



## **Miriam Teresa Immigration Legal Fee Fund Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth**

### **Mission:**

Acts of solidarity with migrants and refugees is one of the Priority Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity Issues of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth: “In faithfulness to our long tradition of welcoming the stranger, we advocate for justice for the undocumented, immigrants, and peoples on the move and address policies that compel them to leave their home countries.” The Miriam Teresa Immigration Legal Fee Fund is designed to assist individuals and families who need financial help to regularize their legal status. The fund is named after Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC who was the child of immigrants, was raised in an immigrant community, and who herself suffered from the prejudices to which new immigrants are often subject.

### **Criteria for Application:**

Sisters of Charity and Seton Associates may request financial assistance for individuals or families with whom they have contact through their ministries and who need of financial assistance to cover immigration legal fees. The Miriam Teresa Immigration Legal Fee Fund would support the following:

- fees to lawyers pertaining to immigration
- bond fees for a detained immigrant who is in a legal process
- immigration application fees.

### **Application Process:**

1. Requests are made in writing by sisters or associates. The request will include:

- the name of the sister/associate requesting funds;
- the name and contact information of the proposed recipient of the financial grant;
- the relationship of the sister/associate and the recipient;
- the intended use of the funds and the expected outcome;
- the amount being requested;
- where the funds should be sent if the request is granted.

2. Amount available per recipient:

- a limit of \$500 per request
- a cap of \$1000 per recipient (in the event of future requests from the same person)

3. Written requests will be sent to

Fr. Terrence Moran

Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity

PO Box 476

Convent Station, NJ 07961-0476

[tmoran@scnj.org](mailto:tmoran@scnj.org)

4. The Miriam Teresa Immigration Legal Fee Fund Committee will review all requests in a timely manner. The Committee will be comprised of

- the Director of the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity
- a member of the Sisters of Charity Council
- a member of the Sisters of Charity Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity Committee
- a professional who works in the field of immigration

Financing:

To begin the fund the General Superior and Council would make a significant financial contribution. One of the tasks of the Miriam Teresa Immigration Legal Fee Fund Committee will be to solicit further donations for the fund, e.g. sisters/associates may be invited to “match” the sum contributed by the General Superior and Council; donations will be solicited from other sources.