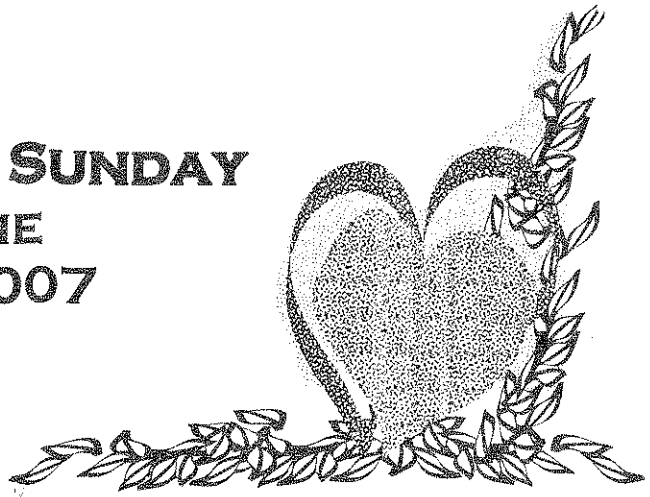


**THIRTY – SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
NOVEMBER 11, 2007**

*Hide us Lord,
In the shadow of your Wings!*



Dear People of God,

Eleven months ago on Monday, there was an ICE raid at Swift. In response the Diocese of Winona issued a call for donations to help the people affected in Albert Lea, Austin and Worthington. This Sunday we are able to donate \$30,000 from what we received from the Diocese to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota to help fund a Spanish speaking immigration lawyer to work here in Worthington.

We are able to do this because the response of St. Mary's parish, of Swift Company, the union and other local efforts was so great. We were able to meet the immediate needs of gas, utilities, rent, etc. for the families who were directly affected by the ICE deportations. The response was marvelous and greatly appreciated by the affected families and those who worked with them.

But the most difficult area to work with was (and is) the legal aspects. The laws, as both Democratic and Republican leaders agreed, need to be reformed, though little has been done yet. Working with the present laws is difficult. People have had to go to Bloomington, Des Moines or Sioux Falls (depending on the situation) to do legal paper work. Often they have to make several return trips as the legal system asks for different documents or forms.

John Keller and staff from the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota have come here several times to present workshops and they continue to work with individual clients on a monthly basis. This has been very helpful, but we see the need for a more permanent presence. We are excited that with the help of our donation from the Diocesan collection and other monies, an immigration lawyer can be here weekly. It is not a free service. Promoting the documentation of immigrants and legal status is in the best interest of everyone. It is a Christian issue as well as a political issue, and it needs our prayer and involvement.

We are one in love,
Fr. Larry