

## "Save Regina" Update, May 22, 2005

The best news this past week is that Regina is still in the Kenosha Co. Detention Center. The worst news this past week is that Regina is still in the Kenosha Co. Detention Center.

Blessed relief. The dreaded passport did not arrive last week. When the agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrived, as they do each week in the wee hours of Friday morning, 1:00-2:00 A.M., they took her dear and prayerful Mexican friend, but not Regina. "It's okay," said Regina. "She was okay with going back to Mexico, ...but I will really miss her."

There is not much joy in jail. Women there are not allowed time outdoors, only male inmates get that opportunity. There are no windows. She is lonesome for her husband and children and very tired. Inmates are not allowed to use a blanket during the day, but it's too cold to sleep without one.

Almost two weeks ago, our wonderful Attorney, Mary Sfasciotti, worked night and day to file three excellent motions -- the motion to reopen Regina's case, the motion to stop the threat of deportation, and a writ of habeas corpus to get her out of jail -- but still we hear nothing. In spite of it all, Regina has a deep faith in Jesus, "God gonna get me out. I know it. I don't ask him anymore, I just thank him and I wait. All of us, too, feel she will eventually prevail.

We are currently in a major lobbying effort, flooding the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), the Office of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, and the Office of Deportation and Removal Operations with letters and phone calls. One of our supporters wrote last week that a lovely receptionist at the BIA said she had already taken 21 phone calls as had all of her co-workers and that letters were also flowing in. Everyone there was amazed by the attention Regina's case had garnered. "She's one lucky woman to have so much support!" She went on to say that all of the workers there were rooting for Regina and they all wished us luck.

This weekend, volunteers helped us gather more signed letters from about 10 more parishes to add to the stacks of letters we have ready to send from St. Mary's school parents. On Monday we should have three stacks of letters 5-6 inches high to send to each of the dignitaries. The Milwaukee County Board also issued a letter of support which went to all three as well as to all the Wisconsin U.S. Senators and House Representatives. Archbishop Dolan is being asked to send another letter as well.

Why is this important? In 1996, the Republican Congress passed tighter immigration legislation signed by the Democratic President, Bill Clinton, making it harder for immigrants to gain legal status. As a consequence, the BIA has been inundated with appeals. As we understand it, they no longer have the

# [www.SaveRegina.org](http://www.SaveRegina.org)

---

luxury of operating as a board, but dole out cases to individual board members. A complicated case like Regina's which was dismissed by the initial judge as "frivolous" and "fraudulent" could easily get rubber stamped with a "No" unless a lot of us demand that it get serious attention.

If you've not written or called, please download last week's update which has three letters to sign and send, [www.saveregina.org](http://www.saveregina.org). Also, register your own email address with the webmaster so you'll get quick updates.

One more important bit of news. Even if/when the BIA agrees to review Regina's case and she is -- hopefully -- allowed to come home while her case lumbers through the system, bills will continue to mount. This is a very expensive endeavor (probably \$100,000.00 for legal fees, family expenses, etc.) We will continue to need donations over the long haul.

This is scary, but we have to trust that God will continue to inspire folks to do what they can to help us. We know that this case is not unique in America, but hopefully its impact will help more people than just Regina. Early last week just as we were beginning to get frightened about the costs, God surprised us with \$250.00 from a donor in Edinburgh, Scotland! And \$500.00 from another in Kokomo, Indiana! We were thrilled with such great support coming from far away!

But the corker was a check for \$10,000.00 from the estate of a dear woman on her deathbed in Arizona. She and her immigrant husband had lived frugally in Milwaukee most of their lives. He died two years ago. While her will provides for each of their children, her astute niece with Power of Attorney realized that about half of the rest would go directly to the government unless it was distributed before she died. She looked for worthy groups in the Milwaukee area and, at the urging of her sister who knew Regina, she sent this generous check directly to Sister Josephe Marie. Sister took it right to the bank where the manager and tellers all rejoiced with her.

With the God of all hope working with us, we trust that we will be able to pay the mounting bills. Whatever you can afford is greatly appreciated. Thanks so much for your love and concern! May God richly bless you!

Sister Josephe Marie Flynn, SSND

**Click this link to download the ACTION ALERT!!!!!!**

<http://www.saveregina.org/actionalertmay152005.pdf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE:

VISIT; [www.SaveRegina.org](http://www.SaveRegina.org)

EMAIL US: [contactus@saveregina.org](mailto:contactus@saveregina.org)

---

*“You Can Make A Difference...”*