



A Message from the ICSJ Parish Refugee Effort Committee

Never a Doubting Thomas When it Comes to Our Parish!

When the five current ICSJ Refugee Effort volunteers took the pulpit two weekends ago, asking for support for yet another refugee family, I have to admit I was holding my breath.

While we had the financial resources from our initial fundraising effort to arrange for the first three months rent and basic furnishings, not so with the volunteer component. Those that signed on last spring were totally engaged, even stretched a bit thin, with our Afghan and Myanmar families.

So I was wondering if there was anyone left in the pews who would take a shine to this particular ministry. But by that Sunday evening, when the “totals” were in, all I could say was: “Lord I believe; help my unbelief.”

Thirteen adults—three of those with teenage daughters—expressed an interest in helping out our new Rohingya family who arrived last week. They are in the process of filling out applications, arranging the requisite training and preparing with Catholic Charities for their visits.

Pope Francis’ words and actions have shifted the debate on immigration from policy to people and our Parish has responded with a strong commitment to accompany the disadvantaged and marginalized as he asks. What a generous and loving Community we have!

– Betty Woodward, ICSJ Refugee Effort volunteer

Learn more, get involved at
www.icsjparish.org/refugee-effort