

Dear Life, Justice and Peace Contacts,

Resources for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The USCCB Justice for Immigrants (JFI) programs has several resources that parishes can use for celebration of the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12)**. Homily notes, a prayer card and sample intercessions can be found at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/jfi.



Resources for National Migration Week

Every January (to coincide with Epiphany), the Catholic Church in the U.S. marks **National Migration Week (Jan. 5-11)**. The theme for 2014 is "Out of the Darkness." The USCCB has developed a prayer card and bulletin insert which can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/>. There will also be another National Call-In Day for Immigration Reform on January 8 (more on this in a few weeks).

The Joy of the Gospel

Earlier today, the Vatican released Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*. Economic inequality is among the situations addressed by the Pope. The following are three brief excerpts from the synthesis prepared by the Vatican Information Service:

"The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus"; thus begins the Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium", by which Pope Francis develops the theme of the proclamation of the Gospel in the contemporary world, drawn from, among other sources, the contribution of the work of the Synod held in the Vatican from 7 to 28 October 2012 on the theme "The new evangelization for the transmission of the faith".

In relation to the challenges of the contemporary world, the Pope denounces the current economic system as "unjust at its root". "Such an economy kills" because the law of "the survival of the fittest" prevails. The current culture of the "disposable" has created "something new": "the excluded are not the 'exploited' but the outcast, the 'leftovers'".

"Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us. Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity". "The Church cannot be expected to change her position on this question ... it is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a

human life". The Pope makes an appeal for respect for all creation: we "are called to watch over and protect the fragile world in which we live".

If you would like to read the complete text of the document, it is available on [the Vatican's website](#).

As our country prepares to celebrate Thanksgiving, I thank God for your ministry. May you and your families have a wonderful giving of thanks.

Jim

Jim Thomas

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and Family Life

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"We must all commit
ourselves with clarity and
courage so that every
human person...[is]
always defended and
protected."

~ Pope Francis
May 5, 2013