



Strangers No Longer

FOLLOW US



*"... I was a stranger and you welcomed me" -Matthew 25*



*Strangers No Longer Creating a Community of Hope*



***WE ARE ONE BODY***

***SOMOS UN SOLO CUERPO***

**4th Annual Banquet**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025**



Strangers No Longer

# 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BANQUET

APRIL 27, 2025

UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTER, WARREN, MICHIGAN

## Program

### St. Clement (Romeo) Youth Choir

#### Masters of Ceremony

Mr. Chris Lynch (Cristo Rey HS), Mr. Oscar Ocampo (St. Andre Bessette, Ecorse)

#### Banquet Co-Chairs

Ms. Anita Sevier and Ms. Denise Arseth (Gesu Parish and School)

#### Strangers No Longer Board of Directors

President Ms. Judy Brooks (Nativity Parish)

Vice-President Sra. Veronica Camarena (St. Andre Bessette, Ecorse)

#### Raffle Co-Chairs

Ms. Irma Landin (Ste. Anne de Detroit), Ms. Cyndi Malow (St. Michael, Sterling Heights)

All donations will go to the Families in Crisis Fund of Strangers No Longer

#### Ticket Co-Chairs

Ms. June Porter and Ms. Jacqueline Fulbright (Gesu Parish)

#### Ad Book Co-Chairs

Ms. Mary Traub and Ms. Jackie Parisi (Nativity/St. Charles Circle of Support)

#### Blessing of Fellowship Meal

Rev. David Buersmeyer, Chaplain, Strangers No Longer

#### Ms. Poppy Sias-Hernandez

Executive Director, Office of Global Michigan

Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, Executive Office, State of Michigan

#### Blessing and Sending Forth

Sr. Rebecca Vonderhaar, IHM, and Assembled Women Religious



# SNL Accomplishments This Past Year

**Consejo Estatal (Statewide Council of Immigrant Leaders)** was created and (after Sr. Martha's transfer to Rome) continues Spiritual Formation and Circle Leaders' Psychotherapy Sessions (trauma).

**New Circles of Support** have emerged in parishes, high schools, among farmworkers – and among friends/family groups. We have held 3 monthly Assemblies of Circle Leaders in light of the present national crisis in our communities. Know Your Rights presentations in 3 parishes and a farmworkers' camp have led to new Circles of Support.

**Our Northern Michigan Welcoming Network** is organizing churches, schools, agencies, grassroots organizations to welcome newcomers and immigrants. Gaylord Diocese Parishes are conducting Listening Campaigns following a Day of Reflection on Catholic Social Teaching.

**Youth in Action for Immigration** held its Annual Conference, conducts presentations in High Schools, joins a monthly Immigration Justice Vigil in Clark Park (SW Detroit) and traveled to the Border with the Sisters of Mercy.

**Education:** Know Your Rights presentations in Parishes, a "Journey to Exile" Jesuit Refugee Services Workshop, Immigrant presentations in schools and parishes, and a series of 4 Summertime Webinars ("Immigration Hot Button Issues"). Our newsletter is back on a monthly schedule.

**Dozens of Families-in-Crisis** received Direct Support: housing and community for 5 asylum-seeking mothers (and their toddlers) at Bakhita House (Christ the King); rent and utility assistance, rides to appointments (e.g., Chicago Children's Hospital), connection to lawyers through 10+ Parish Circles of Support.

**Farmworker Outreach:** distributed educational materials on Bird Flu to Dairy Workers and community groups in the Thumb and Mid-Michigan as part of a Center for Disease Control grant through the National Center for Farmworker Health.

**Advocacy:** leading up to an anticipated vote in the State Legislature for Drivers Licenses for Immigrants, SNL organized a delegation of Nuns to the Governor's Office, over 500 people at the Detroit Cathedral for the Vatican's 110th World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees, 180 people to Lansing for Advocacy Day – and a delegation of 4 immigrant women met with Grand Rapids Bishop Walkowiak.

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Strangers No Longer





## CIRCLE LEADERS “MAKE IT HAPPEN”

Circle leaders organized 180 parishioners and students from our Circles to advocate at the State Capital for Drivers Licenses for Immigrants. We lost the campaign—but won respect and allies for the future.



Circle leaders brought 500+ to the Cathedral for the 110th Annual Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Angelica Ledesma, Guadalupe Chapel Traverse City
- Blanca Astua, MUJERES Holland
- Constantina Mejicano, MUJERES Ypsilanti
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- Veronica Camarena, St. Andre Bessette Ecorse
- Tom Tomala, Christ the King Detroit
- Daris Bartolon, MUJERES Detroit
- Nancy Juarez, MUJERES Ann Arbor



# Circle of Support and Projects by region

## UP NORTH

- Boyne Valley Catholic Community Youth Group
- Guadalupe Chapel Traverse City
- St. Ann, Frankfort - Listening Team
- St. Mary of the Woods, Kalkaska - Listening Team
- St. Aloysius, Fife Lake - Listening Team
- Northern MI Welcome Network

## OAKLAND COUNTY

- St. Mary of the Hills, Rochester
- Christ Our Light, Troy
- Christ Our Redeemer, Lake Orion
- Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ferndale-Oak Park
- Mujeres, Portadoras de Luz, Pontiac
- Servants' Entrance, North Oakland County
- Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills
- Brother Rice High School, Bloomfield Hills
- Marian High School, Bloomfield Hills
- Mercy High School, Farmington Hills
- Notre Dame Prep High School, Pontiac
- Shrine High School, Royal Oak

## MACOMB and THUMB

- Holy Trinity/St. Joseph, Port Huron
- St. Michael, Sterling Heights
- Mujeres St. Matthias, Sterling Heights
- St. Clement, Romeo
- Dairy Workers Circle of Support
- Bird Flu Team Outreach

## WEST MICHIGAN

- McBain Circle of Support
- Mujeres, St. Francis de Sales, Holland
- Mujeres, Ss. Peter and Paul, Ionia
- Cristo Rey, Lansing
- Bird Flu Team Outreach

## WEST METRO

- St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor
- St. Mary Student Parish, Ann Arbor
- Resurrection, Canton
- Mujeres Bajo la Proteccion de Dios, West Wayne
- Mujeres Fe y Esperanza, Ypsilanti
- Adrian Dominican Sisters
- Catholic Central High School, Novi

## DETROIT

- Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit
- Christ the King, Detroit
- Gesu, Detroit
- Most Holy Trinity, Detroit
- Nativity / St. Charles Borromeo, Detroit
- Ss. Augustine and Monica, Detroit
- Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit, Detroit
- Detroit Cristo Rey High School
- Loyola High School, Detroit
- University of Detroit Jesuit High School

## DOWRIVER

- Christ Good Shepherd, Lincoln Park
- Christ Good Shepherd Youth, Lincoln Park
- Our Lady of the Woods, Woodhaven
- Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Hombres St. Andre Bessette, Ecorse
- Mujeres St. Andre Bessette, Ecorse
- Cabrini High School, Allen Park
- Divine Child High School, Dearborn
- Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, Allen Park
- St. Mary Catholic Central High School, Monroe



## Mujeres ... y Hombres

**CONSEJO ESTATAL** (Statewide Council) was formed by 18 immigrant leaders representing 10 Circles of Support across Michigan as their organizer Sr. Martha was being transferred to Rome by her religious order. CONSEJO ESTATAL continued the spiritual theme presentations and the psychotherapy sessions for members, and met with the head of the Michigan Dept. of Education to voice their concerns.

We have been working to ensure that every person can know their rights and understand how to act if they encounter Border Patrol. We held workshops in parishes in Romeo, Sterling Heights, and Ecorse. Workshop attendees learn how to designate someone to temporarily care for their children in the event of a family separation; what to do if ICE or CBP show up at their workplace, home, or if they are detained while walking down the street or driving; how to recognize a DOJ-licensed immigration attorney and protect themselves from possible fraud by individuals unauthorized to practice law. The workshops last one hour and are free of charge. If you would like this workshop to be held at your parish, please contact us. We would be happy to visit!





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SOMOS UN SOLO CUERPO**

## YOUTH IN ACTION FOR IMMIGRATION

Youth in Action for Immigration is Strangers No Longer's regional youth leadership committee. Young leaders from 12 Catholic High Schools and Parish Youth Groups meet monthly to learn about immigration and reflect on how their faith calls them to action and advocacy. This past year....

Three groups traveled to Texas for an immersive week at the US-Mexico Border.



At various parishes, youth leaders presented the ways their faith inspires them to support immigrants.

Youth leaders held a Poster Party in preparation for the International Day of Migrants and Refugees Mass and Pilgrimage.



Youth led the Pilgrimage at the Cathedral, and participated in the joyful Mass for the Day of Migrants and Refugees.



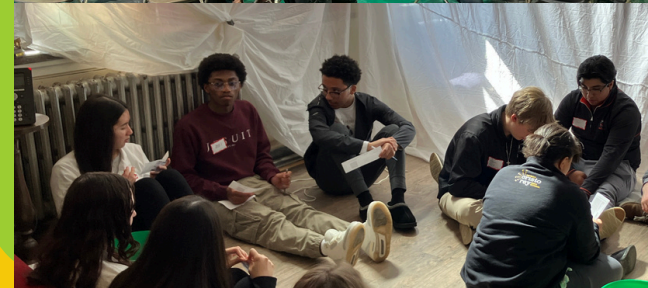
In Lansing, youth leaders met their Representatives, Senators, and the Governor's staff to advocate for the Drive Safe Bills.

The 5th Annual Youth Conference was held at Detroit Cristo Rey this March. 100 students participated in this youth-led day of learning, reflection, action, and fellowship.

Interested in participating in Youth in Action for Immigration? Contact Amy Ketner at [ketner.a@strangersnolonger.org](mailto:ketner.a@strangersnolonger.org). For more information please use the QR code.



**4th Annual Banquet**  
Sunday, April 27, 2025







# Outreach to Dairy Workers


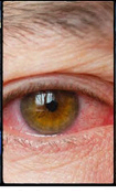

## Strangers No Longer Avian Influenza Team

Because of our work in rural areas of Michigan (**Dioceses of Gaylord and Saginaw**), in August of 2024, SNL received funding administered by the National Center for Farmworker Health to deliver talks and training sessions to workers in the dairy industry. The focus of these sessions is on preventing the transmission of avian influenza and identifying its symptoms in both livestock and individuals, thereby facilitating early detection.

Our team comprises eight individuals located in the Thumb and Mid-Michigan regions. They provide training and informational sessions at dairy farms, churches, schools, Latino supermarkets, and farmworker residences. The primary audience for these efforts consists of Spanish-speaking workers, who have received the shared information with gratitude. Furthermore, some individuals have formed a Circle of Support in SNL.

### What symptoms should you look for?

It's important to seek medical care if you start feeling sick with these symptoms:

- Fever (temperature of 100° F or 37.8° C or more)
- Chills
- Stomach and body pain
- Cough
- Red or swollen eyes
- Difficulty breathing

### How can you find out if you have bird flu?

If you have any of these symptoms, it's important to go to a health center or hospital to be tested for bird flu.

When you go to get tested:

- Your doctor or nurse can check to see if you the flu by using a cotton swab in your throat, nose, or eyes.
- If you have flu, they will do another test with the cotton swab to see if you have bird flu or a human flu. Your doctor can give you medicine to help with your symptoms if you have any type of flu.
- If your test results come back show that you have bird flu, your doctor or nurse will give you more information about next steps, which may include staying home from work and gatherings until your symptoms are gone.

If you do not have health insurance, you can ask your health center or local pharmacy for any discounts to help you cover the cost.

\*Please remember to tell the doctor or nurse that you work with animals like cows or poultry!



Scan for more details



### Dairy Workers Are at Risk for H5N1 Bird Flu

*How to Protect Yourself from the Virus at Work*

Avian influenza H5N1, also known as bird flu, is a very contagious virus that normally makes birds sick. Recently, the virus has changed and now it is making cows and people sick. People who work with cows are at higher risk of getting sick from bird flu.

Learn how to protect yourself from this virus!

#### How do people get sick?

We do not know how the bird flu is spreading from cows to humans, but we do know that sick cows have a lot of the virus in their milk. Cows can also spread the virus through their spit, feces, and other body fluids. It's important to be very careful around cows and milk that has not been pasteurized (heated up enough to kill any viruses or germs).

#### What can you do to protect yourself from bird flu?

Take these steps to protect yourself from getting sick with bird flu if you work with cows:

1. Wash your hands right away after working with cows, handling sick or dead animals, and before you take any breaks. Wash for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, then rinse and dry.
2. **DO NOT** touch your face, nose, mouth, or eyes while working with cows or touching anything that cows or their milk have touched.
3. **DO NOT** eat food with dirty hands or gloves without washing your hands first or using hand sanitizer.
4. **DO NOT** drink raw milk or eat products made with raw milk (like some types of queso fresco) that have not been pasteurized.
5. Use Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Your employer should give you:



Aprons or coveralls that will keep you



N-95 face mask or a respirator that covers your nose and mouth



Safety goggles or face shields



Single-use head or hair cover



Rubber boots and waterproof gloves

## Equipo de Gripe Aviar de Strangers no Longer

Gracias a nuestro trabajo en las parroquias del área rural de Michigan (Diócesis de Gaylord), en agosto de 2024 recibimos un financiamiento administrado por el Centro Nacional para la Salud del Trabajador Agrícola, para dar charlas y entrenamiento a los trabajadores de la industria láctea, con un enfoque en la prevención de los contagios de la influenza aviar y la identificación de los síntomas, tanto en ganado vacuno como en las personas, para una pronta detección. Nuestro equipo se compone por 8 personas, localizadas en el área del Pulgar y Central de Michigan, proporcionando capacitaciones y charlas en granjas lecheras, iglesias, escuelas, supermercados latinos y residencia de los trabajadores, enfocándose principalmente en trabajadores de habla hispana, los cuales han recibido con agradecimiento la información compartida y algunos se han sumado a los Círculos de apoyo de Strangers no Longer.



# STRANGERS NO LONGER IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

FOLLOW US



In September 2024, 100 parishioners from 20 parishes in the Diocese of Gaylord attended a Day of Reflection on Catholic Social Teaching at the Cathedral in Gaylord.



Parishes then formed Listening Teams, to listen to fellow parishioners and community members and learn which common good issues are of concern in their communities. Soon, they will discern how to respond to these needs.



Additionally, the State's Office of Global Michigan awarded Strangers No Longer a grant to establish and facilitate a network of institutions welcoming immigrants and refugees in Michigan's northern lower peninsula.



This active collaborative educates local communities, provides support and resources to newcomers and the institutions serving them, and advocates for culturally appropriate solutions to immigrants' needs.

**4th Annual Banquet**  
Sunday, April 27, 2025





Welcoming connect resilience stamina hope inclusion  
share harnessing strengths network collabora  
collaboration comfortable Inform Inclusive comm  
Belonging wanted healthcare dignity Advocate res  
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unity and collaboration  
 life building Human Rights immigrants Open to all  
 educate holistic support Value well  
 support connection share resources support newcomers  
 welcome safety relationships efforts newcomer  
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Congratulations to Youth in Action for Immigration who received the 2024 Pax Christi Young Peace Activist Award!



4th Annual Banquet  
 Sunday, April 27, 2025



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Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church

*All are welcome!*

*In support of  
Strangers No Longer  
we honor parishioner  
Amy Ketner of the SNL  
Staff*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Checkered Flag Mass: Sat, May 31  
Parish Feast Day: Sun, June 29 @ 11:00am  
Jazz Mass: Sun, Aug 31 @ 11:00am  
Sneaker Mass/Blessing: Sat, Oct 18 @ 5:00pm

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The  
Watanabes  
Julie, Brian, Pat & Al

*He has told you, mortal one, what is good;  
And what does the Lord require of you but  
to do justice, to love kindness and to  
walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*



St. Cyprian  
Catholic Church  
Riverview, MI



ST. JOSEPH  
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Within the Downriver Family of Parishes

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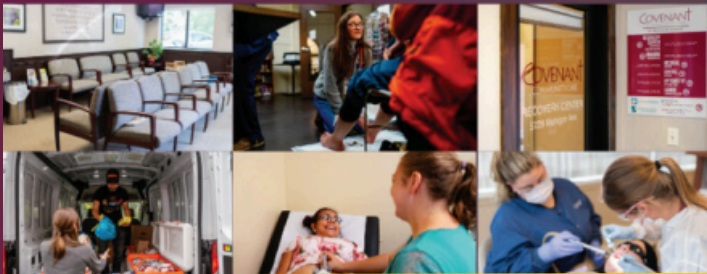


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Strangers No Longer Circle Leaders welcome with gratitude our new **Archbishop Ed Weisenburger**



**Strangers No Longer**

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**Adrian Dominican Sisters**

**Sisters of Mary Reparatrix**

**Sisters of Mercy**

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**Home Visitors of Mary**

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**Grand Rapids Dominicans**

**4th Annual Banquet**

Sunday, April 27, 2025






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# Welcoming the Stranger Is Welcoming Christ

*"As Catholics, we are called to recognize the face of Christ in every person, including those who seek refuge. Your work, your witness, and your accompaniment of our immigrant brothers and sisters are profound expressions of this calling and our shared faith. Thank you for embodying the Gospel mission to love the stranger and welcome the vulnerable with dignity and compassion."*

— **Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger**

*Archbishop of Detroit and President of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM)*



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La Casa Amiga Legal Clinic & Community Programs provides low-cost immigration legal services on a sliding scale. In addition to family support assistance, a food pantry, GED/ESL classes, parenting classes, and more...



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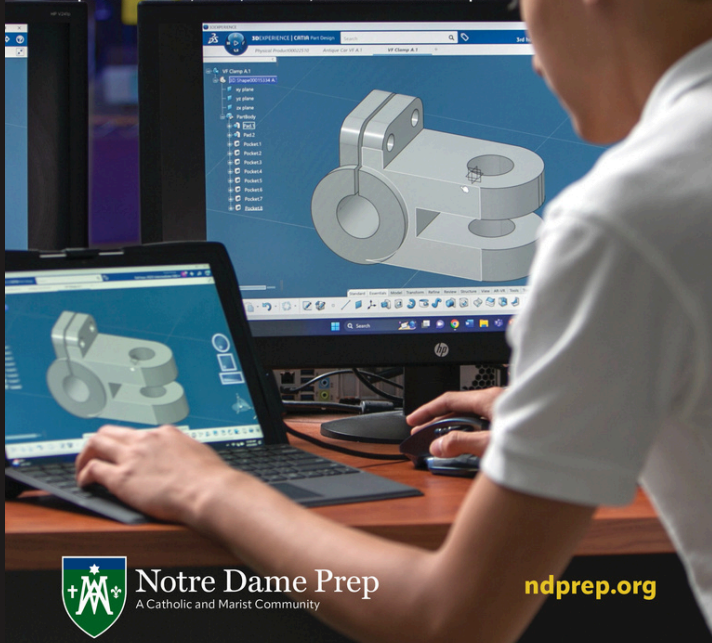
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Father Jerome Singer



**St. Charles Borromeo**  
**Archdiocese of Detroit**



**Celebrates Diversity!**

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*- Carl Clendenning*

*spoken at Gesu's Novena of Grace, March 2024,  
Prophetic and Emerging Voices of the Church*

**Gesu Detroit, a Catholic Community in the Jesuit Tradition, is committed  
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- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| • <i>Christian Service &amp; Homeless Ministries</i> | • <i>Music Ministry</i>                      | • <i>Peace &amp; Justice</i>                      | • <i>Strangers No Longer Circle of Support</i>   |
| • <i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>                         | • <i>Tech/LIVE Stream</i>                    | • <i>LGBTQ+ Support</i>                           | • <i>Gloryland Neighborhood Development Corp</i> |
| • <i>Ministry to the Sick</i>                        | • <i>Book Club</i>                           | • <i>The Beloved Community</i>                    | • <i>Gloryland Community Gardens</i>             |
| • <i>Quality of Life</i>                             | • <i>Leisure Group</i>                       | • <i>Phase II</i>                                 | • <i>Welcome to God's Table</i>                  |
| • <i>Mental Health Support Group</i>                 | • <i>Women's Fellowship</i>                  | • <i>Green Team</i>                               |  |
|  | • <i>Men's Spirituality &amp; Meditation</i> | • <i>Laudato Si' Parish &amp; Action Platform</i> |  |

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“The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all ... welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable.”

– POPE FRANCIS

*Letter to the Bishops of the United States of America, February 10, 2025*



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517-266-3526 – Spanish and English

Oficina de Asistencia de Inmigración  
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WE ARE HONORED TO SUPPORT STRANGERS NO LONGER



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# **SAINT KENNETH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

**"To change the world, we  
must be good to those who  
cannot repay us."**

**- Pope Francis**

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we believe in  
Living the Gospel. That we  
are called to serve those in  
most need of God's  
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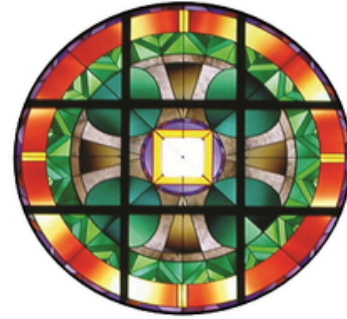


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~ MASS SCHEDULE ~

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**Christ, Our Light!  
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Troy, MI**



**We are proud to  
support  
Strangers No Longer  
and the work they do.**



**You shall not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for  
you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt.**

**Exodus 22:20**





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To make a great **dream** come true, the first requirement is a great **capacity** to dream; the second is **persistence**.



— Cesar Chavez —

## EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

supports Strangers No Longer and your advocacy on behalf of immigrants in our community.

Eva Garza Dewaelsche - Publisher and Owner  
Robert Dewaelsche - Managing Editor  
Dolores Sanchez - Founder, Publisher Emeritus  
Director, Advertising and Sales

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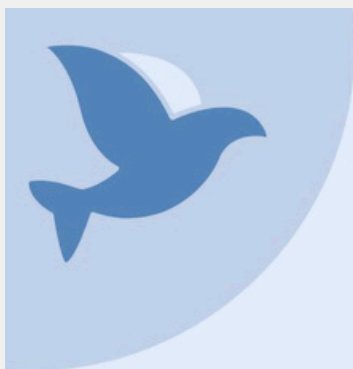
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***The compassion, support, care and love you  
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**Lower East Side Family Of Parishes**

**Nativity of Our Lord Parish - 5900 McClellan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48213 313-922-0033**

**Sacred Heart Parish - 1000 Eliot St., Detroit, MI 48207 313-831-1356**

**St. Charles Borromeo Parish - 1491 Baldwin St., Detroit, MI 48214 313-331-0253**

**St. Augustine & St. Monica Parish - 4151 Seminole St., Detroit, MI 48214 313-921-4107**

**St. Elizabeth Parish - 3138 E. Canfield St., Detroit, MI 48207 313-921-9225**



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Best Wishes for continued success  
of Strangers No Longer Circle!



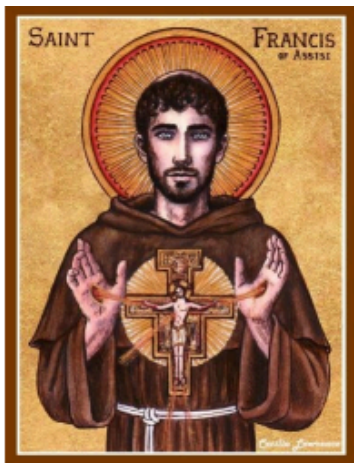
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*"Welcoming the stranger among us" – USCCB*

As a Catholic parish rooted in the Gospel and committed to the dignity of every human person, St. Francis of Assisi Parish stands in solidarity with immigrants, migrants, and refugees. We are proud to be a community that reflects the universal Church.

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

**Saturday: 5:00 PM (English) & 7:00 PM (Spanish)**

**Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, and 5:00 PM (English)**

We joyfully celebrate the cultural richness of our community and invite families to join us for our upcoming:

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Let us continue to walk together as pilgrims of hope and builders of a more just and compassionate world.

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## **St. Francis St. Maximilian**

*The mission of our parish is to see the face of Christ in every person, so that they may see the face of Christ in us, and together we will go forth to bring Christ to the world.*

*La misión de nuestra parroquia es ver el rostro de Cristo en cada persona, para que ellos puedan ver el rostro de Cristo en nosotros, y juntos salgamos a llevar a Cristo al mundo.*

### **Weekday Mass Times**

- Monday 9:00am
- Tuesday 9:00am followed by the Rosary, and 7:00pm in Spanish
- Thursday 9:00am
- 7:00pm Mass and Adoration
- First Friday in Spanish

### **Weekend Mass Times**

- 4:00pm Saturdays
- 8:00am Sunday
- 10:00am Sunday
- 12:00pm Sunday in Spanish

**[www.sfsm.church](http://www.sfsm.church)**

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**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**  
**A Proud Supporter of Strangers No Longer**

**Come Worship With Us!**

**Mass Schedule**

**Saturday** 5 pm (English) & 7 pm (Spanish)

**Sunday** 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm

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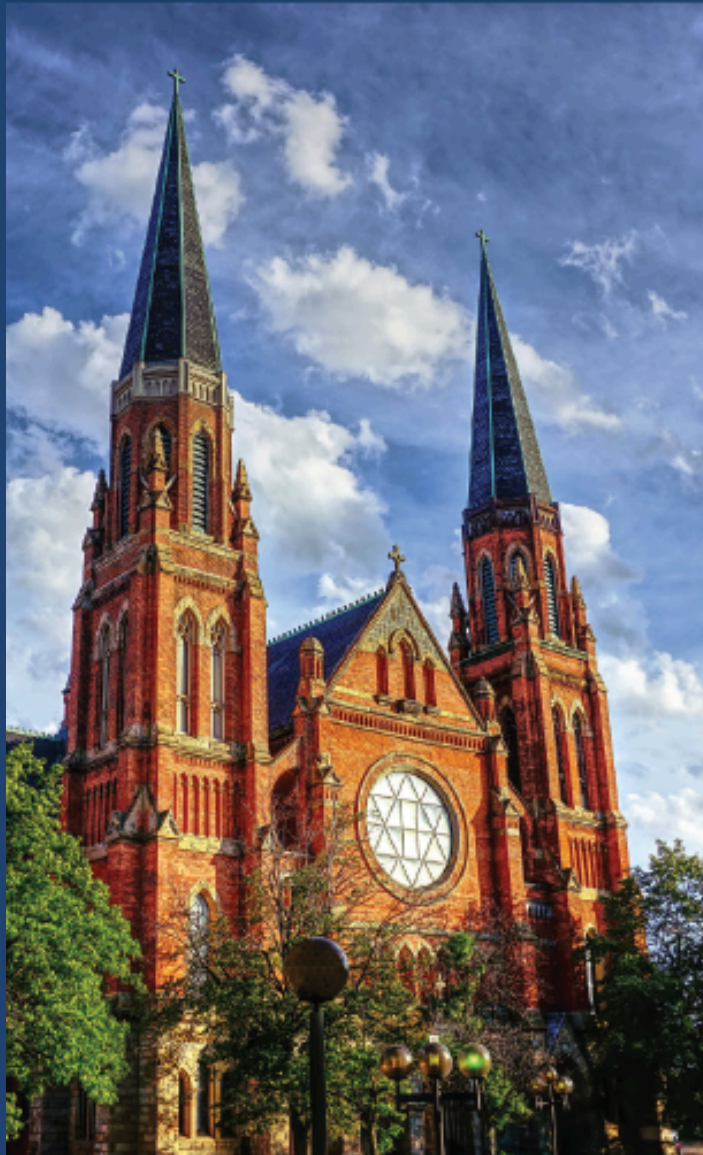
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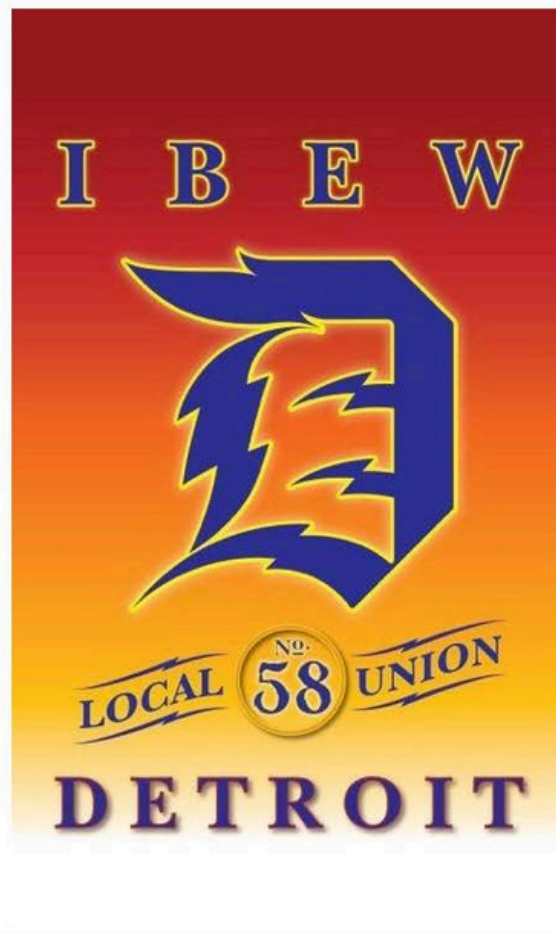
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