Eventually, I found out that they all came here looking for work: from Nova Scotia, from County Mayo, from Malpensa—a town in northern Italy with so little future it would soon be paved over and become an airport runway. My grandparents and great-grandparents came to the United States looking for work and for a better future for themselves and their families. Growing up in the wonder-bread suburbs of the 1960s and 70s, though, very little was ever said about where we came from, so strong was our focus on the future—the hopeful place where we were going.

Still, coming here from somewhere else is who we are as Americans. Some of it is a triumphal story of creating new lives and finding freedom. Some of it is a shameful history of kidnapping and enslavement, of exclusion and internment. Wherever we’ve come from, we tend to share a hope for a better future.

Being from somewhere else—and being on the way to somewhere else—is also who we are as people of faith. Our ancestors in faith were strangers in the land of Egypt (see Leviticus 2:14), who later lamented their exile to foreign lands (as in Psalm 137). Following in their footsteps, we are a pilgrim church, destined for the household of God (see Ephesians 2:19).

So the title of Pope Francis’ statement for the 2019 World Day of Migrants and Refugees rings true to experience: “It’s not just about migrants, it’s about all of us.”

And yet, many of us live in sturdy homes with plenty to eat and work that provides rent and groceries and so much more for ourselves and our families. What about the 25.9 million refugees and asylum seekers throughout the world? What about the 200,000 immigrants to the US in 2018, or the proposed limit of 18,000 refugees allowed to resettle in the US next year? Can we connect with them and share their journey? Can we become an ‘us’?

To answer that question, Pope Francis recommends beginning with compassion, with a quick and tender movement of the heart in response to suffering. Francis goes on to recommend four verbs to express compassion: welcome, protect, promote, and integrate. Welcome the newcomer, and offer them protection. Promote their cause as an advocate, and integrate them into a shared community.

In their own statement for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Jesuit provincial superiors in the US point out that compassion both responds to others and offers us something as well. Compassion helps us to ask the right questions. The answers we find shift our focus to our shared humanity. All the concerns—legitimate as they may be—about legal status, nationality and economic potential—yield to the most basic fact of all that the Scriptures
12:05 Daily Mass Intentions & Presider

10/14 Benefactors of the Maryland Province  
Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ

10/15 Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society  
Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

10/16 Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)  
Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

10/17 Nellie M. Brown  
Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

10/18 Walter Ashbrook (D)  
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

10/19 Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society  
Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

Saturday–Sunday

10/19 5:30 PM  Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

10/20 7:30 AM  Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ  
9:30 AM  Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ  
11:30 AM  Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ  
6:30 PM  Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ  
Jesuit Alumni Mass

In your prayers, please remember our sick and homebound brothers and sisters and our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.


The Apostleship of Prayer
Pope Francis’s Apostleship of Prayer (popesprayerusa.net) supports the church’s mission through prayer. Throughout the month of October, Pope Francis invites all to pray “that the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary ‘spring’ in the church.” The following prayer was composed by Fr. William Blazek SJ, director of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network:

Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations” and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church. Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world. Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.
taught us long ago, that the so-called “alien in our midst” is just like us, our brother or sister.

When we see the world’s 25.9 million refugees and asylum seekers—and especially those at the southern US border—not as numbers but as neighbors with faces and stories, another question comes to mind: what do I have to offer them? This is a familiar question, one Jesus posed to his disciples when faced with thousands of followers he did not want to send away hungry: “What do you have?” (See Matthew 16:32-38).

What do we have? As US citizens, one thing we have is the power of our voices: the ability to speak up against a climate of casual hatred and the urge to close the doors and borders that we and our families once crossed. We have the power to register to vote, to go to the polls and to vote our conscience. We have the power to advocate for different immigration policies in our cities and nation.

On October 20, Old St. Joseph’s will offer an opportunity to exercise the power of our voices with an Offering of Letters during the coffee hours following the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses. All the necessary material will be available: addresses, sample letters, email links. The particular focus will be a campaign by Bread for the World to oppose the proposed elimination of $250 million in development assistance to Central America’s Northern Triangle of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. These are the home countries of many of the people at the US southern border who, to escape poverty, malnutrition and violence, have undertaken a treacherous migration to pursue the hope of a better future.

But in addition to raising our voices in the legislative process, there is still more that we have to share. We can support the work of a number of organizations and agencies. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, in partnership with POWER Interfaith, is setting up a program to accompany immigrants in legal proceedings. The presence of concerned citizens serves as both a reassurance to newcomers and a warning that a wider community cares about what happens to newcomers in our judicial system. The Archdiocese also continues to resettle migrants, principally from Eritrea, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, Burma and Afghanistan. You can learn more about their work at welcomethenewcomer.org. Another effort we want to support is The Ignatian Solidarity Network’s Campaign for Hospitality (ignatiansolidarity.net) which offers many resources that help “shine a light in the darkness.”

Still another effort, sponsored by the Jesuit Refugee Service, works with forcibly displaced people to help them shape their own future (jrsusa.org).

For us as Christians, the actions we are called to take cannot be reduced to joining a political movement. The story that teaches us what we must do goes back much further than my grandparents’ and great-grandparents’ migration stories. We must go back to the story that Jesus acted out for us in the gospels. In the fourteenth chapter of Matthew, the miraculous feeding of the thousands is recounted. After Jesus says to his disciples, “you give them something to eat,” and they protest how little they have. Jesus’ responds, “Bring them to me.”

“Bring them to me.” That is, finally, where we have come from and where we are going. Together. Not just migrants, all of us.

—BJ Brown
Pastoral Associate

Front page image: Pope Francis unveiled Angels Unaware a sculpture by Timothy P. Schmalz on the 105th World Day for Migrants and Refugees, September 29, 2019. According to the artists, the figures depict “every group of persons who has ever travelled,” including those fleeing war, Jews fleeing Nazi Germany, and Mary and Joseph.
Announcements

Free Asylum Training for Lawyers
HIAS/Philadelphia (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Philadelphia) has been representing immigrants and resettling refugees since 1882. They are offering a free Continuing Legal Education training for attorneys seeking to assist with asylum cases. The CLE clinic with take place on November 15, 11:30 AM–5:00 PM. Pre-registration is required at hiaspa.org/event/asylumcle.

Social Justice and Education at Gesu School
Gesu School will host its 22nd Annual Symposium on Transforming Inner-City Education on November 1, 2019 with keynote speaker Pedro Noguera, a Distinguished Professor of Education at UCLA. Professor Noguera will speak on Social Justice and Education, and he will offer concrete strategies for educators to support efforts to raise achievement and transform the culture and performance of schools. All are welcome; tickets are free, but registration is required. For details: https://www.gesuschool.org/2019symposium. Please RSVP by October 25, 2019.

Helping Infants in Need
During its October observance of Respect Life Month, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Catholic Social Services (CSS) is holding an online diaper drive. Keeping infants and toddlers clean and dry is a basic need, but one in three families struggle to provide clean diapers for their baby. You can participate at yougivegoods.com/diaperdrive. All diapers donated online will shipped directly to CSS for distribution through its Beautiful Beginnings and Beautiful Parenting Programs across the five-county Philadelphia metropolitan area.

Time Capsule
A time capsule from 1870 was found during the courtyard renovation. What should the capsule we leave during the Open Door project contain? Parish bulletins? A usb drive with the architect’s drawings of the courtyard renovation? A flipbook of photos of the work done? A list of parishioners? A Philadelphia Inquirer? A SEPTA card and a set of 2019 coins? It will soon be time to pack up the capsule! Email your suggestions of what to put inside to bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org!

Tour the Neumann Shrine
Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 15 to jamesmoore2030@comcast.net if you would like to join Old St. Joseph’s Eldership Community for a tour of National Shrine of St. John Neumann, 1019 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, on Tuesday, October 17 at 11:00 AM. The tour group will be followed by 12:15 PM Mass and pay-your-own-way lunch nearby.

Centering Prayer to Meet
The centering prayer group will meet on Wednesday, October 16, 6:30–8:30 PM in the Drexel Parlor of the parish offices. There will be a brief presentation on centering prayer, followed by evening prayer with a period of centering. Anyone interested in contemplative prayer is welcome. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or prep@oldstjoseph.org.

Solemn Evening Prayer for All Souls
Old St Joseph’s will mark All Souls Day on Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 PM with Solemn Evening Prayer in the church. Come spend an hour to pray for and with all those who we mourn with psalms, hymns and time for reflection.
Announcements

Grace—An OSJ Story Slam
Listeners are welcome to Grace: an OSJ Story Slam on Friday, October 18! The Walnut Street doors to Barbelin Hall will open at 6:30 PM; storytelling will begin at 7:00 PM.
If you want to put your name in the hat for a chance to tell a five-minute true story, here’s your prompt:
**Grace**: Did you find it on a dance floor? Were you a ‘natural’ or did you warm the bench? Is it something that comes before a meal, perhaps unexpectedly? Where you amazed in the moment or did you only recognize it in hindsight? Do you long for it or have you found it?
For more information and story-telling guidelines, visit oldstjoseph.org.

Conversations on Gratitude
On Saturday, October 26 at 10:30 AM Fr. William Byron SJ will join us at OSJ for a talk on gratitude, based on his book *Growing Old Gratefully*. Fr. Byron will also preach at the 12:05 PM Mass, which will be followed by lunch and further discussion.

How To Read The Bible
The biggest change in the life of the Catholic Church is that we are gradually becoming a biblical church. What does this mean?
It doesn’t mean that we become fundamentalists. We don’t go door to door selling bibles. We don’t remove altars from our churches and put a pulpit in the middle of the sanctuary. Becoming a biblical people in the 21st century is much more radical than all that. It’s happening, but most Catholics don’t recognize it and are quite unprepared for it.

On three upcoming evenings in Barbelin Hall, I will be talking about *How to Read and Pray the Bible*, with a focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Why Matthew’s Gospel? Because beginning in December, we will be reading Matthew’s Gospel each Sunday at Mass. Here are the topics:

**Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 PM:**
How to Read a Gospel

**Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 PM:**
Overview of Matthew’s Gospel

**Monday, November 18, 7:00 PM:**
The Role of Scripture in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Hope you can make it.

—Walter Modrys SJ

Offering of Letters, October 20
Come make an Offering of Letters in conjunction with Bread for the World during the Coffee Hours after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses on Sunday, October 20. Bread for the World identifies itself as “a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decisionmakers to end hunger at home and abroad.” Old St. Joseph’s is a member congregation.

We’ll make available all the information and materials you need to be part of Bread for the World’s campaign supporting $250 million in development assistance to Central America’s Northern Triangle of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Alleviating hunger and poverty can address the root causes of migration. For more information, visit bread.org and click on ACT.

World Mission Sunday
The next-to-last Sunday in October is celebrated as World Mission Sunday. It is a day when we recognize that Catholics the world over share a common responsibility for spreading the joy of the Gospel. A second collection on October 20 benefits the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Thank you for your generous contributions!
INFORMATION

Pastor
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

Parochial Vicar
Fr. Fran Gillespie SJ (fgillespie@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence
Br. Robert Carson SJ
Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ (dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)
Fr. Ed O’Donnell SJ (eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

Pastoral Associate
BJ Brown (bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org)

Business Manager
Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

Director of Music
Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Offices
(parishoffice@oldstjoseph.org)

Religious Education (PREP) Coordinator
Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director
Deborah Hluchan (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

Rectory Office Hours
Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Mass Times
Monday through Saturday: 12:05 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM
Holy Days: 12:05 and 7:00 PM

Medical Emergency
In a medical emergency when the need for a priest is urgent, please call the rectory.

Hearing Enhancements
Old St. Joseph’s is equipped with an audio hearing loop. Switch on the T-coil function of your device to use the loop. Booklets with the Sunday readings are available in the rear of the church.

Registration
Registration forms are available in the rectory office during normal office hours, on the bookcases in the back of the church and online at www.oldstjoseph.org. They can be returned to the parish office by mail or in person.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
A priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday through Saturday from 11:30 AM–12:00 PM or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism
If you want to arrange a baptism, please call Fr. Dougherty at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

Eucharist for the Homebound
To arrange to receive Communion at home, please contact the parish offices.

The Sacrament of Anointing
The Sacrament of Anointing (the sacrament of the sick) is offered during the 12:05 PM Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Homebound or hospitalized persons wanting to receive the Sacrament of Anointing should call the parish office.

Sacrament of Matrimony
If you want to be married at Old St. Joseph’s, please visit our website, oldstjoseph.org and read the material under the heading Weddings, then call the parish office at least nine months before your desired wedding date.

Rite of Christian Initiation
If you are an adult wishing to be baptized, or to receive First Eucharist and Confirmation, or are a baptized non-Catholic seeking full communion with Catholic Church, please call the parish office or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

Mass of Christian Burial
To schedule a funeral or memorial Mass, ask your funeral director to call the parish office.

Parish Pastoral Council
(osjpc@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Finance Council
Paul Shay, chair

Historic Preservation Corporation Board
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, president

Adult Education
Rita O’Brien and Jeanmarie Zippo
(adulted@oldstjoseph.org)

Eldership
Pat Nelson (eldership@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Life
Joe Casey (parishlife@oldstjoseph.org)

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation
Len Mancini (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Women, Faith and Fellowship
Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community
(osjyac@gmail.com)

Altar Servers
Maria Ramirez (altarserver@oldstjoseph.org)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Bill Stewart (EM@oldstjoseph.org)

Hospital Ministry
Luanne Balestrucci (hospitalEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Homebound Ministry
Neal Hébert (homeEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Lectors
Lou Anne Bulik (lectors@oldstjoseph.org)

Ushers
Nikola Szigorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Peggy Connolly (clow@oldstjoseph.org)