

EMM Liaison  
Newsletter #3  
Province II

Welcome your new neighbor  
and help inspire a more  
compassionate world

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*Introduction to EMM and  
Your Liaisons*

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Welcome to our third newsletter, bringing you information about Episcopal Migration Ministries as well as what we in Province II are doing in an ever-changing refugee landscape.

**Mission:** Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is a key program within the Division of Public Policy, Partnership and Witness. Through EMM, we support dioceses and ministry networks around the church in responding to global migration, serving communities, and protecting the rights of all migrants.

EMM focuses on serving communities that help vulnerable migrants, addressing global migration and protecting the rights of migrants through education and advocacy.

Janet Day-Strehlow and José Delgado are your Province II – EMM-Liaisons. Janet is part of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe and José is Director of Communications for the Diocese of Puerto Rico.

We hope that you will not only be inspired by the stories shared, but that you will share your stories with us. There are 13 dioceses in Province II and we want to hear from you. One of our goals is to be able to get parishes/people in touch with one another and start networking.

Please contact [jdelgado@episcopalpr.org](mailto:jdelgado@episcopalpr.org) and [jdaystrehlow@episcopaleurope.org](mailto:jdaystrehlow@episcopaleurope.org) with those stories, questions or feedback you may have.

According to UNHCR, there are approximately 122 million people who have been forced to flee their homes, 73.5 million are internally displaced. There are around 8.4 million asylum seekers globally and 5.9 million in need of international protection. For more details, take a look at [UNHCR Refugee Statistics](#) – we are seeing the highest levels of displacement on record.

Given enormity of the situation, we often hear the question “what can I/we do?” when looking at the current reality we live in. You may not be a large congregation with programs already in place, you may be looking for a way to help and make a difference. We hope that these stories will get you curious, light a spark or find new ways to expand existing programs. There are lots of links in this newsletter, so please take a look at them.

## Spotlight

In this issue, we will be highlighting what has been happening with EMM as well as in two dioceses of Province II: Diocese of New York and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe.



The Rev. Sarah Shipman, EMM's Director, was recently interviewed by Neva Rae Fox ([The Living Church](#) Correspondent and Province II Coordinator).

Excerpts from the article: "EMM has pivoted our mission away from refugee resettlement and our focus is serving communities by supporting ministries that are helping migrants and whether that is diocesan ministries or congregational ministries or others we have partnered with," Shipman said."

"Many tools are available to enhance migration ministry: seminars, resources, advocacy, education, and connections."

"In an uncertain and rapidly changing environment, Shipman also urged caution. "I think we have to be strategic in the work that we engage in and the messages that we convey because often, in trying to help people by speaking out or making statements, we inadvertently can put those people we are serving in a more vulnerable position. We want to make sure that everything that we are doing comes from a place of advocacy, support, and protection for the people we are trying to serve."

Here is a link to the full article [Commitment to Love and Serve All Migrants is Unwavering](#).

## The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

We were blessed to have The Rev. Sarah Shipman, visit the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center in Rome, Italy, and to take part in the European Institute of Christian Studies (EICS) leadership conference on “The Refugee Crisis: What we can do as parishes, missions and individuals.”



As EMM shifts focus from resettlement in the US to supporting those dioceses, congregations and ministries serving refugees and forced migrants, it made sense to see where the synergies were. [EMM Director visit to JNRC \(17 Sept. 2025\)](#). Read more about Shipman’s visit as well as what the [JNRC](#) does.

The Refugee Leadership Conference was sponsored by the European Institute of Christian Studies and was hosted by Emmanuel Church in Geneva, Switzerland, where they have launched a [Refugee Welcome Center](#). This program started as a response to the influx of Ukrainian refugees in Geneva at the outset of the war but serves many nationalities of those seeking refuge in Geneva.



There were presentations from The Rev. Sarah Shipman, Giulia Bonoldi (Managing Director of the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center and Chief Welcoming Officer for Refugees and Migrants within the Convocation), Dr. Max Niedzwiecki (visiting scholar from Clark University and member of the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on World Mission) and The Rev. Michael Rusk (Rector of Emmanuel Church, Geneva). We were

also fortunate enough to hear from refugees who are part of the Emmanuel Church community, who were courageous enough to share their stories. Read more about the conference with this ENS article: [Refugee Leadership Conference \(22 Sept. 2025\)](#).

## Diocese of New York (190 worshipping communities)

### Sanctuary

At the 2024 Convention, the Diocese of New York voted to become a Sanctuary Diocese, focusing on welcoming asylum seekers and refugees, and also caring for those who are undocumented. Learn more about what it means to be a Sanctuary Diocese, why the call to sanctuary reflects our Christian values and why recognizing the inherent dignity of every human being is so important.

On 22 September 2025, the Diocese of New York announced a new [Sanctuary Legal Fund](#) to support immigrant families in our congregations and neighborhoods. It will help those navigating immigration under urgent and vulnerable circumstances to access legal resources.

[Rural and Migrant Ministries in New York State](#): learn why the Diocese is involved in this essential ministry.



### Rural & Migrant Ministry Website

Their **mission** is action through five main program areas: Accompaniment (Standing With Others), Rural Academy of the People (Nurturing Leadership), Youth Empowerment, Immigrant Legal Rights Project, and Community Good Federal Credit Union (Financial Equity).

At Episcopal-affiliated Rural & Migrant Ministry's summer camp, 100 children and teenagers between ages 8 and 17 from across New York spend a week swimming, playing games, making crafts and much more. Most of the campers are the children of migrants who often experience bigotry and anti-immigration sentiment. The camp serves as a temporary refuge for those kids. Photo: Rural & Migrant Ministry

### OneSingleAct

As reported in the last newsletter, the Diocese of New York has launched a campaign called #OneSingleAct, to respond to the hatred and cruelty we are encountering with simple acts of courage, care

and connection. In a time where we often wonder what we can do or if we are doing enough, this challenges us to drive compassion and encourage hope. “The #OneSingleAct campaign invites every person to do a single act of care, courage, or connection – big or small – share it online – and invite one other person to do the same. “

Thank you for your support and all that you do to  
welcome our newest neighbors!

## Important Links

EMM: [EMM](#)

OGR: [OGR](#)

Episcopal Migration Response Network: [EMRN](#)

The Rainbow Initiative: [Rainbow Initiative](#)

Neighbor to Neighbor Program: [Neighbor to Neighbor](#)

Study and Worship Materials: [Study and Worship Materials](#)

## Register for Webinars and Calls

### [Episcopal Church](#)

#### [Immigration Updates](#)

When: **Every Tuesday** 1:00-1:30pm EST

Where: Zoom webinar – [Register here](#)

Please join Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Office of Government Relations for regular **30-minute updates on U.S. immigration policy and the responses in our churches and communities**. Spanish interpretation will be available. [Register here](#).

### [Office of Government Relations Weekly Network Call](#)

When: **Every Thursday** 1:00-1:30pm EST

Where: Zoom webinar – [Register here](#)

Join the Office of Government Relations for a 30-minute, **weekly conversation about the policies and legislation we are advocating for**. This is a chance to take part in a conversation on advocacy asks, the political environment, and the legislative outlook [Register here](#).

EMRN meeting: [Join Episcopal Migration Response Network - Formstack](#)

EMRN Second Monthly Meeting: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)