



Oakland Catholic Worker

Thanksgiving 2024

Dear Friend of OCW,

Now that the elections are over, not a day goes by without someone calling me and asking, “Now what?” or “What is going to happen to your work with immigrants and their children in the face of the great injustices that are promised to be enacted against them?” or “What are you going to do now that it all seems so hopeless?”



I have to admit that when I first began to receive these calls, I had some of the same questions. I also had begun to feel a terrible despair and fear for our families, who are so vulnerable in their marginalization. These families had already lost everything they loved best when they were forced to flee the unrelenting poverty, violence, and oppression of their home countries. Now, with this election, they face even greater injustices and more losses, perhaps none bigger than their belief in our country's promise of justice and equality for all.

More than choosing a candidate, the majority of people in this country chose a path that angles far and wide from the journey of solidarity and accompaniment that we at OCW walk daily with our immigrant families. As our nation travels down this road, which is sculpted deep by the insistence on exclusion, we choose to stand steadfast with the immigrant community on our country's newly expanded margins. It is the only response we can make, given what our faith, no matter what our denomination, calls us to.

The faith I reference here is not a package of simple certitudes. It is, instead, a deep reliance on and trust in what the theologian Walter Bruggeman calls a “future-giving, future-hoping” God who constantly makes a way out of no way. As witnessed daily in the lives of our families, this God of the Cross is also the God of the Resurrection, who is always busy making something new out of the shredded tapestry of what God had so hoped would be our shared humanity.



As we stand with our families, we know we are not alone. Our faith tells us that we are accompanied. Our certainty here is not just because of all the miracles that persist in being born out of the devastation of our families' lives. We know this, too, in all multitude of ways your great generosity of time and treasures enable us to faithfully co-create with you the welcome, hope, and opportunity that birth new life for our immigrant families.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are especially grateful to you, our treasured partners in mission. We need you now more than ever. The journey ahead for our immigrant families is certain only in its

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uncertainty and great fear, and the fact that they will not know the sure safety they risked everything for in their desperate flights to this country. In this most frightening of times for them, your prayers and generosity to us will continue to make real God's faithful presence with, and preferential love, for them. For this, we are especially grateful to and for you.

With the best of blessings to you and your family, and in great thanksgiving for the gift you are to us.

Gratefully,



Sr. Anne Carrabino, SSS
Executive Director

Creating hope and opportunity with our immigrant families.



OCW Donations Needed

Financial contributions • Assistance at the OCW office including website development, social media, and bookkeeping • Pro bono immigration legal assistance • Jobs • Housing opportunities • Vans/cars in good condition • Gift cards • Pots, pans, and utensils • Clothing for adults and children in good condition (especially jackets) • Household furniture • Children's books • Tutors for children and adults/reading buddies • Arts & crafts supplies • Games

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