Sisters Share Their Experience on Vigil for Jonatan Palacios

“How inspiring to see the number of people who showed up for the rally, some coming from quite a distance. Meeting a group from H-CAN (Havertown-Area Community Action Network) who describe themselves as ‘stay-at-home-moms’ who have created an activist group in Havertown.”

– Sister Honora Nicholson, RSM

“It was a wonderful example of solidarity for inclusion and democracy. Young people with their children, along with seniors, chanted, "This is what democracy looks like" as we walked along.”

– Sister Anna Marie Lesutis, RSM

“I was touched by the many dominations of faith and ages of people who were present in the crowd. It was quite moving to hear Lillie’s story of what happened the day Jonatan (her husband) was taken from her. I believe Lillie felt the support and concern of all present.”

– Sister Kate McManus, RSM

“Great turnout and a wonderful show of support, concern, and outreach — pleading for Jonatan’s return home!”

– Sister Mary Klock, RSM

Continue to the next page for World Refugee Day resources!
Join the Stand With Refugees Campaign!

The justice arm of the LCWR, the Justice Conference of Women Religious (JCWR), alerts us to the worsening refugee crisis. How will we as a nation, Church and community rise to the challenge and live out our values built on compassion for those among us seeking a home? “We cannot turn our backs on refugees facing their darkest hours. We must commit to responding with demonstrations of welcome.”

June 20 is World Refugee Day. The JCWR asks us to “join immigration and refugee advocates across the nation and around the world in pledging to raise awareness and welcome refugees.”

What You Can Do!
Plan an event for June 20 or for the weeks that follow, add an intention to your prayer, or use of these resources refugee advocates have created to help you and your colleagues stand in solidarity with refugees:

- Join the Stand With Refugee Campaign from June 12-16. They ask us to flood Congress with calls in support of higher refugee admissions and robust funding for overseas refugee protection and domestic resettlement services. Please spread the word to your networks. Find details and take action at: http://www.standwithrefugees.us/;
- Justice for Immigrants has put together a toolkit with prayers, sample talking points and letters to the editor, social media examples, etc. Find it at: https://justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action/world-refugee-day/;
- The Refugee Council USA has also developed a toolkit which is available at http://www.rcusa.org/world-refugee-day/;
- The Interfaith Immigration Coalition has developed a Refugees Welcome Toolkit that could be used this month or anytime to help you plan a welcoming event. Find it at http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Refugees-Welcome-Toolkit_5.12.16.pdf.

Let us know what you are doing (sgallagher@mercymidatlantic.org)!