



¿Conoces quiénes son tus vecinos?

(Do you know your neighbors?)

*Get to know your immigrant neighbors through an
Immigration Plunge with the Urban Servant Corps.*

- Learn from immigrant simulations and scenarios, privilege and global market games/exercises, and local speakers.
- Serve at local agencies and support groups working for change with immigrant communities.
- Build direct relationships with immigrant communities and congregations through personal testimonies and visits to immigrant neighborhoods in Denver.
- Experience cultural diversity through a Spanish-speaking worship service, authentic Latin American food, and visits with other immigrant churches and communities.

Contact the Urban Plunge for more information. Immigration-themed Plunges begin in August 2008. We can be reached at plungeindenver@yahoo.com, 303-894-0076 or through the Urban Servant Corps website at www.servantcorps.org.

Why Immigration? Our Rationale:

According to the last US Census in 2000, Denver is a city of almost 555,000 people with 31.7 percent, (about 1 in 3 people), Latino or Hispanic. Many of our neighbors speak Spanish and have a rich culture of traditions and customs from Mexico, and Central and South America. Some are recent immigrants, others have lived in the U.S. since before we were a country. These neighbors often say, “we didn’t cross the border, the border crossed us.”

Currently there are an estimated 10-12 million undocumented workers living in the United States. Individuals and families come here in search of economic opportunity, safety from poverty and violence, and to make better lives for their families. Many workers, however, are unable to work for fair wages or secure healthy and safe working conditions. For many, journey to the U.S. is costly and comes at extreme risk to health, economics, family relationships, and even life itself. [insert stat about how many people die annually crossing the us/mexico border]. Once here, families may be divided by immigration raids seeking out illegal workers. Sometimes even children are detained as public pressure has increased in favor of policies that crack-down in “illegal immigration.” Families may also be separated by the economic and geographical necessities of work. Children brought to the U.S., or born here, face much different lives than their parents or other siblings, often causing generational conflicts, and many immigrants in our communities live in fear of harassment, arrest, or worse.

- *How does our faith, rooted in Jesus Christ and the Gospels, call us to respond to the “strangers” in our midst?*
- *How do U.S. citizens, the backbone of a nation of immigrants, respond to the on-going migration from the South to our country?*
- *How do we understand and love those who are different from us, but who seek the same dreams and hopes for our children and our future?*

Come find out!

From August 3-8, 2008, the Urban Servant Corps is offering an immigration themed service-immersion experience to foster understanding and mutuality between immigrant and non-immigrant communities in the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Throughout the week we will explore issues of global poverty, immigration, and faith through service and education. In reflecting upon the Gospels, we will seek to respond in love, care, understanding, and solidarity to the growing immigrant communities here in Denver and across our country. Come and join us on this journey, or schedule your own Immigration-themed Urban Plunge in 2008-09. (Great for youth groups, adult education classes, social ministry teams, or confirmands.)