

**Revised Resolution in Support of Designating St. Cecilia's Catholic
Church as a Supporting Sanctuary Church
April 30, 2017**

WHEREAS, an Immigrant Support Task Force made up of members of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church has been meeting over the past three months to discuss various ways to support the immigrant and refugee community in the Twin Cities that is threatened by increased anti-immigration policies, and

WHEREAS, the Immigrant Support Task Force saw the need to engage the larger St. Cecilia's Community in a respectful discussion about our core values and our Catholic faith before any recommendations were made for the parish, as a whole, to provide support to the immigrant and refugee community, as a "Supporting Sanctuary Church", and

WHEREAS, the Task Force held three open discussions after all three weekend masses in the last month and sought further input through a Bulletin request for comments on Easter Sunday, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has identified the following components of becoming a Supporting Sanctuary Church, which is consistent with Archbishop Hebda's recent message to "to reach out to immigrants, migrants, and refugees with messages of support and information regarding the assistance your community can provide." by:

1. Becoming a community of love, faith, hospitality, and fellowship for all Sanctuary and Supporting Sanctuary Churches, which encompasses many different denominations in the Twin Cities and throughout the state of Minnesota,
2. Hosting prayer vigils and declarations of moral and spiritual support for immigrants and their families,
3. Providing tangible and physical resources to one or more partnering Sanctuary Churches of various denominations in the Twin City Area,

4. Providing monetary aid, food, clothing, and related items to our partner Sanctuary Churches through the regular collection of donations administered by the parish of St. Cecilia's,
5. Providing accompaniment to people in Sanctuary care,
6. Providing support for parish members and others who decide to become rapid responders in situations of public need such as press conferences, immigration raids, demonstrations, and similar public actions,
7. Engaging in advocacy for legislation and legal action to alleviate the threat to immigrants and refugees,
8. Conducting other activities as needed to support immigrants and their families during stressful times, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has recently identified the following

Four Key Ways to Support Immigrants:

- 1. Engage in Relationship Building** This would include attending events and activities with immigrants such as soccer games and picnics; mass at immigrant congregations, prayer vigils, etc.
- 2. Attend (help plan) education and training sessions,** public discussions, and Spanish classes. Opportunities to be identified in weekly bulletin.
- 3. Volunteer to Provide Specific Help.** Become a Rapid Responder and/or member of Rescue Brigade, etc. Raise funds. Attend rallies. Provide individual support to immigrants.
- 4. Help plan and/or attend prayer vigils** and other forms of spiritual support for the immigrant community. Publish vigil schedule in the Bulletin.

Based on the above, the Immigrant Support Task Force seeks the support of the Parish Community Council, to declare St. Cecilia's Catholic Church to be a Supporting Sanctuary Church.