

ONE HEART

From the JPIC Commission—2026

Dear Sisters and Associates,

We invite you once again to participate in the One Heart Project which we have been doing for many years. This is our communal opportunity to give at the time of Valentine's Day. We have picked three recipients and invite you to choose one or more of them to receive your personal donation. In keeping with our Chapter directional statement, to care for *all creation*, we have designated three groups that represent local, national, and international needs...caring for God's people for whom life is a struggle.



- *Guardian Angel Community Services (GACS)* — Local project that began as “Guardian Angel Home” by Joliet Franciscans in 1897.
- *Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)* — National need project for immigrant and refugee support.
- *Bethany House of Hospitality* — International project. We have co-sponsored Bethany House since its inception. Sr. Dolores Zemont is the President of the Board of Directors of Bethany House.

See the 2026 ONE HEART Project Descriptions.

How it works: Choose one or more of the three groups researched and chosen by the JPIC commission. Please use the One Heart form in the January 2026 mailing. Decide an amount for each of your choices. Nothing is too small. Send in the form and your donation to the address below.

Mail form and donation to: *JPIC, One Heart*
 1433 Essington Rd
 Joliet IL 60435-2873

Write checks to: *Sisters of St. Francis*

Due date: *Saturday, February 14, 2026*

OUR COMMUNAL ACT OF LOVE FOR VALENTINE’S DAY!

2026 ONE HEART PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Local Project – GUARDIAN ANGEL COMMUNITY SERVICES



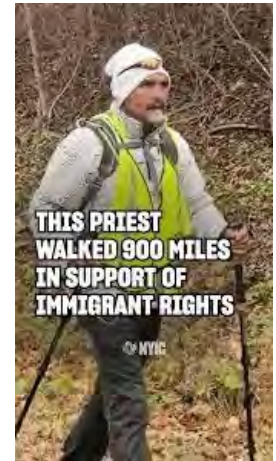
Guardian Angel Community Services began as “Guardian Angel Home” by Joliet Franciscans in 1897. GACS provides diverse services that inspire people to improve the quality of their lives in their greatest time of need. Their many services include legal and financial assistance, counseling and guidance for domestic violence, emergency shelter and hotline services.



National Project – ILLINOIS COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS



JPIC chose ICIRR because refugees and immigrants are particularly vulnerable and frightened at this time. The purpose of ICIRR is to connect immigrant communities throughout Illinois to a full range of support, such as promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees, providing assistance to families being affected by the immigration detention, partnering with legal organizations and working for just and humane immigration policies.



International Project – BETHANY HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY



Since its opening in October 2017, Bethany House has welcomed more than 138 women with 59 small children. They come from 30 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and South and Central America. The average length of stay is 10 months. More than 75% of the young women who stay at Bethany House arrive on their 18th birthday from government shelters. While at Bethany, the women take ESL, GED or high school classes while they work on their legal case, access medical care and prepare for next steps in their journey.

