

In His Own Words

A Reflection from Jaime Rubio, Resident in Sanctuary at Saint Mark's Cathedral since March 2019

"Me and my family were working on my case for almost a decade and been granted to stay with social security number and work permit for several years. Things have changed drastically. Under the current administration they decided that I am not longer granted to stay in the country, and they ask me to leave without any guarantee to be able to return."

HELLO, my name is Jaime Rubio, and this is part of my history. I am currently a resident of Saint Mark's Cathedral as a part of the Sanctuary movement; I am taking Sanctuary in order to stay with my family and keep fighting for a relief on my status.

And to give a brief detail of my history, I am a business owner registered with the Washington Secretary of State under the name of J&K Plastering LLC. I had been an independent contractor for about seven years. I am also a Latin dance instructor and I teach at several studios around Seattle. I volunteer for different organizations including United Way, Rebuilding Together Seattle, Habitat for Humanity, and others.

I am married to an American citizen and together we have a six-year-old son who is also an American citizen.

Being in Sanctuary for about eight months was not easy: me and my family have to face a lot of drastic changes in our lives—like having to adjust to the new financial situation since I can no longer work, and that forced my family to move out of the place that we call our home for so many years.

Also, we must adjust to the new routine, including my son who must move to a different school, and figure out how to drop him off and pick him up, figure out about the groceries, and all the different activities that we used to do as a family. I really can't explain how much stress this situation brings to my family.

For many months everything feels very unreal, dealing with the fear, discouraged, and feeling vulnerable.

For me being the head of my family and very active member of the community, but no longer being able to do so, had been very devastating, which caused me a lot

of depression and anxiety in my daily life—which required for me to seek for counseling in order to maintain my mental stability.

After a few months the situation gradually has been improving thanks to the amazing support that we receive from people everywhere, including the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the congregation of Saint Mark's, the faith community around the Seattle area, the organizations that me and my family volunteer for, the dance community of Seattle, and people everywhere that somehow get connected to our history.



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Knowing there are people out there willing to support and contribute to make the difference in the name of justice really brings hope in our lives.

Working on my case for more than a decade, for

many years it felt like a very lonely fight—but not anymore. It has been an amazing experience to be surrounded by people who trust us and who are there for us.

Through the whole journey, we have been approached by people asking us how they can help or support. I always answer that the best way to support is to keep connected with organizations who are working to get a fair immigration policy for all, gaining awareness that ordinary families who work like anybody else and who hope for a better future are in limbo due to the inhumane immigration policies under the current administration. ♦

The Saint Mark's community is privileged to have Jaime and his family as part of our family, and we stand with them in the fight for immigration reform that respects the dignity of every human being. That is our baptismal covenant promise; that is Liturgical Living.