



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Father Seeks Sanctuary at Seattle Cathedral: Beloved Business Owner and Dance Instructor Seeks Legal Remedy to Keep Family Together

Seattle, WA, March 29, 2019: Jaime Rubio Sulficio, father, husband, and community leader, has been received into Sanctuary at Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle. He has a United States citizen son and is married to a U.S. citizen. He seeks a legal remedy that would allow for a stay of deportation to Mexico and allow for the reuniting of his family. He sees the prospect of permanent separation as immoral, arbitrary, and unjust, causing long-term hardship to his wife who faces health challenges and inflicting emotional trauma for his son, a tender six years of age. Going into Sanctuary was not an easy choice. "It's difficult to be apart from my family. I can't imagine not being able to see my son and wife. I will stay in Sanctuary while we find a legal remedy for my situation," states Rubio Sulficio.

The Dean of Saint Mark's Cathedral, The Very Rev. Steven Thomason shares the Cathedral's decision to accept Jaime into Sanctuary: "From our faith teachings, we are instructed to care for our neighbors as ourselves and to offer hospitality and kindness to people in need. Such as is the case for Jaime. We will stand with Jaime and his family until he is granted the opportunity to return home and restart his construction business."

Michael Ramos of the Church Council of Greater Seattle noted, "Local faith communities applaud Saint Mark's Cathedral for providing Sanctuary to Mr. Rubio Sulficio. His courageous step to stop the process of being torn from his family sheds light on the unjust practice of deporting hundreds of thousands of people annually with deep roots in the U.S. and who pose no threat to society. Sanctuary gives a human face to these hard-working, socially-contributing and family-oriented immigrants who belong here."

In welcoming Mr. Rubio Sulficio into Sanctuary and providing support for his family, Saint Mark's recognizes them as part of the congregation's family. They are children of God, deserving of dignity and respect, to be honored for preserving the integrity of their family as a life-affirming, profoundly sacred act. The Church Council of Greater Seattle extends the solidarity of its "For Such a Time as This" network congregations, 150-strong. The Church Council recognizes the loving hospitality of this cathedral, in partnership with justice-seeking organizations, toward protecting family unity and proclaiming in word and deed that what is required of us is "to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).

(more)

The tradition of Sanctuary has deep biblical and historical roots as places of welcome, hospitality, and moral protection in sacred space for people who fear harm or violence towards them. There are nearly 50 immigrants at risk of deportation who have taken Sanctuary in congregations in the United States since 2016.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral strives to be: a house of prayer for all people, where we worship God and proclaim the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ; a loving, welcoming, inclusive community that nurtures faith, encourages service, and integrates social and environmental justice into our lives; a sacred gathering place for the Diocese of Olympia and the broader community in times of crisis, sorrow, and celebration.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral is located at 1245 10th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98102.
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