

St. Agnes Church & Ignatian Spiritual Life Center Sanctuary Statement, 1/19/2017

St. Agnes Church & the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center (ISLC) believe that the human dignity of all people must be respected. Our deepest desire is to make God's dream for the world, a dream rooted in peace, mercy and compassion, a reality. In discerning the signs of the times, we are unable to remain silent and believe that, as a community, we are called to continue to learn how to love our neighbors more fully by declaring our community as sanctuary space for those targeted by hate.¹ *We state clearly that there are no illegal people in our community. There are undocumented people and they deserve to be treated with respect and dignity just like any person in our community.*²

Therefore, St. Agnes Church & the ISLC commits to:

- + Participating in the developing San Francisco Rapid Response Network to respond and be present during any ICE raids in homes or workplaces
- + Creating an Accompaniment Team to play a supporting role in assisting families who are affected by raids
- + Offering the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center as a meeting space for organizers, lawyers and community organizations to meet in a safe place
- + Opening our space for an individual or family facing deportation to find refuge
- + Listening and responding to the best of our ability to the call and needs of our immigrant brothers and sisters
- + Gathering for communal prayer to continually discern the movement of the Spirit in our work, actions and lives

We know that this process and the people we meet will change our hearts, this is truly what our faith is about. As our mission statement proclaims:

We pledge ourselves
to be a light in the darkness
through the love that we share
in the name of Christ
and through the power and guidance
of the Holy Spirit.³

With God's love and the Spirit's hope,

Fr. Ray Allender, S.J.
Pastor, St. Agnes Church

Natalie Terry
Director, Ignatian Spiritual Life Center

¹ **The Church and ISLC will not voluntarily facilitate, cooperate or consent to immigration enforcement activities on our grounds unless legally compelled to do so or in the event of clear risk to the health or safety of others. St. Agnes Church and the ISLC will not voluntarily assist or cooperate with any investigation, surveillance or gathering of information about the immigration status, religious identity, or citizenship of any employee, parishioner or community member unless explicitly required by court order.**

² Adapted from the Draft Loyola University New Orleans Sanctuary Statement

³ [St. Agnes Church](#) Mission Statement