



CONGRÉGATION DE NOTRE-DAME

Blessed Sacrament Province
Mission Advancement Office

Éducation libératrice
Liberating Education
真の自由への教育
Educación liberadora

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Annual Appeal 2015-2016

“I traveled the world to get here.”

That’s what Samuel* said to immigration officers when he crossed into the United States two years ago. He comes from a country in East Africa with one of the worst human rights records in the world. When he was threatened with jail for advocating free speech, he fled. He crossed Africa and South and Central America to seek asylum in the United States.

Samuel made his way to Chicago where he was taken into custody and placed in immigration detention. Because he’s not violent or a terrorist, the *Interfaith Committee on Detained Immigrants (ICDI)* ** got involved. ICDI moved Samuel into a home for people waiting for permission to stay in the U.S.

That’s where Samuel met **Sr. Marilyn Medinger, CND**. She lives there, too. Sr. Marilyn encouraged Samuel, who is 29, to pick up the pieces of his life and start again.

Sr. Marilyn’s heart has long been touched by the most marginalized in society. She began working with detained immigrants ten years ago. These are people who are refugees from their country. They might be fleeing political oppression, like Samuel, or drug wars, or genocide. They believe in the vision of the United States as a haven for the persecuted and seek refuge here.

Sr. Marilyn heeds Jesus’s words as related in the Gospel of Mathew: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in... *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*”

Sr. Marilyn not only ministers to those requesting asylum: she lives with them. She assists and encourages them as they look for jobs, go to school, and save money to become self-supporting.

In this, our first Annual Appeal, won’t you help the CNDs support Sr. Marilyn in her powerful ministry? *She does not get a salary. Through the ICDI she receives room, board and a small stipend. The Congregation of Notre Dame supplements this stipend.*



Samuel entering his room



Sr. Marilyn Medinger, CND

(over, please)

Sr. Marilyn says the prospects for Samuel look bright. Chances are he will be allowed to stay in the United States. Let's take a look at how he's getting his life together.

Samuel is legally allowed to work, so he got a job with Catholic Charities at one of its thrift stores in Chicago. He's a night manager and runs the business from 3:00 pm until midnight five days a week. He had started college in his native country as a business major. Now he wants to finish college and get a degree in business management. Through ICDI he got a bus pass. Then he bought his own bus pass. Just recently he bought a used car and car insurance! Now he's looking for his own apartment.

Sr. Marilyn could not be prouder and happier for Samuel. She cites another passage from the Bible, this time Leviticus, "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself..." Weren't we all immigrants once, she asks? How were our families welcomed? Who helped them? Are we not called on to treat new arrivals to our country charitably and humanely?

Sr. Marilyn says the detainees she works with inspire her. "I'm in awe of people who have the tenacity, will power, and strength of character to get themselves out of a bad situation by coming to the United States. They have gone to great lengths to get here. Then they send money to help those back home or bring other family here." Sound familiar? How many of our families did that, she asks?

Please support our Annual Appeal so that CNDs like Sr. Marilyn can continue helping people like Samuel. Your gift of \$50, \$100 or more will allow us to subsidize those Sisters who receive no salary or only a small stipend, but give so much.

Lending a helping hand to those who come here under harsh circumstances – it's the least we can do for those whom many consider the least among us.

With gratitude,



Sr. Patricia McCarthy, CND
Provincial Leader

P.S. This is our first Annual Appeal. It will replace our Spring and Summer Appeals. Your continued generosity will help our Sisters in active ministry like Sr. Marilyn and our retired and infirm Sisters as well. Thank you!

* Samuel's name has been changed to conceal his identity while his case proceeds through immigration court.

** The Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants is comprised of people from 16 different faith groups.



Sr. Marilyn with Samuel, who recently bought a used car and car insurance