

We ask Circle Leaders to keep pushing for an eventual face-to-face meeting with your State Reps and Senators on the Drivers License for Immigrants issue -- asking that they press for a public hearing on the bills. Contacting them NOW keeps the issue and your request on their radar.

Prayer for a Pandemic

*May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working
from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to
go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in
the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at
home
Remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.*

*During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.*

Amen.