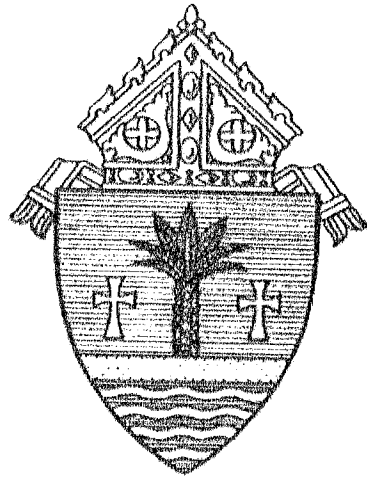


**Catholic Charities Legal Services
Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.**

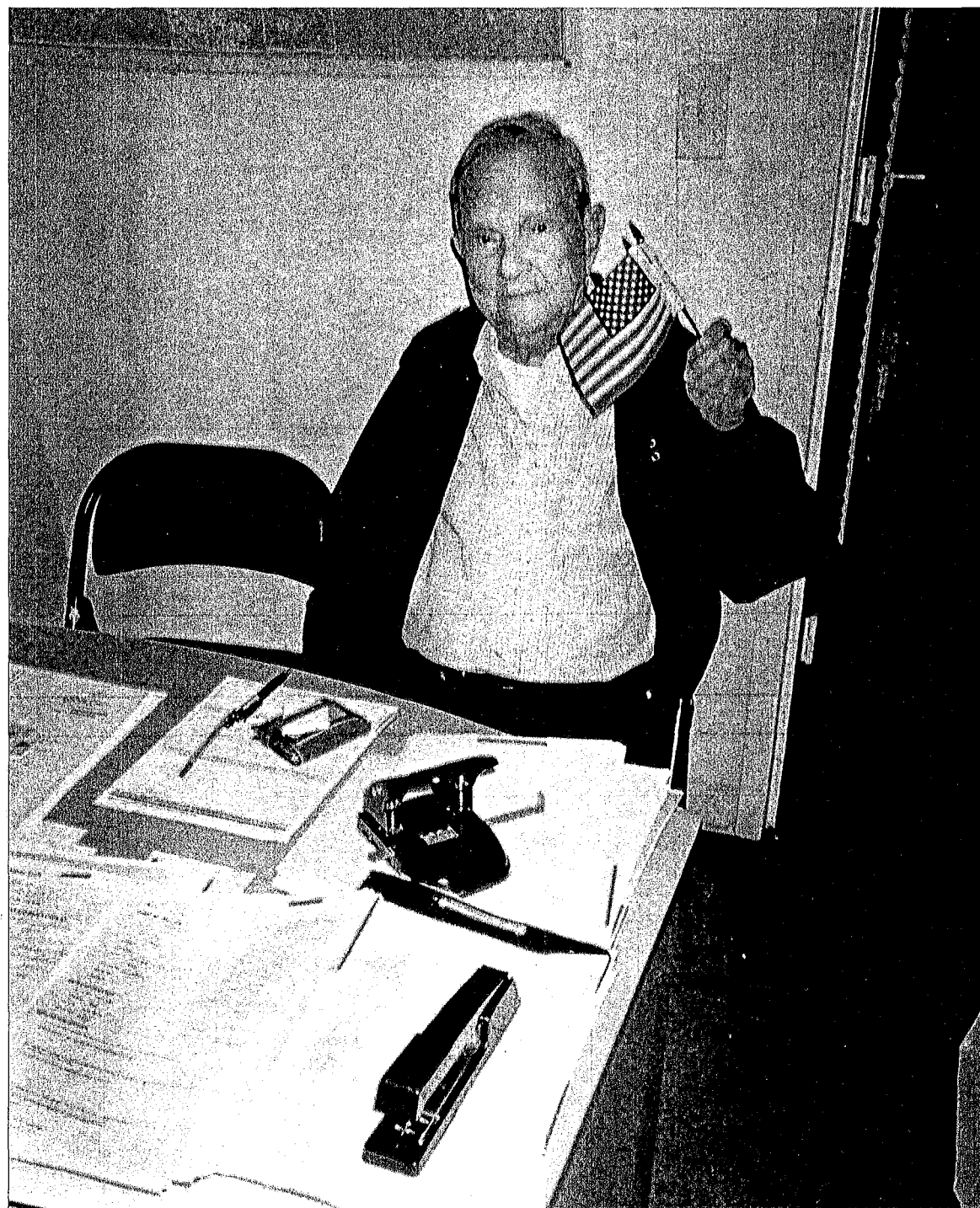


**2005
Annual Report**

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Mission Statement

Leviticus 19:34

*“ You shall treat the alien who resides with you
no differently than the natives born among you;
have the same love for her or him as yourself,
for you too were once aliens...”*

Catholic Charities Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami, Inc. (CCLS), is committed to justice and the alleviation of human misery through the promotion of the principle of equal access to the system of justice and the provision of legal services to the neediest members of the community.

- * Legal services for those who come to South Florida from foreign lands.
- * Assistance for those who lack sufficient means to obtain legal help.
- * Services provided without regard to faith or national origin.



*Most Reverend John C. Favalora
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Miami*

*“Americans should be
the first to recognize
the gifts these newcomers
bring to our shores,
as the vast majority
of us trace
our ancestors
back to
other lands.”*

Message from Archbishop of Miami

Dear Friends:

Our Church is an immigrant Church, carried to this country in the faithful hearts of our parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends as they journeyed to a new home in America. Our nation is a land of immigrants, built by the hard work and perseverance of untold millions from every region of the world.

We in the Archdiocese of Miami know this simple fact more than most. Daily, we benefit from the vital contributions of South Florida's immigrant and refugee communities. They strengthen and diversify our community. However, today many newcomers to our country face rising anti-immigrant bigotry, complex immigration laws and a confusing bureaucracy. Many have unhealed wounds from a painful past. Many encounter unexpected barriers as they adjust to a new culture and a new way of life. They face an uncertain future and often come first to the Catholic Church for spiritual and pastoral care.

It mission of the Catholic Church to serve these brothers and sisters in need. As such, the work of Catholic Charities Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami, Inc. represents an essential ministry of the Archdiocese by providing legal representation and professional immigration services to South Florida's immigrant and refugee communities. With the help of CCLS deserving immigrants and refugees persevere and realize their dreams for a bright and secure future in the United States of America.

As you review the good work of CCLS in this annual report, I ask that you keep our agency, our mission, and our clients in your thoughts and prayers.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones abundantly. With personal good wishes, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,


Archbishop of Miami

CCLS Board of Directors

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Catholic Charities Legal Services, ADOM

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Archbishop of Miami's Archdiocese

Sole Member of Corporation

Rev. Msgr. William J. HENNESSEY

Secretary, ex officio (Vicar General of Miami's Archdiocese)

Vance SALTER, Esq.

President

Margarita ORTA

Vice President

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Introduction/Background

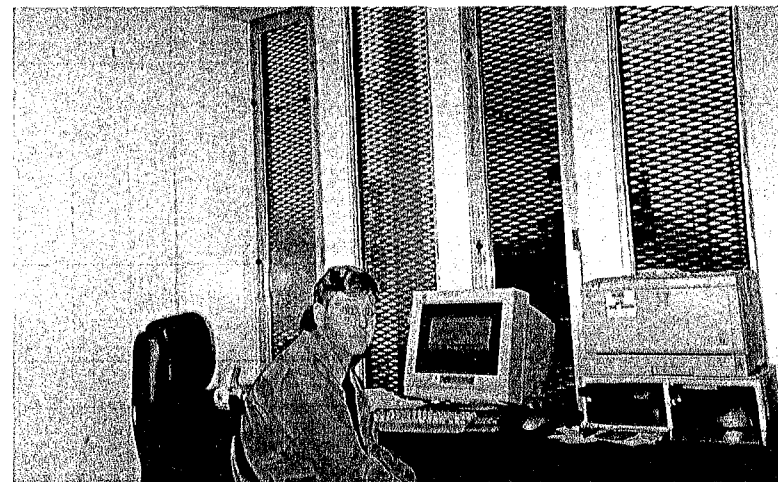
Catholic Charities Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami, Inc. (CCLS) focuses exclusively on helping poor immigrants obtain asylum, establish legal residency, become citizens and reunite families. Catholic Charities Legal Services was created on January 1, 1998 when the Haitian services G.W.L. Legal Project (1994) merged with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (1988).

With a staff of 34 including 9 full-time attorneys, Catholic Charities Legal Services (CCLS) is one of the largest agencies representing poor immigrants in South Florida. CCLS has a satellite facility servicing the predominantly Cuban community of Hialeah, another satellite servicing diverse communities, most particularly the Colombian community of Broward, and a third satellite servicing migrant workers, most notably the Mexican community in Homestead.

Haitians and Cubans constitute the agency's biggest clients, with a large number of Columbians also being served. During the past several years, CCLS' multicultural, multilingual staff has helped people from 60 different nations, including a dozen Coptic Christians fleeing persecution in Egypt; Serbs, Poles, Albanians and other refugees from Eastern Europe; and Africans fleeing the violence in Zaire, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

As a provider of legal assistance and representation for immigrants, refugees, and impoverished people in the

Archdiocese of Miami, CCLS provides a full range of immigration-related legal services, from initial advice, to assistance, to full representation, to a low-income clientele. It supports arch/dioceses and religious institutes that need the invaluable services of foreign-born priests, nuns, seminarians and lay workers. It enables CCLS to better fulfill its mission to enhance and support the legal immigration work of the Catholic Church in the United States. It also provides services to other denominational congregations in need of these services.



Randolph P. McGrorty
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami

"We don't have the resources but these people are in a very desperate situation and we need to represent them. We need to do it, first, because we're a Catholic agency and Scripture tells us to welcome the immigrant," Randolph P. McGrorty.

Overview of CCLS' Work Among the Immigrants

A. CCLS' Work Among the Immigrants

CCLS provides a wide variety of legal immigration services including but not limited to applications to request political asylum in the United States, completion of family-based (petition for family relative and following-to join), affidavit of support, and replacement of initial resident alien card, preparation of application for citizenship and work authorization, adjustment of status to legal permanent residence and travel document, TPS application and Cuban parole. CCLS prepares various motions to the Immigration Courts and Appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals and waivers. It assists individuals with various visas, including tourist and humanitarian visas through American Consuls abroad. It assists and represents minors in their juvenile claims, abused women and children and detainees. CCLS provides top notch pro-bono representation to immigrants before federal agencies like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of State and the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR), regardless of religious affiliations.

"Migrant should be met with a hospitable and welcoming attitude," Pope John Paul II.



B. CCLS' Accomplishments

Over the years, CCLS has filed nearly 12,000 applications for political asylum, accepting over 6,000 cases pending before the immigration courts, completed over 8,979 petitions for family-based immigration, prepared 911 applications for citizenship, and executed 1000's of requests for work authorization and adjustment of status to that of legal permanent residence. CCLS has accompanied 10,500 asylum applicants to their asylum interviews, represented 100's of children in their juvenile cases, filed and represented 378 abused women and 100's in detention, prepared various motions to the Immigration Courts and appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals, assisted individuals with various visas, including 498 religious petitions for foreign-born priests, sisters, seminarians and lay persons, and several other work visas.

While the most significant aspect of these figures remain the number of client contacts and the opportunity for outreach and public education represented by such contacts, CCLS has experienced considerable success in obtaining legal status for its clients. All the beneficiaries now have the opportunity to fully contribute to the vibrant immigrant community which distinguishes South Florida. CCLS has helped 8,498 obtain asylum status, reunite 1000's families through family-based petitions, the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (HRIFA) and asylum/refugee petitions. More than 800 elderly, low-income, low-literate and disabled newcomers have achieved citizenship through the CCLS' citizenship project. As a result these new citizens are experiencing newfound freedom and a political voice. Numerous abused women and children and unaccompanied minors have obtained permanent residence status. It has also helped 1000's of individuals obtain work authorization, 100's released from detention centers and found freedom, 100's obtained cancellation of removal and 468 religious workers have changed their status to that of immigrant or nonimmigrant religious.

A Client's Journey of Hope

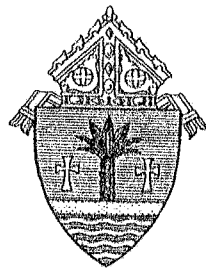
Fleeing religious persecution in India, Blossom arrived in the United States in 2001. She lived in a boarding school in Goa when her mother and aunt were murdered by Hindus because of their Catholic faith and because they belonged to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, a movement within the Catholic Church that seeks to foster an awareness of the gift of God's Spirit and to help people develop a deeper personal

relationship with Jesus Christ.

After the death of her mother there was a land dispute in Velim, Goa where she was raised. Blossom, a Catholic, was asked to wed a Hindu so that he could inherit the land left to her by her mother. The Hindu community swore that they would kill her if she refused. Blossom stated to CCLS that in India, giving a dowry, such as money or land, to the groom is very common for the bride's parents. Dowry is often viewed as a form of inheritance. In India, dowry has been treated as a paramount social evil. There are many bride burnings and female infanticide due to dowry, stated Blossom. Brides have been murdered by their in-laws, so that the groom can marry again and receive more dowry.

After the confrontation with the Hindus, Blossom was forced to flee her home and resettled in another town fear she would be killed because she was not willing to reject her Catholic faith. She moved to a Catholic orphanage named St. Catherine Home in Andheri. The Hindus found out she was there, and they ransacked the orphanage. She went to live with the Daughters of Charity in Bandra where she obtained employment. Later she was relocated to Regina Passes in Byculla when the sisters received warnings that Hindus would come after her. Hindus ransacked the place. She was forced to move to a retirement home administered by the Daughters of Charity and later to Seva Niketan Orphanage where she performed work to pay for her tuition. Later she moved to a friend's house. Her friend and other family members arranged her marriage. She informed us that in India it is customary that

marriages are arranged by parents or closed relatives. The degree to which children are consulted depends on the family. Her friend and relatives introduced her to a young man, later, and they were joined in holy matrimony.



After she wedded the young Christian man, Blossom began to receive more threats from Hindus. India's Christian minority has been the target of a series of attacks. In 1994, Blossom was arrested when she joined a demonstration held by a group of Christians after a Catholic priest was burnt to death in an attack allegedly led by Hindu extremists. The intervention Hindu forces was marked by extreme violence. Both Blossom and her husband were arrested. Her husband was able to escape while Blossom was taken to jail. She was mocked, physically beaten and sexually assaulted by Hindu and Buddhist men as she refused to renounce her Catholic faith. After her property was taken, she was released and fled to the Daughters of Charity's house. However, she was not safe because there were many attacks on the sisters including a Jesuit missionary priest that celebrates the Eucharist daily at the Daughter's house was killed. The sisters helped her flee to the Middle East in Edoha near Saudi Arabia. Shortly after her arrival with her family, there were big clashes among Muslims

and Christians in the Middle East. The sisters' house was ransacked, and she fled to another neighborhood. Later she was beaten by the Muslims after she was returning from a supermarket because she wore a traditional scarf instead of the niqab.

In 1996, she returned to India after she learned that several organizations including grass roots movement had been taking legislative restriction of sex-selective abortions in combating sex preference, women's access to safe medical, women's freedom, advocacy for female inheritance of parental property as an alternative to dowry, as well as sustained efforts to reduce the level of dowry.

She obtained employment and became pregnant of a third child. Her employer threatened to terminate her job because in India you are barred from having more than two children. Neighbors threatened to harm her. She moved to another neighborhood called Angher. She was in seclusion during the entire pregnancy just to save the child because she refused to undergo an abortion. Christians continued to receive threats in India. Despite assurances from the authorities, particularly, President KR Narayanan, that they were doing all they could to stop the killings, it was very distressing for Blossom to see the attacks on Christians were continuing. She also remembered that the more hardline Hindu organizations close to the governing Bharatiya Janata Party had created a climate in which religious hatred was tolerable.

In India, a law was implemented around 1980 that a family

could not have more than two children, and that the first-born must be a male. Blossom has three children; one of them could never receive any federal or state benefits. Many organizations, including Family Planning has educated the people that a third child will not be eligible for federal and state benefits, and that you must go through an abortion.

In 2000, she became pregnant of her fourth child. She got laid off from work so did her husband. Her children were expelled from school. A doctor would not see her unless she was willing to have an abortion. Her neighbors harassed her. Later, her neighbors kidnaped her three children, tied her up and took her to Pearl Center to abort the child. She told them that was against her religious belief and that she did not want to abort her child. They brought her three children to her, naked, and asked if she would rather lose three instead of one. She underwent an abortion. Her husband turned his back on her. Though she fought hard, she could not win the hearts of the Hindu extremists. Christians suffer discrimination. Sex determination and selective abortion of female fetuses is widespread in India. Non-government organizations in India, such as the Voluntary Health Association, estimate that hundreds of thousands of fetuses are aborted each year only because they are female. In India there are crises of sex selection. When you are pregnant with your first child, it is a must to go to a hospital that provides technology for sex determination, or a shop. When you determine that your child is a female, you will need to abort the baby. India has allowed abortion on broad medical and social grounds since the Medical Termination or Pregnancy Act was passed in 1971.

When she became pregnant of her first child, Blossom did not go through a test. Instead, she gave birth to a premature child. After she underwent an abortion, she became mentally distressed. She attended a Catholic retreat at Atabor Ashram, Kerala. She returned home and continued to be harassed by Hindus. One day while she attended a Charismatic prayer, Hindus came and ransacked the Church. The members were stoned, arrested, beaten and mistreated. They were sexually abused by a group of Buddhists and Hindus. She was one among the Catholics who was arrested and beaten. After she was released, she escaped to a friend's house. Her husband refused to speak to her because she aborted a child. She left the children at her friend's and managed to flee the country on July 28, 2001.

"Immigrant polemicists ignore the human tragedy and familial dislocation enabled by the status quo, while discounting the invaluable contributions immigrants make to our nation," Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski, Bishop of

Arriving in the United States, Blossom had no place to go. She became a nomad. She took buses from one state to another state until she landed up in Miami. One day while she was praying at Gesu Catholic Church in Downtown Miami, the Church's security guard approached her and referred her to Catholic Charities Legal Services. CCLS took the case of Blossom. CCLS referred her to Notre Dame d'Haiti Catholic Church for spiritual guidance because Blossom could not

forgive herself after aborting a child. CCLS referred her also to The Most Sacred Heart Foundation, a small non-profit organization, dedicated to ameliorate the multi faceted problems caused by teen pregnancy. The Most Sacred Heart Foundation helped her financially, socially and referred her for counseling.

CCLS prepared her asylum application and represented her before the office of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Asylum Office, formerly known as Immigration and Naturalization Service.

On March 23, 2002, Blossom's asylum case was granted before the office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Immediately CCLS filed the appropriate forms to help her reunite with her children and spouse as following-to-join.

On July 1, 2003, her children and spouse joined her in the United States. One year after their arrival, they filed an application to adjust their status to that of legal permanent residence. In December 2005, their applications to become legal permanent residents were approved, and in five years they will be eligible to apply to become US citizens.

Blossom now has the opportunity to fully contribute to the vibrant immigrant community which distinguishes South Florida. After she obtained asylum, she went on to serve as a lector and usher at Gesu Catholic Church. She has recently purchased a new home. She has obtained a Bachelor's degree

in Criminal Justice. She is fully employed. She becomes a productive member of our community, and she contributes financially by paying taxes; so does her husband. Their three children go to school. She is very thankful to the Catholic Church and her work among the immigrant and refugee communities at Catholic Charities Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.

Training and Advocacy

A. Training

Immigration law is highly complex and evolving. CCLS provides high-quality immigration training. Each year CCL Shelps 100's non-profit, private immigration attorneys and legal counselors expand their expertise. CCLS provides a biannual training hosted by CCLS Board Members. These CCLS' immigration trainings covered the most important substantive issues facing low-income immigrants and service providers including private practitioners: family-based immigration and the affidavit of support, an obstacle to family reunification, adjustment of status, grounds of inadmissibility and deportability, relief from removal, bond and parole procedures and ethics, advanced issues and strategies for complex work visas, and labor certification processing. Trainings are usually held in the Archdiocese of Miami at St. Martha's conference room in Miami Shores. CCLS also conducts a biannual on-site training for its staff.

B. Advocacy

CCLS has a particular emphasis on asylum and refugee law, as well as issues relating to the Haitian and Cuban communities. In 1998, CCLS strongly supported the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (HRIFA), attended meetings held at the offices of members of the Congress, including meetings held by national and community leaders and grass roots movement. This law led to legal residency for thousands of our Haitian friends.

In 2001, CCLS formalized and expanded its advocacy efforts. CCLS focuses on administrative advocacy with the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) locally, and addresses CIS processing delay and family reunification issues, including CIS not responding to inquiries for religious petitions, most particularly work employment authorization.

Throughout the year, CCLS has attended tens of meetings with federal officials in an attempt to resolve problems and promote affirmative strategies to improve immigrants' access to justice. Successes that were achieved included a meeting with local CIS representatives at CCLS main office to bring the issues of Cuban parole and the prompt issuance of work permit to this community.

"All people are called to make a journey in solidarity with migrants, immigrants, refugees, human trafficking victims and other people on the move seeking justice and peace,"
Most Reverend Gerald B. Barnes of San Bernadino, Calif.,
chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Migration.



CCLS became heavily involved in detention work when an influx of Haitian asylum seekers landed on Miami's shores on October 29, 2002 and were detained. In addition to providing desperately needed legal assistance to this emergency situation, CCLS' office has brought an awareness of immigrant issues to the wider community. Cited widely in local media, CCLS staff have taken a leading role in educating community members and government officials about the pernicious effect of detention on asylum seekers. Through press coverage, letters to elected officials, CCLS has been an outspoken, passionate advocate for the immigrant community in general, and the Haitian detained population in particular.

CCLS worked for greater access to religious services for detainees at TKG in the past, and a prompt timely processing of religious petitions. CCLS also intervened in cases brought to its attention.

CCLS provided outreach services to the migrant and refugee communities at various Catholic parishes in the western, eastern, southern and northern parts of Florida. In 2005, CCLS provided 11 outreaches at various parishes within the Archdiocese of Miami and has trained a member of the Mennonite church, two members of the protestant churches (Baptist and Pentecost) to become more self-sufficient to aid the immigrants and refugees within their communities.

Departments & Projects

CCLS has several departments including two satellites in Broward and Miami Springs (Hialeah), and since 2004 CCLS has been providing services to the neighboring Homestead area.

A. Litigation Department

The litigation department is led by an attorney serving as the coordinating-attorney. It is comprised of full-time immigration court, asylum unit, and appellate attorneys and paralegals assisting the attorneys. The litigation department staff mainly represent clients before the Department of Homeland Security and the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

The immigration court attorneys carry out most immigration court cases, represent vast clientele in court, at the Miami Asylum Office and the Miami CIS District Office. The asylum

attorneys focus more on preparing and filling application to request asylum, representing clients at their interviews at the Miami Asylum Office and respond to NOIDs.

The appellate division focuses on the many existing and new clients that need representation at the appellate division. The appellate attorney is an important key at CCLS. S/he represents clients who lost their cases before the Immigration Court office.

The paralegals assist the attorneys in very vast matters including preparation of various forms, such as adjustment of status applications, application for work authorization and various court motions, including translation.

In 2005, the Litigation Department has served approximately 2,700 clients living in South Florida, including Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. It has also a large number of clients in Central Florida including Orlando, Fort Myers, Lake Worth and Tampa, and clients who initially resided in Florida, have moved to other states while their cases are still pending in Miami. 1,300 asylum applications were filed before the Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Miami Asylum Office and before the Immigration Court. About 700 applications for adjustment of status and/or Cuban adjustment to become legal permanent residents in the United States were filed mostly before the office of the Immigration Court. Others were assisted in a variety of matters and were represented either before the office of the Immigration Judge or Citizenship and Immigration Services, including 20 who were being

represented before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Many of these cases are pending as immigration matters involve years before a decision is made on a case. However, the Litigation Department has successfully won 225 cases.

B. Immigration Services Department

The Immigration Services Department is led by an attorney serving as the coordinating-attorney. It is comprised of full-time fully and partially accredited representatives, paralegals and two in-take paralegals. The fully accredited representatives staff mainly represent clients before the Department of Homeland Security and the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the partially accredited staff represents clients solely before the Department of Homeland Security.

The fully accredited representatives carry out immigration court cases, represent vast clientele in Court, at the Miami Asylum Office and the Miami CIS District Office. The fully accredited representatives focus also on preparing and filing applications to request asylum, representing clients at their interviews at the Miami Asylum Office. The partially accredited representatives focus on preparing applications to request asylum, and the preparation of various forms, such as adjustment applications and CIS motions. The paralegals assist the fully accredited representatives in very vast matters including preparation of various forms, such as adjustment of status applications, Cuban parole, family relative petition, affidavit of support, and various motions.

In 2005, the Immigration Services department assisted thousands of clients living in South Florida, including Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. It has also a large number of clients in Central Florida including Orlando, Fort Myers, Lake Worth and Tampa, and clients who initially resided in Florida, have moved to other states while their cases are still pending in Miami. Numerous applications were filed before the

Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Miami Asylum Office and before the Immigration Court. About 2,289 applications for adjustment of status to become legal permanent residents in the United States were filed mostly before the Citizenship and Immigration Services, 538 family relative petitions, 1000's work authorization applications, motions, waivers and other variety of matters and were represented either before the Immigration Court or Citizenship and Immigration Services.



Most of these cases are pending as immigration matters involve years before a decision is made on a case. However, the Immigration Services Department has successfully won 461 asylum cases, 310 adjustment cases, 427 HRIFA adjustment cases, 1,329 HRIFA dependents were brought to the United States, 487 Cuban adjustments, and 1000's have obtained a work authorization.

C. Special Projects

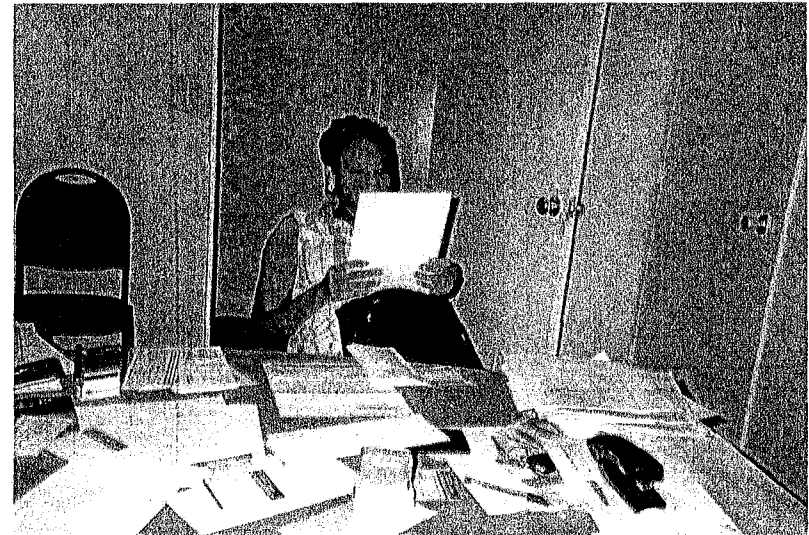
As a society, we have come to recognize that all human beings are entitled to fundamental rights and that the ultimate measure of the justice of any community is the measure of protection it provides to its weakest and humblest residents. Thus, America guarantees the educational rights of the learning impaired, the rights to proper treatment of imprisoned criminals, and the legal rights of undocumented aliens against deportation without due process.

i) Victims of Violence (At-Risk Women, Children & Families)

Migrant women and children who have experienced domestic abuse stand at the crossroads of some of the vexing social issues present in our society: the feminization of poverty, ethnic and racial discrimination, and the social and psychological barriers restricting access to assistance. CCLS, through its Women and Children's Project, addresses a threshold need of this population by providing immigration services to the under-served migrant communities of South Florida.

In 1994, Congress enacted the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was intended to prevent violence against women and increase methods of intervention in abusive situations.

Spousal and child abuse are major problems. Abuse often results in severe pain, injury, even death. It also foments social and psychological disfunctioning and the perpetuation of crime and social violence.



Many immigrant women are now able to apply for legal residence by showing evidence of abuse, rather than relying on abusive spouses to file applications for them. However, the fear of being alone, lack of resources, and language barriers remain obstacles to seeking assistance. While accurate statistics detailing these populations are not readily available since most individuals with irregular immigration status resist detection, the demographics of Miami-Dade suggest that the numbers are staggering.

The ultimate purpose of the project, while addressing the immediate immigration needs of abused women and children, results in the empowerment of this population by regularizing their immigration status, which results in economic opportunity and access to social services.

CCLS offers at-risk women and children legal representation and immigration services before the Immigration Courts and various government agencies to obtain residence, working permits, or citizenship. Services also include outreach and education, cases evaluations and consultations, preparation and filing of appropriate petitions and requisite documentation, and representation before the Immigration Courts and the Department of Homeland Security. These special cases are referred for further assistance, such as counseling, case management and spiritual guidance.

ii) People With Special Needs

In 1990, Congress amended the Immigration and Nationality Act to require that aliens infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS: 1) be aware of the seriousness of their medical condition, 2) understand how the disease is transmitted and the precautions necessary to prevent that transmission, and 3) be prepared to receive the medical treatments which they require as a condition of being granted residency.

Unfortunately, this legislation is commonly misunderstood by immigrants to South Florida and by many HIV professionals as well. False beliefs that an HIV diagnosis means deportation, combined with a lack of accessible legal waiver services, have transformed the legal safeguards of the public health in the immigration law into a public health danger, and they have imposed a frightening legal burden upon people whose "crime" is that they are sick.

CCLS has designed a program of community outreach and legal services to meet this need. It refers its clients to an already existing and publicly funded set of medical, counseling, and support services, and monitors their use to ensure that the public health concerns of the community and the medical and service needs of those clients are being met. It has also filed several waivers for those aliens infected with HIV. Some of these cases are being represented and have been taken by the CCLS Immigration and Religious Services Department. In addition to meeting the regular requirements, an applicant must demonstrate several other factors, such as the possibility or spread of the infection created by the admission is minimal, and that there will be no cost incurred by any level of government agency of the U.S. without prior consent of the agency. Because of the complexity of these cases, such as an applicant must have a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident child or spouse, more outreach is essential.

CCLS encountered several mentally disabled individuals who need legal services such as representation before the Citizenship and Immigration Services.

iii) Unaccompanied Minors

Abused undocumented minors are at special risk. The tension of immigration and poverty often increase domestic violence, leaving perhaps a third of undocumented minors physically, sexually, or emotionally abused. These children share the same dangers as the adults; others arrive unaccompanied, subjecting them to still greater hazards with no legal guardians to whom to turn.

Immigration law has served as a tool to citizen/resident alien abusers of the undocumented minors: Banned from work, the abused undocumented or unaccompanied minors are often entirely dependent on their abusing family members for subsistence. Fear of deportation usually deters them from seeking any assistance, such as entering a shelter or obtaining protective orders, enrolling in school, if they are aware of such remedies. Language, illiteracy, and social seclusion are often barriers to the minor aliens' understanding of their domestic rights and responsibilities.

CCLS has developed such a program. CCLS represents juveniles in state court dependency hearings, the first step in obtaining a special juvenile visa. It enables minors under the age of eighteen without parents in the U.S. to become legal permanent residents. CCLS has been very successful and has helped obtain legal dependency for over 100 unaccompanied minors. Also, it has referred them to the appropriate government agencies for various aids.

“ The undocumented are not ‘breaking’ the law as much as they are being ‘broken’ by the law,” Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski, Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando.

iv) Detention/Detained Torture Survivors

Asylum seekers fleeing political, social, or religious persecution come to the United States to find safety, peace, and

protection. Many are detained upon arrival for months or even prolonged periods. Detention can cause particular anguish for asylum seekers because it can evoke the conditions that they fled in their home countries. Their access to legal representation is limited.

Many of CCLS' non-detained clients have had friends or family members in detention who were seeking assistance. On rare occasions, former clients found themselves detained and asked for further assistance. Church referrals and requests for help from the detention ministry brought still other cases to the attention of CCLS. CCLS accepted some cases, but the very large amount of resources required to fully represent detained individuals prohibited CCLS from maintaining a large detained caseload.

Asylum cases often require lengthy and complex preparation of legal arguments and supporting documentation. Based on this growing demand for representation, CCLS hired a lawyer with extensive deportation defense background in 2002. With this addition to the staff, CCLS had resources in place to respond in October 2002 to the unexpected arrival of 220 Haitian asylum seekers on the shores of Key Biscayne. CCLS was overwhelmed by greatly expedited deadlines for bond hearings and asylum applications. CCLS determined to find representation for all asylum seekers by harnessing support of the local pro-bono community. Many of these attorneys had no asylum experience, but with CCLS' persuasion and under staff mentorship, they were able to fill the need for representation that could not be addressed by the non-profit community alone. Due in great part to CCLS' diligence, most of the detainees were represented at asylum hearings, gaining asylum approvals for their clients at almost three times the national rate.

***“While every nation has a right to control its borders, the fact is we cannot build walls around our country or ourselves,”
Most Reverend John C. Favalora, Archbishop of the
Archdiocese of Miami.***

D. Citizenship

The strength of the United States depends in part on its inclusiveness and the integration of its immigrant families. In April 2001, the State Award called for the creation of a new project within the existing structure of Catholic Charities Legal Services initiation of Citizenship Project focused on the designation and training of personnel.



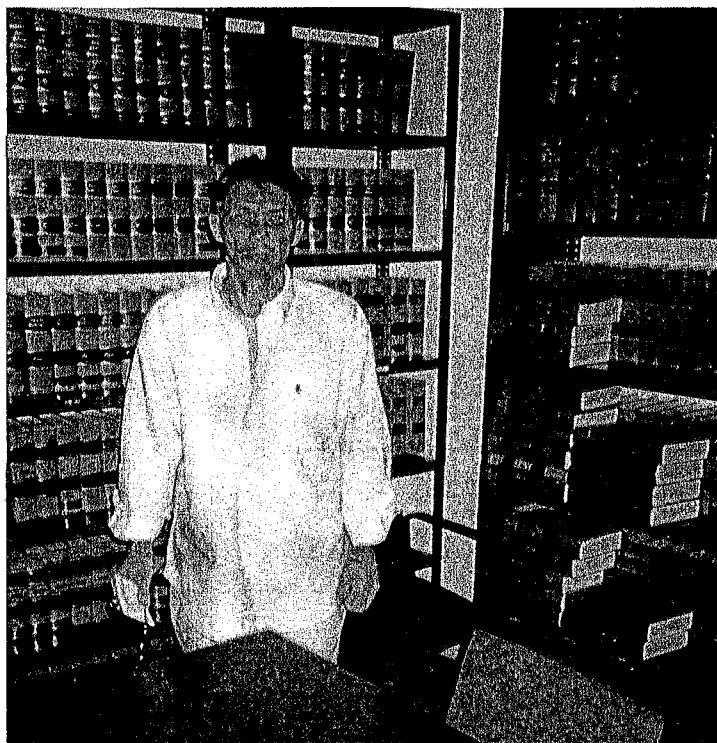
The project initially began in July 2001 and focused on special needs population such as seniors and the disabled, with special

attention to the Haitian and Cuban refugee communities. CCLS focuses its citizenship outreach and legal service efforts on the most vulnerable and disenfranchised immigrant populations. All clients eligible served are based on the following criteria: First priority: Legal permanent resident who adjusted from refugee, Cuban/Haitian entrant, or Cuban/Haitian asylee status who have maintained Legal Permanent Resident status and actual residence (without leaving the United States for six months or longer) for a period of at least four years and are recipients of public assistance. Second priority: Legal permanent residents who adjusted from refugee, Cuban/Haitian entrants, or Cuban/Haitian asylee status, and Third priority: Refugees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants or Cuban/Haitian asylees who have adjusted to Permanent Resident Alien Status. As a result, these new citizens are experiencing newfound freedom, economic security, and a political voice.

Since the inception of the project in July 2001, CCLS produced 1,682 consultations, 587 citizenship applications, 1,046 permanent resident (green card) applications, and referred 10's of individuals for English language classes and citizenship-test preparation.

E. Cuban Processing Project

Incepted in 2001, the Cuban Processing Project (CPP) at the main office served approximately 3,500 arriving Cuban aliens. They arrived undocumented, and are thus unable to access programs and other benefits designed to assist them. The CPP helps them obtain parole and work authorization, and referred them to employment agencies and/or other federally-funded agencies for appropriate aid. Once they obtain employment, they become productive members and have the opportunity to fully contribute to the vibrant immigrant community which distinguishes South Florida.



F. Broward Satellite

Because of the great demand in Broward county, in 2000, CCLS sent one of its staff attorneys and one of its staff paralegals to serve the refugee and immigrant communities of Broward. They have provided legal immigration services and representation at different locations on a daily basis at St. Boniface Catholic Church, St. Andrews Catholic Church, and the Broward County Commission Family Success Administration Office. In 2001, CCLS officially opened an office in Broward and its staff grew from two to six, including two attorneys, one partially accredited representative, two paralegals and a secretary. It provides a wide variety of legal

immigration services including but not limited to applications to request political asylum in the United States, completion of family-based application (petition for family relative and following-to join), affidavit of support, preparation of application for citizenship and work authorization, adjustment of status to legal permanent residence, and travel document. It also prepares various motions to the Immigration Court, appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals, and waivers.

The Broward office specializes in assisting and representing abused women, children and detainees. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) offers a variety of legal remedies for domestic victims, including self-petitions, removal of condition petitions, and cancellation of removal. The Broward office has represented DV victims with all of these types of petitions. It has also represented DV victims with gender-based asylum claims. In 2005, this office represented 70 clients with DV related cases. This number is in addition to walk-ins, phone consultations (general information only), and brief services.

During 2005 the CCLS Broward full-time detention attorney conducted "Know Your Rights" presentations on a weekly basis at the Krome Detention Facility in Miami and the Broward Transitional Center in Pompano Beach. The detention attorney carried a caseload of 25 detention cases, which run on an expedited docket. The claims of the cases the detention attorney represented were generally bond hearings, parole requests, asylum, relief under the Convention Against Torture, representation of criminal aliens, and representation before the Immigration Court and Board of Immigration Appeals.

G. Miami Springs Satellite

The Miami Springs (Hialeah) office is comprised of one senior paralegal and one paralegal. Their main responsibilities are to provide legal assistance to the predominantly Cuban community of Hialeah. It accepts referrals, most notably from the Refugee Resettlement office operated by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami. They executed 1000's of work permits, parole, and adjustment of status for Cubans to become legal permanent residents after a year of their arrival in the United States.

H. Homestead Stellite

The Homestead office is comprised of one partially accredited representative. This office provides legal assistance to migrant workers, most notably Mexicans. It accepts referrals from and works closely with Catholic Charities Outreach Program operated by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami. It prepares various immigration forms including, but not limited to, applications to request political asylum in the United States, completion of family-based (petition for family relative and following-to join), affidavit of support, preparation of application for citizenship, and work authorization, adjustment of status to legal permanent residence, and travel documents. With the assistance of an attorney, it also prepares various motions to the Immigration Court, appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals, and waivers, and represents clients in their asylum interviews.

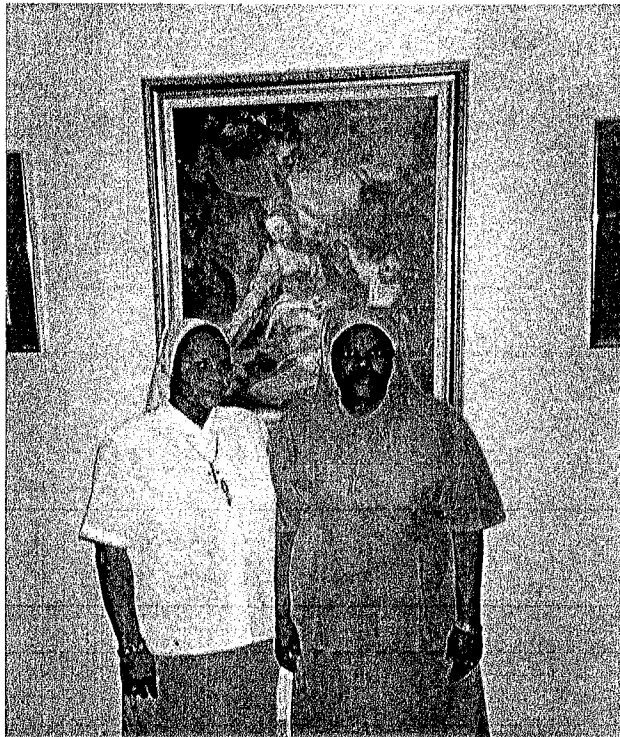
Religious Immigration Services

The RIS enables CCLS to continue its mission by demonstrating support towards the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. It assists the Archdiocese of Miami, many other dioceses, religious communities, and various religious institutions including Hinduism, Anglican, Episcopal, Methodist and Jehovah Witnesses, with their immigration needs.



The RIS provides legal representation and assistance in bringing foreign-born priests, religious men and women, ministers and seminarians from Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Italy, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Poland and Venezuela, for formation, education and/or ministry. It also provides legal representation and assistance for those who are currently present in the United States.

The RIS provides consultation on religious immigration matters, representation of clients as necessary, preparation of various forms, and on-going management of clients cases. It maintains contacts with various U.S. Consular offices abroad. It engages in significant outreach efforts.



"The Church in America must be a vigilant advocate, defending against any unjust restriction the natural right of individual persons to move freely within their own nation and from one nation to another. Attention must be called to the rights of migrants and their families and to respect for their human dignity, even in cases of non-legal immigration,"
Pope John Paul II.

2005 Annual Report

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

CCLS has established:

- Positive Audit of Financial Statements for 2004.
- Initiation of First CCLS Annual Report Book.
- Implementation of Catholic Charities Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami's personnel, financial policies and procedures manuals.
- Recruited and hired employees to fill new and vacant positions.
- Training on Immigration organized by Board Members.
- Opened new satellite office in Homestead.
- Established "New Web" site.
- Improvement of technology infra-structure.
- New Dell computers were purchased in meeting the State of Florida specifications.
- Added routers and network cards and filled each address in our network with a computer or printer.
- Software was coordinated between our computers eliminating the problems of compatibility.
- The addition of DSL has given CCLS the ability to send data to the Oracle system. (Oracle is a Mainframe Database System used by the State Department of Florida).



2005 STAFF DIRECTORY

Randolph P. MCGRORTY
Chief Executive Officer

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

Myriam MEZADIEU
Chief Administrative Officer

(Thomas LONGMAN, CPA
[Contract - CFO])

Nancy FINISSE
Programs Manager

William KRAMER
Bookkeeper

Sabine PIERRE-LOUIS
Office Secretary

Rosena MICHEL
Senior Clerical Assistant

Sr. Romanie GUILLAUME
Finances Clerk

Rosanie HERNANDEZ
Clerical Assistant

Adisson LAVACHE
Security

MIAMI OFFICE: LITIGATION & IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Saran ANGLIN
Attorney-Coordinator

Seymour KLEINFELD
Senior Attorney

Jennifer M. VOLMAR
Staff Attorney

Mariana PAREDES
Staff Attorney

Sara E. DILL
Staff Attorney

Callan GARCIA
Staff Attorney

Sr. Cecilia CHEN
Accredited Representative

Brad GINTER
Accredited Representative

Marie Claire MOISE
Accredited Representative

Alex TELFORT
Accredited Representative

Gerald LAGUERRE
Accredited Representative

Luz CASTILLA
Paralegal

Chesnel DUROSEAU
Paralegal

Soledad VENEGAS
Paralegal

Esperanza ZAMBRANO
Paralegal

Maria Maki MORAN
Paralegal

Jeanette VELAZQUEZ
Paralegal

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Randolph P. MCGRORTY
Juvenile

Myriam MEZADIEU
Special Needs

Tanisha BOWENS
VAWA

Jennifer VOLMAR
Women-At-Risk

Jennifer BARKER
Detention

Alex TELFORT
HRIFA

Luz CASTILLA
Cuban Processing Project

Nancy FINISSE
Citizenship

BROWARD OFFICE
Tanisha BOWENS
Managing Attorney

Jennifer BARKER
Staff Attorney

Marie Regine CHARLES
Accredited Representative

Andrea GUARIN
Legal Assistant

Myriame POUX
Intake Paralegal

Martine LEGAGNEUR
Legal Secretary

MIAMI SPRINGS OFFICE
Luisa PUJOL
Paralegal-Coordinator

Emilio GARCIA
Paralegal

HOMESTEAD OFFICE
Maria Claire MOISE
Coordinator

RELIGIOUS IMMIGRATION
SERVICES
Myriam MEZADIEU
Director

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7101 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33138
Ph: 305-758-3301

Fax: 305-756-6435
Website: www.cclsmiami.org

Broward Office
Bank of America Building
3661 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
Suite 305
Lauderdale Lakes, Florida 33311
Ph: 954-486-2070
Fax: 954-486-5090

Miami Springs Office
700 S. Poinciana Blvd.
Suite 800
Miami Springs, Florida 33166
Ph: 305-887-8333
Fax: 305-883-4498

Homestead Office
110 SE First Drive
Homestead, Florida 33030
Ph: 305-247-4405

DONORS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Catholic Lawyers Guild of South Miami
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
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Lehman Brothers, Inc.
Los Diarios de las Americas
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Mary Kramer, P.A.
Miami-Dade Community Fund
Milner, Inc.
Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Ocean Bank
Office for Refugee Resettlement

Joyce, Eve
 Keller, Christopher & Margaret, M.D.
 Kidwell, Rev. Fr. William, S.J.
 Kotey, Phyllis D.
 Kramer, Mary E., Esq.
 Kurzban, Ira J., Esq.
 Laroche, Rev. Fr. Victor, O.P.
 Maisel, Margaret
 McDermott, John G., M.D.
 McDonnell, Rev. Msgr. Patrick
 McGuirk, James, Esq.
 McKenzie, Cynthia S.
 Merrienboer, Rev. Br. Edward van, O.P.
 Miniaci, Dominick F., Esq.
 Mirow, Matthew C.
 Moise, Rudolph G., D.O., M.D., Esq.
 Morisseau, Guerdie
 Murphy, Timothy, Esq.
 Orta, Margarita
 Paprocki, Most Rev. Thomas J.
 Pena, J. David, Esq.
 Pfister, Ed, Esq.
 Pierre, Andre D., Esq.
 Pompliano, Roseanne
 Pracher, Douglas J.
 Pudpud, Abby, D.O.
 Radcliffe, Byron
 Reinartz, Elizabeth
 Rosenstiel, Lady Blanca A.
 Sabino, Rev. Sr. Rosemary, RSM

+ Salazar, Gloria
 Salter, Vance, Esq.
 Soderlund, Mr. & Mrs. Patt
 Starr, Kenneth I. & Marisa
 Strickman, Danielle D.
 Turcotte, Deacon Richard, Phd.
 Weeks, Rev. Marta S.
 Wenski, Most Rev. Thomas G.

AWARDS RECIPIENTS

2000

Anthony R. ABRAHAM
 Jose "Pepe" COLLADO
 Edwidge DANTICAT
 Herbert KARLINER
 Dr. Diana M. LOPEZ, Phd.
 Honorable Federico A. MORENO
 Msgr. Bryan O. WALSH

2002

Horacio AGUIRRE, Phd.
 First Lady of Florida Columba BUSH
 Carlos de la CRUZ
 Jean-Claude GARCIA-ZAMOR, Phd.
 Manuel M. MEDINA
 Rudolph P. MOISE, D.O., M.D., Esq.

2003

Cesar L. ALVAREZ, Esq.

**Sr. Lucia CECCOTTI & St. Joseph Benedict
COTTOLENGO Sisters
Lydia CHAVEZ-THOMPSON
Michel J. DODARD, M.D.**

**Most Reverend Agustin A. ROMAN, Archdiocese of Miami
Lady Blanka A. ROSENSTIEL, Honorary Consul of
Poland
Erwin M. VASQUEZ, M.D.**

**“ Who is fit to hold power and worthy to act in God’s place?
Those with a passion for the truth, who are horrified with injustice, who act with mercy to the poor,
and take up the cause of the helpless... The work of their hands will endure.” Psalm 24**

Dear Friend of CCLS:

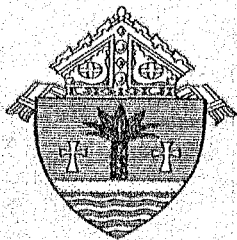
Please accept this humble acknowledgment of your past and/or present generous gifts to Catholic Charities Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami, Inc. I know giving is a deeply held value for you. Giving to charitable causes reinforces our belief that we are good people. Your gifts of time, talent, spiritual guidance, and financial support have always been a tremendous help to us who are seeking to provide immigration legal services to the poorest of South Florida’s poor. Thank you for sharing so many sweet expressions of your love with the immigrants and refugees through CCLS.

Catholic Charities Legal Services is an institution established under the Archdiocese of Miami and, as such, appears as a non-profit charitable entity in the Official Catholic Directory. Therefore, donors may deduct contributions to the institution. We feel especially blessed to count you among our benefactors and are most grateful for your continued support. Your continued gifts will enable us to provide quality legal services to individuals and assist them on the road to citizenship and meaningful participation in our community. Please remember CCLS in your will. For more information, contact us at 305-758-3301, Ext. 213.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Myriam Mezadieu, Chief Administrative Officer



**Catholic Charities
Legal Services
Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.**

7101 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33138
305-758-3301
www.cclsmiami.org

Peace, Justice, and Love for Newcomers