



Stewardship Sunday, 27 October 2019  
Mission and Outreach  
Rosalyn Nazzaro

I have been attending Epiphany with my family for over 33 years. During this time, I have taught Sunday school, helped in Children's Chapel, and have volunteered on many occasions for various events. Life was always busy, juggling our family business, followed by other fulltime jobs; caring for our 3 biological children and 2 foster sons; and volunteering in town and school activities. However, it was not until I retired in 2016 and found I had "spare time" that I found myself more fully engaged in church life.

2 years ago I learned that Epiphany was exploring becoming a Level 2 Sanctuary Church (i.e. supporting a Level 1 Sanctuary church that would house a person/family who chose to go into Sanctuary to avoid deportation, while their paperwork was being processed to remain in the US). As a former foster parent of two unaccompanied minors, I knew I needed to be involved and, from that day, my work with Epiphany's Immigration Justice ministry truly began.

This ministry and my involvement continue to grow. Whether it is attending a Prayer Vigil at the ICE Detention Center in Boston; participating in a Jericho Walk at the Burlington ICE offices where undocumented immigrants have to report; volunteering to cover two shifts a month at the Level 1 Sanctuary church Epiphany supports; speaking at a town forum or at the Vigil we organized on the Town Common in June 2018; participating in meetings and workshops; helping organize a mini-series and Immigration Justice service here; my faith demands my continued participation.

I have been humbled and moved by how Epiphany, - the clergy and parishioners - have embraced and led this ministry and it is such a gift to have become close to the people here with whom I work. One of the things that drew my family to this church all those years ago was its commitment to social justice. Epiphany is a leader in the Diocese in its advocacy and witness to accompany and support people facing detention and deportation from ICE (Immigration, Customs, and Enforcement Agency.) In June, our work was publicly recognized when Parish of the Epiphany was awarded the M. Thomas Shaw Award for Social and Economic Justice by ECM (Episcopal City Mission). It was an honor to accept this award with Pam Chester on behalf of Epiphany at ECM's annual dinner.

Epiphany continues to advocate and bear witness for those fleeing violence, corruption, and poverty. It is a blessing and a privilege to be part of such a church and community.

Roz Nazzaro

