

**For The Bulletin Of
November 27, 2016**



From Father Robert

Advent comes year after year. Every Advent, we celebrate Jesus' coming as an infant long ago, His ongoing presence with us now, and His return in glory in the future. Advent is also a season of repentance; John the Baptist calls us to "Repent! For the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!" We know, as Christian disciples in the twenty-first century, during each Advent God calls us anew to figure out how to live in relation to a world that frequently wants little or nothing to do with getting ready to celebrate the Incarnation, without giving into an "us versus them" paradigm. We are in the world, but not of it. Ours is the mission to prepare the Lord's way.

The message Christian disciples hear this Advent is first and foremost a message about Who God is and all God does for His people. From the Sunday and Daily Lectionary readings, we hear: God saves, God shelters and protects us, God's light triumphs, God provides nourishment, God comforts and heals, God's justice reigns. Through Advent we learn that in Jesus is the revelation of

Who God is. As disciples, we confess Jesus as Lord, the Son of God, and Son of Man. We trust our salvation is through Him. For even if we were the one lost sheep out of the hundred, Jesus would look for us and call us back. We will be safe forever in His kingdom.

As disciples, our Advent task is to accept the charge to stay awake, to prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming. We do not know when this will be. We can, however, rest assured that God calls us to respond to all those who seek healing, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and justice in ways befitting our belief in Jesus. God's people grieve and experience injustice and heartache. Over and over, the Scriptures of Advent tell us this as well. But God also desires that His people call out, for God has an endless, eternal font of grace to share with us.

As disciples, we live in this joy. On the Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally referred to as *Gaudete or "Rejoice" Sunday*, we celebrate the joy that is ours now and in the future. We believe in the incredible things God has done in Jesus. Together with Him and His body, the church, we guide each other and those in need of hearing God's Word in today's world to the joy of Christmas Time.

Reflecting On The Gospel

Children fight sleep to stay awake when they want to be part of something, want to know what's going on, want to see the end of a game or movie. Try as they might, though, soon their little eyes flutter shut and heads nod (it's the same for us adults as well!). Sleepiness is hard to fight. This is true not only for children, but for everyone when we don't take the time to get the rest we

need. Our physical sleepiness can alert us to spiritual sleepiness. Jesus admonishes in today's gospel to "stay awake!" Try as we might, however, it is difficult to "stay awake" and keep our eyes constantly on Christ's comings. We easily get distracted by all of the everyday demands on our time.

Daily living is filled with planned events at set hours: eating, drinking, marrying, working. In this way, we human beings measure time. For us, time is duration, relentless minutes ticking on. Once past, there is no recovery of lost hours. Wasted time is lost time. Wasted opportunity is lost growth. Wasted preparedness is lost encounter.

There is, however, another time that cannot be measured. God's time, the fullness of time in which is the fullness of Life. God's time has no duration. All simply is. All is full of Life. This describes eternity, and even now in our measured time we experience eternity, God's time. We have those moments when our attentiveness is so acute that the *now* is all there is. When Jesus admonishes us to "stay awake," He is inviting attentiveness to His abiding Presence that is *now* even as its fullness is yet to come. "As it was" and as it is, "so will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man." How we live now has consequences beyond our eating, drinking, marrying, working. How we live now is how we will be: taken into God's time, or left in the never ending succession of hours and days, weeks and years.

How we live in our time is a doorway into God's time. How we live in our time prepares us for Christ's Second Coming, while it also prepares us for

living more fully even now. Advent calls us to immerse ourselves in God's time and to stay awake for the Life that is yet to come – and is already now.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Isaiah admonishes the people of his time to "climb the Lord's mountain...that he may instruct us in His ways." We are thus not at a loss about how we walk in the light and live in God's time. We are to listen to God's instructions, one practical way to "stay awake" and prepare for Christ's coming.

Instruction in God's way – in doing God's will – comes more formally through the readings and homily at Sunday Liturgy or through catechetical instructions. But this is not the only way God teaches us right living. God's instructions also come through people who may ask for our help (giving us the choice to put another's good ahead of our own) or numerous everyday situations when we are faced with making moral choices (such as whether or not to put in an honest day's work). The issue is to *listen* and see in these practical situations - in our own measured time – how God is drawing us into an eternity of time. Our listening means staying awake. Advent will bring us many choices; how we respond is practice in being prepared. Our everyday choices to follow God's ways immerse us in God's time where we already now experience the Life that only God can give.

What will Advent be for you this year? Will you truly make the decision to hear God speak to you through the scriptures? Will you allow the liturgy to help shape how you live the days of this brief season? Will this Advent make any

difference in how you prepare for the Christmas Feast?

- I become overly immersed in the here and now demands of daily living when...What helps me see beyond the here and now is...
- For me, Jesus' command to "stay awake" calls me to...
- I need to use this time of Advent to...



About Liturgy: Liturgy and God's time

For many it seems as though liturgy unfolds the same way week after week except for the obvious changes in the readings, the homily, and music. Liturgy can seem like little more than a succession of words and ritual actions, of postures and gestures, of speaking and listening. We can be caught up in our own time, and lose sight that liturgy draws us into God's time, into an acute experience – brief, though it might be – of God's Presence. The choices we make about how we are at liturgy is a matter of heightening our expectation of when and how "the Son of Man will come." And making good choices in face of His coming.

Obviously, the basic choice for each person is simply deciding to come to Sunday Liturgy. Beyond this, each of us must choose to participate fully,

actively, and consciously. This means that we surrender ourselves to God's time. We join our voices with others in singing God's praises. We *actively listen* to the instructions in God's ways. We enter deeply into the prayer of the liturgy. Perhaps the most persistent choice is to remain focused on the prayer of the liturgy. Perhaps the most persistent choice is to remain focused on the prayer at hand, gently bringing ourselves back to attention whenever our minds wander.

The music offers many opportunities for choices and self-surrender. We choose to join in the singing. We choose to focus on the cantor and enter into the singing of the Responsorial Psalm. When the assembly needs to be prepared to sing something new, we choose to pay attention and learn. Perhaps one of the most important functions of music during the liturgy is its power to move us beyond time as duration and draw us into God's time as perpetual now. For liturgy's bit of time we are immersed in eternity, in the immensity of the coming of "the Son of Man," in God's time that renews us in our resolve to "stay awake."

It is important for us to remember that the Lectionary readings for the first two Sundays of Advent focus not on the infant Jesus being birthed at Bethlehem, but on the risen Christ returning in glory at the end of time. On these two Sundays, we will sing music that reflects this focus and will save music about the coming of the newborn Jesus for the final two Sundays of Advent.

The Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and in Honor of the Sixtieth Anniversary of

Marriage of Len and Geri Chiechi from their children. Congratulations and may God bless you with much happiness and the best of health for all the years to come!



The Giving Tree

Once again this year, The Giving Tree has been placed in the center of the narthex with its ornaments for our principle Advent outreach. You are invited to take one of the ornaments and purchase the gift indicated. The gift is to be brought back **unwrapped** and placed with the ornament tag under The Giving Tree. Gifts will be given to the children of our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg as well as to several local public elementary schools. Thank you for your Advent generosity and thoughtfulness. Your gifts will brighten Christmas for children in ways otherwise not possible.

Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup

This coming Saturday, December 3rd, is the next Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and finishing at 11:00 a.m. The Cleanup is under the direction of the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) of our Antioch Police Department. The site for this

month's effort is along Crestview Drive and Aster Drive between W. 18th St. and W. 10th St. Unfortunately, I will not be able to join in the event this month as I have a funeral that morning, however, I hope there will be at least a few parishioners who will participate. Please let me know if you are able to attend. See the flyer at the back of my Insert for all the details.

The Parish Advent Retreat

“A New Beginning” is the title of our upcoming parish Advent retreat beginning next weekend, December 3rd and 4th with **Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP** and **Sr. Patricia Bruno, OP**. They will preach for the liturgies and then preach and participate in two services each day, Monday, December 5th through Thursday, December 8th. Following the morning liturgy, there will be hospitality and discussion in the parish hall. In the evening, the liturgies will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be modified versions of Evening Prayer with a special ritual focus each evening. The retreat comes to a wonderful conclusion on December 9th, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I hope you will be able to join us for this special spiritual journey that will help us prepare for the Christmas feast.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

This year our celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will take place during the Saturday evening Vigil Liturgy on December 10th at 4:00 p.m. Members of our Guadalupana Society will participate in the Liturgy and her Icon will be placed above and behind the Ambo. A traditional Mexican dinner feast will be offered in the parish hall following the liturgy. A free will

offering will be taken to assist our Guadalupe Society with expenses.

Lessons and Carols

The beautiful traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be celebrated on Sunday afternoon, December 18th, at 3:00 p.m. Special to this year's concert is the presence of the 70 voice Deanery Festival Choir. This service tells the story of the birth of Christ through the proclamation of scripture and exquisite choral anthems and carols that herald the Christ Child's birth. It is the perfect way to prepare for the Christmas Feast. A reception in the Spirit of the Season will take place in the parish hall following the service. Please put the date and time on your calendars and plan to be with us. A free will offering will be received to help offset the costs of the reception.

Environment Help

You are invited to be a part of helping to create the environment for the Christmas Season. We begin on Monday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m. and will work each day of that week until the environment has been completed. It will take many hands to do the transformation from Advent to Christmas and its Season. We have coffee and pastries each morning, lunch at midday, and snacks throughout the afternoons. No response is necessary – just come and join us. It's a great way to prepare personally for the Christmas Feast!

Simbang Gabi

Once again our parish will join the **Deanery Celebration of Simbang Gabi**, a novena of nine days of liturgies in preparation for the Christmas Feast, sponsored by our Filipino Community. We will join the parishes of our Deanery

at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Brentwood. Beginning December 16th, the liturgies will be celebrated through Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 a.m. each morning. I will be presiding and preaching on Thursday, December 22nd and members of our Filipino Ministry will share in the ministry of the liturgy and the traditional Filipino Breakfast that follows in their parish hall.

Our Christmas Environment

Each year, the members of our Art & Environment Committee prepare a beautiful and appropriate environment for the Christmas Season. It does not happen, however, without your help and generosity – the trees, lighting, fabric panels, wreaths, and poinsettias are made possible because of you! Once again we invite you to support the transformation of the sanctuary to Christmas by making donations either In Honor Of or In Loving Memory Of a family member or friend. You may use the envelopes provided in our envelope packet or take an envelope from the Credenza and fill it out accordingly. All donations will be acknowledged in one of the bulletins of the Christmas Season. Once again, thank you for your amazing generosity.

Father Tom's Book of Christmas Meditations

A book of Father Tom Bonacci's Christmas Meditations has been published by "blurb.com, 580 California Street, San Francisco, CA. 94104, Suite 300" and is available for \$19.95 plus shipping and tax, bringing the total to \$24.75. This will make a wonderful Christmas gift.

Christmas Cards for Archbishop Brunett

Please do not forget to include **Archbishop Alexander Brunett** in your Christmas card list. His address is:
Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett
Archbishop Emeritus
Archdiocese of Seattle
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Get Well Cards For San Francisco Police Officer Kevin Downs

I invite you to join me in sending Get Well cards to San Francisco Police Officer Kevin Downs who was shot in the head and who has been released from the hospital and is recovering. Cards, good wishes, and remembrances of prayers may be sent to him as follows:

Officer Kevin Downs
c/o San Francisco Police Officers Association
800 Bryant St., Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

The Smile For A Lifetime Foundation

Since 2010, I have been a founding member of the "Smile For A Lifetime" Foundation that has been established by **Dr. Robert Sheffield**. Since 2011, Dr. Sheffield has been providing free braces to underserved East County children. Every six months, six new children are selected by the Foundation Board to receive braces and orthodontic care. Our parish has not yet had a recipient for this scholarship and if anyone is contemplating or needing braces and has a financial difficulty, please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and apply. Applications are available on line and are due March 30 and September 30. Please go on line to

www.sheffieldortho.com to obtain the application.

Thanksgiving Basket/Boxes Thank You

What an incredible sight to see **217** Thanksgiving Boxes/Baskets brought to the church last weekend for this outreach! Special mention must be made of our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg as they arrived by caravan with **75** boxes/baskets! We are so grateful for their support and that of our parishioners to help make Thanksgiving possible for families who otherwise would not be able to celebrate this day of National Thanksgiving. The boxes/baskets were so beautifully decorated by the children and families who participated, perhaps even more so than in previous years. Each box reflected such care, artistic ability, and thoughtfulness in their decoration. The boxes/baskets were moved from the church at 6:00 a.m. last Monday morning by our Knights of Columbus who brought them into the parish hall in preparation for distribution. I also want to thank **Catherine Vidaurri** who donated bags of fresh vegetables and salad greens from an organic cooperative in Brentwood as well as more than a hundred pounds of butter. Our thanks once again to all who participated in creating the boxes/baskets and to our Knights of Columbus who facilitated the distribution: **Dave Simpson, Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Steve Rojek, Peter Lozano, Bob Carvalho, Jack Goncalves, Robert Goncalves, Tony Burgarino, Bill Barbanica, Brian McCoy, Jose Palomino, Bob Plurkowski, Bill Barbanica, Manny Soliz, Jr., Pablo Villegas, Pablo's daughter and grandson, and Ed Cissell.**

Congratulations Catechumens!

During last Saturday evening's Vigil Liturgy 7 adults and 9 children were welcomed into the Church through the Rite of Acceptance into the Catechumenate. This is one of the largest groups ever to be received into the Church in the history of our parish. Accompanied by their Sponsors, they were signed with the Cross and then received the Sign of the Cross through the imposition of a beautiful pewter cross that is fashioned like the pectoral cross worn by **Pope Francis**. The joy and happiness was evident on their faces, even if they were a bit emotionally overwhelmed, as the ritual unfolded. Congratulations to **Rod and Barbara Connor, Jason Skrdlant, Jessie Okon, Bill and Bea Hatteroth, Brenda Vagenas, Jaxx Armstrong, Jett Armstrong, Jason Dillon, Adriana Bonilla, Cezar Carnero, Chauncey Lewis, John Perez, Gabriel Skrdlant, and Nathan Skrdlant**. Please know that you are being remembered in prayer as you continue on your journey to the Sacraments of Initiation.

Thank You

To all our wonderful parishioner volunteers who give so much of themselves each week to care for our parish and its ministries:
...to those who clean the church and parish hall: **Jun Bejet, Mency Osborne, Kelly Wetzels, Tracy Wetzels, Angela Bueno, Carole Miller, and Steve Rojek**.
...to those to clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Steve Rojek, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young**.
...to those who prepared and facilitated the concert reception last Friday

evening: **Will Avitabile, Catherine Vidaurri, Harlan Young, Judy Quicho, Frances Rojek, Sharon Simpson, Lorraine Lohmeier, Brian McCoy, Pam Silva, Yvette Young, and Nancy Newton**.

...to those who prepare and facilitated the reception following last Sunday's Sung Evening Prayer for the Feast of St. Cecilia: **Frances Rojek, Lorraine Lohmeier, Steve and Frances Rojek, Maryann Peddicord, Sofie Zimmerman, and Samantha Peralto**.

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who washes and irons all the sacred linens each week.
...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Sofie Zimmerman, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Alicia Perez, Rowena Cayaban, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona**.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and David Jackson**.

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho and Belen Farin**.

A Personal Christmas Request

Each year, many parishioners gift me with home-baked Christmas cookies, candy, pastries, breads, etc. as well as wonderful bottles of wine.

Unfortunately, I am not able to enjoy these gifts of your love and appreciation as I have adopted a “No Sugar – No Grains” approach to my diet. While I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity, I am no longer eating anything with processed sugar, no breads, no pasta, no rice, no potatoes, etc. and that includes no alcohol. Thank you for your support and understanding. Perhaps you would consider making a donation to our Antioch Police Activities League for Children, or any one of our local shelters, or Winter Nights Shelter, or any other worthy cause/charity.



Bishops' meeting was boring, with flashes of inspiration

[Thomas Reese](#) | Nov. 17, 2016 [Faith and Justice](#)
[USCCB Fall 2016](#)

There was little interesting or inspiring about the [meeting](#) of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore this week. Much of the meeting was devoted to bureaucratic business like the approval of [plans and programs](#), and minor liturgical and canonical items.

The most controversial item on the agenda was an increase in diocesan assessments (which failed) and a change in the assessment formula. Bishops, like taxpayers, don't want to see their taxes raised.

Some excitement surrounded the [election](#) of officers and committee chairs.

It was no surprise that Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was elected USCCB president since he was elected vice president three years ago and the vice president normally succeeds the president. The election of Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez was historic since not only is he the first Hispanic vice president of the conference, he is also a Mexican immigrant. He will undoubtedly be elected president in three years. The two will be an interesting team. DiNardo is a blunt-speaking, no-nonsense prelate whom journalists are looking forward to covering. Gomez, on the other hand, is a gentle, pastoral bishop who shrinks from the limelight. At a joint press conference, DiNardo answered question after question while Gomez appeared happy to simply sit back and observe. But after each response, DiNardo asked Gomez what he thought, encouraging him to respond. DiNardo would not let Gomez hide.

The vote for chair-elect of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace was the most revelatory of the current makeup of the conference membership. Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for Military Services beat out Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego for chair by a vote of 127-88. Moderate bishops (there

are very few liberal bishops) voted for McElroy and the conservatives voted for Broglio.

As personal secretary to Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state (1991-2006), Broglio antagonized then Cardinal Bergoglio and the other Argentine bishops whose recommendations for episcopal appointments were routinely rejected by Sodano. McElroy, on the other hand, has pushed the conference to be more supportive of the priorities of Pope Francis. He probably lost some votes by pushing too hard.

The vote for chair-elect of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis had a similar breakdown with 122 for Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, and 90 votes for Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn.

A routine agenda item for the meeting turned out to be one of the most emotionally charged. Carolyn Woo, the president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the international relief and development agency of the U.S. bishops, was slated to deliver a report to the bishops on the work of CRS.

It was Woo's last such address since in January she is ending her five-year term as head of CRS and will return to South Bend, the home of Notre Dame business school where she worked when the bishops recruited her.* Although Woo's immediate predecessor, Ken Hackett, had led Catholic Relief Services for 18 years — making her five-year tenure seem short by all appearance — hers was a routine move back to an academic life.

Woo's address Monday seemed routine as she described CRS's work, but then there was a hitch in her voice and she could be seen fighting back tears when she said she wanted to talk about "the divisions I see" that hinder the work of Catholic Relief Services. She didn't give details about these divisions, but Catholic Relief Services has been attacked by right-wing Catholics accusing it of ignoring church teaching on birth control and abortion. She related what she called "the most chilling" event in her time at CRS, a conversation with a person who let her know there would be no compromise over contentious issues. She said, "I was told, 'Carolyn, we can't compromise. When we are winning, we can't compromise. When we're losing, we can't compromise.'" "Wow, I thought, when can we collaborate?" Woo said. She ended her presentation with what she called "a simple request."

"Whenever you are wondering what CRS is doing," she told the bishops sitting before her, "I'd like you to ask the question differently, 'What are we doing?'"

Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, Okla., chair of the Catholic Relief Services board, followed Woo on the podium and he picked up where she left off. He told his fellow bishops that as Woo was speaking he had received another scandalous email from the LePanto Institute, which devotes a whole [page of its website](#) to attacking CRS. The LePanto Institute [describes itself](#) as "a research and education organization dedicated to the defense of the Catholic Church against assaults from without as well as from within," including from "heretics" and "traitors."

Coakley told the bishops, "I want you to know that Catholic Relief Services is Catholic through and through. I hope you will not give any credence to this particular blogger."

The room responded with a standing ovation.

Another moving [presentation](#) was made by Bishop Gregory Mansour on persecution of Christians in the Middle East. Referred to by almost everyone as Bishop Gregory, he is head of the Maronite Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn and a leading voice for Christians in the Middle East. Although they are suffering terribly, Mansour does not portray the Christians as mere victims, but rather as very active in responding to the terrible tragedy of their countries.

"Although the vast majority of today's refugees are non-Christian, the vast majority of those who serve them are Christians, who continue to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth," Mansour said. "Today Christians are more united than ever, through a common suffering, a common martyrdom, and a common assistance given to those in need."

His frustration that the plight of Christians in the Middle East has been ignored was evident. To help these Christians he called for advocacy, humanitarian aid and ecumenical support.

With regards to advocacy, he asked the bishops to urge the U.S. government to increase U.S. humanitarian aid and development assistance for refugees as well as internally displaced persons. He

also called for aid to those countries in the region hosting large refugee populations.

With regard to admission of refugees into the United States, "All of the bishops have been very clear that we welcome refugees," he said at the press conference on Thursday. "We have been doing it for years. We are all part migrants."

In response to a question, he said he did not want American boots on the ground nor the arming of Christian militias. He did note that Russia's support and America's opposition to Assad is complicating matters in Syria. "The West should not determine who stays as a public figure and who doesn't," he said. "Those are things that have to be done on the ground."

The bishop thinks that "because Russia was on one side and America was on another side, it made that civil war a lot more unclear and a lot more filled with hatred."

The United States must "find a way to work with Russia and to work with the allies of Iran and work with our own allies," he said, "and maybe to rethink some of our own allegiances so that we can find a solution for Syria, find a solution for Yemen, find a solution for Iraq, find a solution for all the Middle East."

The need for humanitarian aid for Christians in the Middle East is great. Syrians will need help in rebuilding their churches, hospitals, schools, homes and livelihoods. He suggested linking or twining parishes and dioceses in the U.S. with those in the Middle East. He also

called for continued funding from groups like Catholic Relief Services, Aid to the Church in Need, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, and the Knights of Columbus.

Finally, he called for working with interfaith partners to draw attention to the need for basic human rights, full citizenship rights, and religious freedom for people in the Middle East. He noted that Catholics have good relations with Jews and Muslims but all three groups need to work together for peace.

Much of the USCCB November meeting was boring. Much to the disappointment of the journalists, the bishops were not interested in talking about the new president, Donald Trump, at least not in public sessions. Outgoing USCCB President Joseph Kurtz, archbishop of Louisville, said the bishops were uncertain where Trump stood on many issues but they looked forward to having conversations with the incoming administration in order to find out what parts of the bishops' agenda might get adopted.

President-elect DiNardo was hopeful that judicial appointments would favor the bishops' pro-life agenda.

The bishops, however, were clearly worried about what Trump might do to immigrants, especially in breaking up families and deporting those who are undocumented. Early on the first day, they approved a [statement](#) in support of the immigrant community in the United States. The dialogue they hope to have with the administration will be helped by the fact that the two new leaders of the conference come from the two states

with the most immigrants, and one of those leaders is an immigrant himself.

**A sentence has been corrected to clarify that Woo is returning to South Bend, Ind., after she ends her five-year term as head of CRS.*

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