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This week Sr. Norma Pimentel, M.J., Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, celebrated All Saints Day at the Holy Name of Jesus Pastoral Center with students and faculty from Loyola's Catholic Studies program and community members.

The evening began with Mass in the Holy Name of Jesus chapel, presided over by Fr. Nathan O' Halloran, S.J., Director of Loyola's Catholic Studies program. Fr. O'Halloran gave a moving homily which centered on the story of Fr. Władysław Lohn, S.J., who was the Superior of a Jesuit community in Poland during World War II. When the Nazis came to arrest the Jesuits and take them to Auschwitz, Fr. Wladyslaw was not home. Instead of protecting his own life, he broke into Auschwitz to be with his brothers. As Fr. O'Halloran shared, **"A saint is a person that breaks into Auschwitz to be with those who are suffering."**

Sr. Norma shared a similar experience during her talk later that evening. During the Trump Administration, there was a dramatic increase in child separation at the Mexico/ U.S. border which resulted in the detention of thousands of children. Sr. Norma visited one of the facilities that held these children. She described horrific conditions, with children packed into cages, unable to even sit down. Sr. Norma asked the officers to let her into a cage to pray. She described to us the children's cries for help. When she walked out of the cage, she realized the officers were also crying. They said, **"Thank you Sister, you helped us to remember that they are human beings."**

Sr. Norma reflected, **"We forget when we are doing our jobs and upholding the law that there is no law above us as human beings. The human person is sacred and must be upheld and protected...People are not breaking the law when they are saving their lives."**

Sr. Norma has dedicated her life to accompanying those entering the United States in search of safety and security. She reminded us that "Scripture tells us we should be like children. When we grow up, we lose the authenticity of what is good and what is right."

In a recent [letter](#), Fr. Mario Dorsonville, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, called for reform of migration policies that "provides for the full integration of long-time residents, promotes family unity, honors due process, respects the rule of law, expands legal pathways, preserves and strengthens humanitarian protections, prioritizes dignified alternatives to detention, recognizes the contributions of foreign-born workers, protects the vulnerable, and addresses the root causes of migration."

Fr. Dorsonville admits that **"there are no easy solutions to the challenges we face, but there is a just path forward that is waiting to be paved by those who are committed to the future of our country."**

Sr. Norma encouraged us to overcome the fear and self-interest that holds us back from doing what is right and just.

"When we hear the call of those suffering, we are called upon to open our hearts to God...We have to be radical. As Pope Francis shares, we have to "Go to bed tired of doing good."

I am inspired by Sr. Norma, Fr. Dorsonville, and Fr. Władysław Lohn, S.J and all those who accompany suffering people in pursuit of safety and justice.

Please take a few minutes today to learn more about Sr. Norma and to support her work at the [Humanitarian Respite Center](#). Their website accepts financial donations, as well as items that can be purchased through an [amazon wish list](#).

If you feel called to service or advocacy on immigration, please contact JSRI Fellow [Dr. Sue Weishar](#) for information on how you can become involved in JSRI's work to reform immigration policies and serve those impacted by our broken immigration system.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Annie Phoenix

**Executive Director
Jesuit Social Research Institute
Loyola University New Orleans**

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