

# THE PASTOR'S POST

## FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY

*Dear Parish Family:*

*This week, we are privileged to hear from Yanira Chacón, our Director of Parish Social Ministry. Yanira, Ximena, Barbara and Carla lead our parish social ministry efforts. This week, Yanira shares with us some of our ongoing work with immigrants in our community. We must pay attention and not lose focus in these days. Yanira's words help us to re-discover that focus. Thank you for all you have done to encourage and empower us in these days, weeks, and months.*

In the past 8 months, this is what has taken over the lives of many of our families at St. Brigid's Parish Outreach.

Fear of leaving your home and the uncertainty that you might not be able to return to it. Many of our families have a real fear of being arrested when leaving their homes to go to work, as happened to several last June 2025, when many suffered from that experience. Since then, more and more families have been affected. The fear has been so serious that some are not willing to risk coming to the Food Pantry. Thank God that with the help of volunteers, we have organized check in phone calls for those that do not show up. We ask: "How are you? We haven't seen you lately. We miss you." The common denominator in their answers has been I have not gone out of fear! With the help of our volunteers, we have delivered food to their homes - discreetly, acting like any other delivery service. Our brothers and sisters in need were very grateful for this gesture of solidarity.

Uncertainty reigns among them in many forms. Will I be able to get a job? Will I receive my work permit for which I paid almost a year ago? Will I

be able to pay rent on my room next month? If I am arrested, who will take care of my minor children? For those whose family members have been detained, the torment of trying to find out where their family member is tremendous. How do I send them money so they can call us? And then there is the anguish when the detainee says they are going to transfer me tomorrow and I don't know where!

Last January, ten families came to our office with the distress of a detained relative. At Parish Outreach we try to support in every way: praying, giving encouragement, providing food. But the most difficult situation that breaks our hearts is

the children. Sad and worried, they are stripped of their security when they experience parents taken away. They too face daily fears and uncertainties. For many of these children, leaving for school is met with anxiety and separation fears. Will their parents still be there when they come home? Even waiting at a bus stop can cause worry for fear of parents being detained.

Their childhoods have been upended with very limited outdoor activities, playing with friends, and just being carefree youngsters.

St. Brigid's Parish Outreach is here, responding through the heartbreak and sorrow, we are steadfast in providing the caring support, love and addressing as many needs as we can to alleviate such suffering.

We appreciate the support of all the parishioners who help us with prayers, donations and expressions of affection. We must continue to love without limits to help those in need in our community.

**-Yanira Chacón**

