

Update – January 14, 2006

One of the best things I have to report is the joy I see in the faces of Regina and David these days. Both of them firmly believe that the good work God has started in their family, God will bring through to completion. (*Philippians 1:6*)

Good news. On January third, we received news that Judge William Cassidy, the original judge in Regina's case, has agreed to transfer her case to the Midwest Immigration Court in Chicago. This is great news. It means that Attorney Mary Sfasciotti will be representing Regina before a judge she knows, in a setting familiar and close at hand for all concerned. Big relief.

Because the administrative judges in the Chicago courts are usually assigned on a rotation basis, we are not yet sure who Regina's judge will be. Once he is named, he will schedule the Master Calendar Hearing. Regina and her attorney will be required to appear for the short meeting to clear up any administrative details and to set the date for her hearing. We'll let you know pronto.

Yes, we still need money. Lots of money. Not so good news – we learned that tax exemption status is not granted for a single-person cause. Therefore, our solicitations must focus on private donors, rather than on the corporations and foundations we hoped to contact. I'm a firm believer that everything we've been able to do so far for Regina's case has been God's good work and prayer has smoothed the way at every point. Please pray now that we find the major donor/s God wants us to ask – people who will be blessed by opening their hearts to this worthy cause. Also, if you personally know a potential major donor, please contact me, jflynn@saveregina.org.

In October, my dear, widowed Aunt Stephy Flynn, six months short of ninety years old, called to say she had made up her mind to do all she could to help us raise money. "You're going to be surprised," she promised. First she cashed in all the soda can pop tops she had been collecting for two years. Then she asked her daughter to photocopy a recent "Save Regina" Update to show people she knew (and some she didn't know!), asking each to contribute. In December, she sent her widow's mite – \$360.00! Widow's *might!*

On Friday, March 24, during Women's History Month, I will be one of 23 receiving this year's U.S. Post Office awards for "Women who are Putting their Stamp on Metro Milwaukee." The all-day celebration at the Midwest Center features a Women's Leadership Conference in the morning followed by a special luncheon at which we will receive our awards. The event is open to the public (details when I know more). This keeps the spotlight on our cause and will add to my book credentials, too.

It's a great grace to see God's goodness shining, not only in those from other lands – Last week, St. Mary's welcomed Florent Mayanga's family after 7½ years wait! – but also in the generosity of those who welcome and support them! Thank you for all the ways you reveal God! I pray that each of you will have a truly blessed and refreshing new year!

-Sister Joseph Marie Flynn, SSND, jflynn@saveregina.org

For more information on how you can help, please visit:

www.SaveRegina.org