



October 2017

My dear friends in Christ,

Each year the National Church decides at the General Assembly what will be our National Charity for the year, a charity that will be supported by all of the Catholic Apostolic Church in North America (CACINA). This past year the charity chosen for 2017 was the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

With the problems created for immigrants by the policies of our present government, it is more important than ever that we support those who are “strangers” to us as Christ has often told us. Obviously there are many ways of doing this, but this particular charity has been chosen by members of our General Assembly for the type of work they do with immigrant children in particular.

To begin with, 90% of what is given goes directly to the programs, with 8% going to administrative costs and 2% to fundraising. Most recently the work of this Service has been to assist the surge of unaccompanied children. The Service works with local and federal programs to connect these refugee children with foster homes, legal services, and protection against trafficking. They have been teaching migrants and former refugees about legislative advocacy and how to be leaders in their local communities. They reunite families, advocate for children, and offer long-term resettlement assistance.

You can learn more about what they do at their website (LISR.org). This website explains immigration myths and gives facts and information about current detention practices in America and possible alternatives. They run visitation programs to acquaint Americans with detainees, and offer pen pal opportunities. Lastly, they train volunteers in communities to befriend people in resettlement programs.

During the month of October, I urge you to take up special collections for this cause or to do fund raisers which raise the perception of people to understand better the problems of immigration. You have been very generous in the past to our National Church yearly project, and I hope this year will be no exception. Christ’s message on how to treat aliens was very clear and very strong. It is important that we do our best to follow his teachings. “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers [or sisters] of mine, you did for me!” (Matt 25:40)

Your servant in Christ.

Ronald Stephens,
Presiding Bishop of CACINA