

“MY FATHER IS SUFFERING”

Ten-year-old Jersey Vargas from Panorama City, CA, needed help. She had not seen her father, Mario Vargas, in two years. Working in Tennessee for money to send his family, Mario Vargas was arrested for driving without a license. Sent to an immigration detention center in Louisiana, the undocumented worker awaited deportation. “My dad was the provider for my family, and when I heard about my dad it really broke my heart,” the little girl told the *LA Times*. “I feel like I’m never going to see him again.”

Jersey’s plight drew the support of the Catholic Coalition for Immigrant Rights, and she was among the 16 people the group sent to the Vatican in the hope of meeting Pope Francis. Pushing her way up to the pope’s side, Jersey told him, “My father is suffering,” and she pleaded for the pope’s help to bring him back home.

A GLOBALIZATION OF INDIFFERENCE

Last June, on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, Pope Francis had placed a wreath at sea in honor of the 20,000 North Africans who lost their lives trying to reach Europe in small boats. “These brothers and sisters seek to leave difficult situations in order to find a little serenity and peace,” the pope said, “they seek a better place for themselves and for their families - but they found death.” Opponents of immigration, Francis declared, live in a “culture of well-being, that makes us think of ourselves, that makes us insensitive to the cries of others,” leading to a “globalization of indifference.”

QUICK RESULTS

It was no surprise, then, that Pope Francis was moved by the words of Jersey Vargas. But the results he achieved were still surprising. Soon after he met Jersey, the pope had another visitor: President Barack Obama. He told the President about the little girl’s father, and within a day, Mario Vargas—free on bond—was reunited with Jersey. Both father and daughter were jubilant, of course, but the family’s reunion remains tentative. An immigration judge will determine Mario Vargas’s fate, and he may still be deported.

A MASS AT THE BORDER

Families like the Vargases were very much on the minds of sixteen American bishops—including Atlanta auxiliary Luis Zarama—who visited Nogales, AR, at the beginning of April to celebrate mass on our border with Mexico. Recalling the pope’s visit to Lampedusa, the bishops laid a wreath at the border fence to memorialize the thousands of Latino immigrants who have lost their lives trying to cross over into the US. As they celebrated mass on US territory, participants on the Mexican side of the border received communion through slits in the fence separating the two countries.

Calling for an end to partisan bickering over comprehensive immigration reform, Cardinal Sean O’Malley said that American policies today “undermine human dignity” and tear families apart. “Sadly enough,” he noted, many immigrants spend years without the opportunity to see their loved ones.” Jersey Vargas knows that all too well.

For updates on Catholic teaching about immigration, as well as information on what each of us can do to help, visit <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>

MAY 2014

Happy Mother's Day

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4 Last Day -Sunday School Teen Ministry 10:30A Women's Council 9:30A Social Action 12N St. Vincent de Paul 12N AGLD Rehearsal 1:30P</p> <p>Parenting Ministry Puppetry Show 4P</p>	<p>5 Liturgy Meeting 7P Life After the Pink Slip 7P</p>	<p>6 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:00P AGLD Rehearsal 6:30P Baptismal Class 7P Lector Prep 7P</p>	<p>7 AGLD Rehearsal 7P Bible Study 7:00P</p>	<p>1 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P AGLD Rehearsal 6:30P Choir Rehearsal 7:30P</p>	<p>2 YAG Meeting 7:30P</p>	<p>3 SVDP Meet 9A Lector Prep 10:30A Dance by Kenya 10A 1st Communion 11A Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist AGLD Rehearsal 6:30P</p>
<p>11 Live Stream 10A Mass Mother's Day Breakfast served after the services Amazing Grace Mother's Day Concert Center Stage ~ 3P</p>	<p>12 Stand Up for Kids 4P Stephen Ministry 6P Pastoral Council 7P</p>	<p>13 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:00P AGLD Rehearsal 6:30P</p>	<p>14 AGLD Rehearsal 7P Bible Study 7:00P</p>	<p>15 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P AGLD Rehearsal 6:30P Choir Rehearsal 7:30P</p>	<p>16 YAG Meeting 7:30P <i>Men's Ministry Movie Night for Edgewood 7:30P</i></p>	<p>17 SVDP Meeting 9A Dance by Kenya 10A Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist</p>
<p>18 Ministry Fair</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:00P AGLD Rehearsal 6:30P</p>	<p>21 AGLD Rehearsal 7P Bible Study 7:00P</p>	<p>22 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P AGLD Rehearsal 6:30P Choir Rehearsal 7:30P</p>	<p>23 YAG Meeting 7:30P</p>	<p>24 T-Shirt Day Dance by Kenya 10A Eracism 11A Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist Lourdes Bookstore open</p>
<p>25 T-Shirt Sunday Live Stream 10A Mass Bookstore open after the services KPC/KPCLA Meeting 12N Health Ministry 12N AGLD Rehearsal 1:30P Lourdes Alumni Meeting 2P</p>	<p>26 Memorial Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:00P AGLD Rehearsal 7P</p>	<p>28 Confirmation Mass 7:00PM At Sacred Heart</p>	<p>29 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P AGLD Rehearsal 6:30P Choir Rehearsal 7:30P</p>	<p>30 YAG Meeting 7:30P</p>	<p>31 Dance by Kenya 10A Eracism 11A Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist</p>

Lourdes Confirmation is Wednesday, May 28, 2014 ~ 7:00PM at The Basilica of Sacred Heart