

Response to the Immigrant Exhibit in the Cathedral Museum

During the first three months of the museum exhibit honoring immigrants, a good many visitors have added their own immigrant stories. We are enduring difficult conditions currently with the public health concerns of COVID-19 Virus. It's good to remember our resiliency as we read two stories posted on our display in the museum:

Lottie and Edward Bieniek

As told by Lottie Bieniek: *We left Germany in 1951 on a US Army transport ship for a 21-day trip. I was sick and spent 18 days in the ship hospital. One woman on the trip died. We landed in New Orleans. It was my husband, 2 ½ daughter and me. We were supposed to meet our sponsor in Little Rock, Arkansas, but they had suffered a major tornado and our sponsor was not able to help us. They put us on a train to Saint Paul. We arrived at midnight, spoke no English and had no winter clothes. The Depot official called the Cathedral and asked them to help. The Cathedral of St. Paul supported us at the Frederick Hotel for 3 weeks. When we got to the hotel in 3 feet of snow we had not eaten since we left the ship and all was closed. Another family who became our dear friends shared the milk and sandwiches they had when they heard about us.*

Your Immigration Story

Lottie & Edward Bieniek 1952
Names of those immigrating Approx Date Entered into USA

Germany, Poland SCIF (Lottie)
Origin Country(s) Your relationship to Immigrants

Your Story: We left Germany in 1951 on a US Army transport ship for a 21 day trip. I was sick and spent 18 days in the ship hospital, one woman on the trip died. We landed in New Orleans. It was my husband, 2 ½ year old daughter and me. We were supposed to meet our sponsor in Little Rock Arkansas, but they had suffered a major tornado and our sponsor was not able to help us. They put us on a train to St. Paul. We arrived at midnight spoke no English and had no winter clothes. The depot official called the Cathedral and asked them to help. The Cathedral of St. Paul supported them at the Frederick Hotel for 3 weeks. When we got to the hotel in 3 feet of snow we had not eaten since we left the ship and all was closed. Another

Maldendo-Ramirez Family

As told by daughter, Marcela: *My father (Marcetino), mother (Miryam), sister (Solangel) and I (Marcela) immigrated to the U.S. from Columbia back in 2014. We chose America as a refuge for our family because of the violence and insecurity of Colombia. We got here with a tourist visa and never went back. When we arrived we started a new life. My sister and I attended school while my parents helped us. Last year (2019) we were detained by ICE (all four of us). Today January 2020 we came out of jail, thanks to our faith in God. God opens our doors and lights up our paths. We currently live in North Dakota where we found home and a nice community to establish our family.*

Your Immigration Story

Family Maldendo-Ramirez July 2014
Names of those immigrating Approx Date Entered into USA

Colombia Family
Origin Country(s) Your relationship to Immigrants

Your Story: My father (Marcetino), mother (Miryam), sister (Solangel) and I (Marcela) immigrated to the US from Colombia back in 2014. We chose America as a refuge for our family because of the violence and insecurity of Colombia. We got here with a tourist visa and never went back when we arrived we started a new life. My sister and I attended school while my parents helped us. Last year (2019) we were detained by ICE (all four of us). Today January of 2020 we came out of jail thanks to our faith in God. God opens our doors and lights up our paths. We currently live in North Dakota where we found home and a nice community to establish our family.