

The Ketteler Legacy

Do We Dare?

Listening to and following the talks of Pope Francis to the American People and the United Nations, he challenged us to “walk the talk of Jesus”. All we need to do is look around our world to see all those who need us to act as and be Jesus to them. This challenge has led to much thought and many prayers. As our Community is challenged to reinvent ourselves to meet the needs of the people of today as we grow older and smaller, I wonder and pray about what God is calling us to be in today and tomorrow’s world.

In the past our Community invited a Vietnamese mother and daughter to live with us. (The father of the daughter, Teresa, was an American soldier and children of mixed parentage were not accepted and even shunned in Vietnam.) Teresa and her mother Elizabeth lived with us at the Motherhouse for over a year before moving to their own apartment in Squirrel Hill with the help of the community and Catholic Charities. Teresa later married and she, her mother, and her husband, An Chau, moved to California to join a Vietnamese family they knew there. Today, Teresa has four children all who have or are working on College degrees.

Could we, as Sisters of Divine Providence, open our hearts and home to another refugee family regardless of their country or origin or religious beliefs? Could we not encourage President Obama and Congress to hasten the process of acceptance for refugees from war-torn countries? Could we not encourage our Bishops to open their hearts and the hearts of their parishioners, as Pope Francis encourage the parishes in Rome to open their homes to a refugee family?

Are we as Sisters of Divine Providence, Daughters of Ketteler and Mother Marie daring enough to open our hearts and home to a family in need?

Submitted by Sister Paulita Kuzy
Peace & Justice Committee
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*“We are called to reach out to those who find themselves in the existential peripheries of our societies and to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters: the poor, the disabled, the unborn and the sick, **migrants and refugees**, the elderly and the young who lack employment.”*

Pope Francis