



**Nine Immigration Themed Resources for Lent—  
Encouraging Faith Commitments in Solidarity with Refugees & Immigrants**

**Focus: Sanctuary Protections**



**Scripture:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son . . .” (John 3:16)

**Reflection:** From time to time I wonder: Why is there so much pain and sorrow in the world; Why so much violence and hate? Why are some made welcome and others detained and deported? And why did God give his only Son for this world of suffering and sin? Perhaps it is as simple and complex as something we learned as children. God not only loves, God is love. God who is love can do no other than to give everything, wholly, completely, without reservation. And we who are made in God’s image are called to do the same. We are called to love as God loves, to give everything without hesitation and without fear.

Today, in the face of increasing threats to our immigrant neighbors, we are challenged to love as God loves. What will we do when our colleagues are detained? What will we do when ICE comes for our neighbors? What will we do when members of our communities seek refugee? What does love demand? Will we have the strength to give freely of ourselves? Will we have the grace to be the love of God made visible? Will we have the courage risk in love?



**Story:** This is the story of a community of faith who loved enough to risk. [Southside Presbyterian Church](#) is located in one of Tucson’s oldest barrios. Since its founding in 1906, Southside’s diverse congregation of members has always been committed to putting its faith into action. When civil wars in Central America forced refugees to the U.S. Southern border in the 1980s, Southside’s Rev. John Fife ignited the Sanctuary Movement. Sixteen clergy and lay leaders in the Tucson area were arrested and eight convicted for their role in assisting Central American refugees. In 2006, as immigration raids increased, congregations across the country once again chose to provide refuge to those facing deportation.

Again in 2014 in the face of rising deportations, Southside Presbyterian chose to risk the ministry of sanctuary. Since then, Southside has provided refuge to two of its neighbors. They sheltered Daniel Neyoy Ruiz for 28 days before he was granted a stay of deportation. Rosa Robles Loreto, a mother who had lived in Tucson for years, stayed for more than 15 months before she could safely leave the sanctuary of Southside. The movement is growing. Before the 2016 presidential election there were approximately 400 congregations engaged in the work of sanctuary. Since then, the number has doubled as communities of faith across the nation give themselves in love and commit to the ministry of sanctuary.



**Actions/Resources:**

- ⇒ Learn more about the [Sanctuary Movement](#).
- ⇒ Learn more about how churches and synagogues are [stopping deportations](#).
- ⇒ Begin a conversation with your community about how you can [accompany immigrants and refugees](#).
- ⇒ [Advocate](#) to make your city a sanctuary for immigrants and refugees.
- ⇒ Sign the [Sanctuary Pledge](#).

**Prayer:** God of love, you loved so completely, so unconditionally, that you gave us your only son, that we might know the love of life eternal. Grant us the grace to love enough to welcome your immigrant and refugee daughters and sons. Grant us the courage to love enough to risk being becoming a sanctuary of your love for all who are threatened. *Amen.*

**INTERFAITH  
IMMIGRATION  
COALITION**

*Devotion by Sister Ann Scholz, Leadership Conference of Women Religious.  
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