

## **What do the SNL Circles of Support mean to the immigrant women who belong to them?**

The Circles of Support of immigrant women are spaces that women can feel them as “their space,” meaning a space where they are able to share their lived experiences. Scripture helps them to recognize how God has been present in their lives, but also continues to strengthen their faith in a God that has always protected them and continues protecting them in daily life. This experience of God calls to solidarity, not only among the women in the Circle, but also with other immigrant families that are in need. This is the dynamic followed by each Circle.

The women Circles have started to relate to the existing Strangers No Longer parish-based Circles of Support. Some women of the Circles have participated in the reflection on the Bent-Over Woman offered to parishes; and now they are sharing their stories to those parishes that are interested in knowing why they decided to come to this country as well as what are their struggles and hopes are living here. The relationship between the Circles is allowing the creation of bridges that bring us closer to the desire to make present God’s love and work together for justice to immigrants. An example of this joint commitment is the participation of four immigrant women in the recent Board meeting.

With all of this, the voices of immigrant women are being heard, and through their voices we can witness God’s liberation. As José Antonio Pagola says “The reign of God [is] coming wherever good things happen to the poor” (*Jesus: An Historical Approximation*).

- Sr. Martha de la Torre, SMR