



St. Pius V Parish

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November 23, 2009

Dear Families of St. Walter Parish:

Blessings to you as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. We are honored to receive your generous donations to assist families in need in the Pilsen community in recent years.

We ask you to offer a gift for a child for the Advent Giving Tree. Please take one or more scrolls from the tree and place a gift under the tree before Sunday, December 13th. This year we ask you to consider a \$ 10 to \$ 15 value toy to place under the tree. Feel free to take more than one if you wish.

One of the families participating in our Christmas events is the Sanchez family. Carlos and Adriana Sanchez have been married for 21 years. They came to the United States nearly ten years ago. Carlos and Adriana have struggled economically for years. They sell various used clothes and small appliances at the flea market seven days per week. They raise six children between the ages of 4 and 18 years old. Three of the children were born with a rare birth defect and require special education programs and medical attention. The Sanchez children join over fifty participants in our special religious education program. Tragically, the family has not only dealt with special needs but recently Adriana admitted that Carlos has physically and mentally abused her for years. As she begins the emotional journey of counseling, your gift would offer a brief moment of Christmas cheer to their children who have struggled to articulate the pain and abuse due to speech impediments.

In the Christmas journey of Mary and Joseph, they fled their homeland to Egypt to secure the safe birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. That is an Advent journey made real in our community every day. We are grateful for your offering to make our celebration of Christmas more meaningful!

May God bless you, your family during this holiday season!

Fr. Brendan Curran, O.P.
Pastor