

Border Immersion Experience for Mercy Leaders

November 6-12, 2017

El Paso, Texas – Nogales, AZ

(Includes immersion delegation and participation in annual SOAW vigil)

The Sisters of Mercy's **Chapter 2017 Recommitment: Called to New Consciousness** reaffirmed the commitment to the "act in solidarity" with immigrants and refugees, and to "continue our transformation toward greater integrity of word and deed." In response to this Call, and in light of the current situation of heightened deportations tearing families apart; expanded use of detention centers for immigrants, including mothers and children; and the many connections with building walls, violence and racial hatred in our country, Mercy's Extended Justice Team is once again organizing an immersion experience to the U.S. Mexico border. **We invite Sisters of Mercy leaders, associates and ministry partners to participate in this delegation.**

Program will run from November 6-12. Nov. 6-10 is in El Paso, TX. Participants will then drive along the US/MX border and visit Palomas, MX on the way to participate in the SOA Watch Convergence, Nov 10-12, in Nogales, AZ. The program is being organized in coordination with the Mission Society of St. Columban.

This Mercy Border Immersion will be educational and include time for reflection, as well as for strategizing on how to best bring alive our concern for immigrants. Participants will be expected to return to their ministries and their Communities to use their experience to influence others and help raise awareness about immigration and its root causes.

Logistics:

- Participants will fly into El Paso, TX, on Monday, Nov. 6, arriving by dinner time for orientation. Delegation will spend the next three days meeting with groups who work with immigrants and possibly tour the Federal Detention Center. We will cross the border into Juarez, MX, visit a factory and see neighborhoods where factory workers live, and interact with some of the people and culture from that point of view. On Friday, Nov 10 the group will drive by mini-van to Nogales, AZ, pausing to reflect on immigrants' journeys as they pass through the same or similar deserts.
- Participants will then join in the **2nd [SOA Watch Border Encuentro](#)**, which includes a Friday evening vigil at the Eloy Detention Center. The SOA weekend includes teach-in, music, vigil--and will be a wonderful way to deepen the border experience.
- Participants may choose to fly out of Tucson, AZ on Sunday, Nov. 12, or drive back in the van to El Paso—to further reflect with one another about the experience.

Cost: We invite Mercy Communities/Ministries/Institutions to send a delegate, and help w/financing. Estimate for El Paso portion: \$100/night (which covers food and lodging, all

programming and transportation) at the Columban Mission Center in El Paso, Nov. 6-10, plus some extra for the van trip to Nogales. So approximately \$325, depending on the number of people sharing van cost. In Nogales, we will pair up for shared lodging (Nov. 10-12), where hotels run less than \$100 per night; meals will be on your own. The whole experience, minus, travel to and from the border, is estimated at less than \$550 based on double occupancy in Nogales. Let us know if you need financial collaboration.

For more information and to obtain an application for the delegation contact:

- Jean Stokan at jstokan@sistersofmercy.org or
- Kathleen Erickson at kerickson@sistersofmercy.org

Register by September 24th