

PSYCHOLOGIST STEPHANIE RICO IZQUIERDO PRESENTED WORKSHOPS FOR IMMIGRANT LEADERS

Sr. Martha reports:

I have been so proud of the SNL immigrant leaders that have been working with psychologist Stephanie Rico Izquierdo for the last three years. Stephanie has accompanied them through online sessions, both as a group and by meeting with members individually. I have seen our member grow in many positive ways.

The members have often expressed their appreciation to Stephanie for how much she has helped them. So, when they recently had the opportunity to meet her and participate in an in-person workshop during the weekend of June 28-30, they were very excited.

Sixty-four members from ten Circles of Support participated. Stephanie held sessions in several locations—in fact, she travelled all over Michigan to serve our members. On Friday, June 28, Stephanie offered the workshop at the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Traverse City. Members of the Mujeres Soñadoras and Flores de María circles were present. On Saturday, June 29, Stephanie offered the workshop to the women's circles in Holland and then to the women of the Ionia circle in Greenville.

Finally, on Sunday morning, June 30, members of the men's and women's circles of St. André Bessette participated and were joined by the parish's pastor, Fr. Cornelius Uchenna Okeke. The day ended in the afternoon at St. Mary's Parish in Ann Arbor, where members of the Women Under the Protection of God, Women of Faith and Hope, Women Bearers of Light, and Women of St. Matthias circles gathered to take part in the workshop.

During these workshops, Stephanie emphasized the importance of community, especially in this time of transition that circles are going through because of my change of destination.

It was a hard journey of work for the SNL members and for Stephanie. But at each location, after refreshments ended, they gave thanks to God, celebrating all the achievements made during this time of personal and spiritual accompaniment. This is why all the circles are committed to continuing their work with Stephanie in the future.