



Saint Michael Parish *is becoming a POWR parish!*

POWR: Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees



Join us as together our parish community helps a legal refugee family begin a safe, new life in the North Andover area.

Why support refugees? Where are your grandparents, great grandparents or great-great grandparents from? Most likely, you can trace your family roots to immigrants or refugees. Now, Pope Francis has charged all of us to welcome and take in refugees. Further, our Catholic faith and the American culture have a strong tradition of sheltering and caring for the homeless and the oppressed for hundreds of years. It is simply the right thing to do.

What is POWR? POWR stands for Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees. It was launched by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and is administrated by Catholic Charities. Its purpose is to welcome pre-qualified refugee families, some who have spent up to fifteen years in a refugee camp, into the United States and then help to get them established here. Our goal as a parish would be to work with one of these families during their first year to welcome them into the community and help them become self-sufficient.

Why St. Michael Parish? We believe that POWR is the perfect match to our parish's *Disciples in Mission* plan as we commit ourselves to be a faith community that welcomes and sees Christ's face in the faces of others. It is an opportunity to give of our time, our talent and our resources to serve others. Our clergy, staff and parish pastoral council believe that partnering with Catholic Charities and the State Department as a POWR parish is in line with our parish mission as well as with who we are as Catholic disciples of Jesus Christ.

Learn More: If you would like to learn more about the POWR program and how to get involved, we encourage you to come to one of the forums at our parish hall on **Wednesday, May 30 at 3pm & 7pm**. All are welcome!

You may also contact Peter & Diane Lafond, co-chairs of the Saint Michael POWR steering committee at 978-687-7098 or at peter@rclafond.com or diane.lafond@verizon.net. Additionally, you can leave a message at the parish pastoral center at 978-686-4050 and someone will contact you.

Saint Michael POWR Steering Committee: Peter & Diane Lafond (co-chairs), Mary Julie Gregoire, Dominic Margaglione, Donna O'Brien, Mary O'Neil, Socorro Ramos, Mary Alice Rock, Bob Tweedie

"Express the Gospel in concrete terms and take in a family of refugees." - Pope Francis