CMFN TODAY

El Sembrador
WALKING TOWARD THE KINGDOM WITHOUT FEAR

Fall Edition 2026

HOPE IN ACTION

Voz Profética 40th Anniversary Conference

The Voz Profética Conference, held at Loyola University in Chicago in August, brought together CMFN national farmworker leaders and key stakeholders to pray, engage in theological reflection on our mission's history and current realities, and discern a strategic path forward.

As the signs of the times change, so does the mission of CMFN. We are evolving from accompanying local dioceses in farmworker ministry, into a national prophetic voice. Grounded on forty years of service, we listen and respond to the prophetic voice of today's migrant and resident men and women laborers to announce the good news of their historical presence for Church and society, and to denounce the criminalizing narrative and violence against farmworkers.

Fr Tom Florek, SJ
Executive Director, CMFN



Participants of the *Voz Profética* conference held at Chicago's Loyola University



The *Voz Profética* missioning liturgy

In August 2026, thirty-five participants and presenters gathered in Chicago, men and women who have crossed paths with migrant farmworkers on their journey to find work and hope in our country.

At this gathering, entitled Prophetic Voice, we affirmed that their voices serve as a source of encouragement and a call to action. Guided by a spirit of synodality, we sought to discern how the God of Jesus wishes to accompany them today. As we listened to the testimonies and experiences of each participant, our hearts burned within us, bringing to mind the migrant farmworker friends who have left an indelible mark on our own lives.

How could we not continue to proclaim their dignity in such a hostile world?

How could we not affirm their rights within a political climate that leaves them vulnerable?

How could we not demand justice in labor relations for migrant workers?

How could we not organize hope — a hope that not only sustains them on their journey but also sparks a conversion within the communities where they arrive?

How could we not show them that the Church—the prophetic People of God—walks alongside them, embracing their sufferings and their demands as its own?

The mission is already underway. Drawing on forty years of experience, the CMFN has identified concrete tasks, and we have committed ourselves to translating these into "good news" within the daily life of our communities.

Fr Jesus Flores
President, CMFN Board of Directors

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"We are called together by the voices of men, women, and entire families who have set out on a journey — migrants who serve as silent prophets."

Fr Jesus Flores

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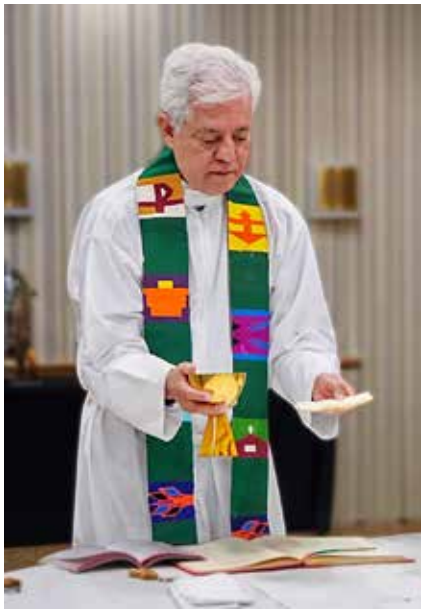
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Voz Profética session at Loyola



Dinner at the Jesuit community



Fr Jesus Flores saying mass at the end of the working day.

Views and activities from the *Voz Profética* held at Chicago Loyola University in August '26. Guided by the *sensus fidelium* and the *magisterium*, we listened to Christ in the heart of the farmworker community to announce the good news of their historical presence for Church and society, and to denounce the criminalizing narrative and violence against farmworkers.



Pilsen neighborhood, Chicago, Fr Dempsey and Marianna Miller LUC-IPS



Fr. Mike Imperial celebrates the retreat mass at the Jesuit community



A night on the town in Pilsen

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"Their very lives — with all their concerns, struggles, fears, and threats that loom over them — become a voice that both proclaims hope and denounces injustice."

Fr Jesus Flores

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CMFN EXPANDS SEMBRADOR ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM

As CMFN strengthens its faith-based leadership and networking on a national level, it is expanding efforts to establish collaborative farmworker accompaniment teams locally and regionally. The Sembrador Formation initiative is underway in the Raleigh, NC and Monterey CA with outreach to their neighboring dioceses.

In each of these dioceses, individual parishes and organizations have historically been committed to serving farmworkers. The Sembrador Formation intuitive works to build relationships among the parish farmworker ministry efforts to mutually share, support resources, and build a sustainable network crossing parish and diocesan boundaries.

Deacon Joshua Klickman, Coordinator for Human Life and Dignity of the Raleigh diocese, has invited neighboring dioceses, "I am proposing online meetings during the year that can lead to in-person gatherings so we can strengthen the ministry in our region and fulfill the command of Jesus to 'make disciples of all nations.'"



Outdoor mass for Haitian workers with Fr Mike Imperial and Fr Tom Florek, Eastern Shore,VA



Sister Migdalia Flores with women workers at a South Carolina packing plant



Monterey, CA diocese coordinator, Socorro Lagarda-Quiroz dispensing needed items to working mothers in the fields



Lunch gathering of the Cabrini Collaborative migrant farmworker support group and CMFN

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The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.

Catholic Social Teaching

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AMIDST FEAR, THE COMMUNITY FOUND HOPE THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION



"I have to speak up for my parents who do not have a voice. They came here to the United States to have a decent and honorable life," said Aron, a member of our parish youth group. After Fr. Tom's visit to the Eastern Shore, the young people of the parish gathered to pray and reflect on the immigration situation in our community.

I could hear from their voices that hope raised from fear is like a fire burning in their hearts. It was not rage against the dying of the light but hope coming to birth that is nurtured and shaped by faith and community life. **The young voices become the prophetic voice of our time, who stood for human dignity, an unbreakable love for family, solidarity, and hope amidst injustice and persecution.**

The Eastern Shore had just been hit by a three-week ICE operation. Food trucks were closed. Buying *maseca* (corn flour) became a risky endeavor. Traveling on roads was perilous for migrants..

Somewhere, amidst fear, the community found hope through collective action. *Ojos Abiertos* became the light post to warn the early commuters about the perilous road of the day. Women asserted their unshakable role as mothers of the community through organized *dispensas*, food assistance for families with kids at risk or had family in detention centers.

Our community has been lifted by the support we've received from CMFN. This part of the Delmarva peninsula became the locus of *census fidelium*; to speak is to encounter the God of Hope in the community.

Fr Mike Imperial

BEGINNINGS OF THE MIGRANT SUPPORT COMMUNITY IN SOUTH CAROLINA



In 2020, the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentian priests) began exploring a collaborative ministry with immigrant communities. The Vincentian priests and Daughters of Charity formed a team to assess needs, and Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of the Diocese of Charleston recommended focusing on migrant farmworkers so they would feel part of the diocese.

Recognizing the lack of pastoral care, Sr Paula Gallant, Sr Consuelo Tovar, and Sr Migdalia Flores moved to Lexington, SC in September 2021. As the ministry developed, we also identified health, legal, educational, and other service providers across the diocese and state that could help address farm workers' practical needs.

The ministry began without a clear roadmap, but relationships and presence became its foundation. We accepted invitations to *quinceañeras*, weddings, birthdays, and other gatherings to know the people and understand life around the farms. Building trust required patience, openness, and a willingness to listen without judgment. We learned to navigate uncertainty and recognize that every farm operates and is managed differently.

Sr Migdalia Flores

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In the face of injustices, inequalities, where human dignity is trampled upon, where the weak are deprived of their voice: To hope is to take a stand!

Pope Leo XIV
Jubilee Audience
November 22, 2025

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SISTER MIRIAM BANNON REJOINING CMFN STAFF



We are happy to welcome back Sister Miriam Bannon to the Catholic Migrant Farmworkers Network. Sr Bannon served as a prior executive director of CMFN from 2013 to 2015. Following that service, she began a ten year journey with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word deepening her commitment to ministry among families of the disappeared in Mexico.

Miriam's journey of growth in faith and justice re encounters the growth of CMFN marching forward, maturing as a national collaboration in our renewed prophetic mission among farmworkers. Her previous CMFN leadership experience and excellent skill set will help strengthen the next phase of our commitment.

Miriam begins in January, 2027.

GRATITUDE...

CMFN is unique. We are the only Catholic organization directly accompanying farmworkers and their pastoral agents.

CMFN is growing. Recently blessed with financial gifts from religious congregations, institutions, and individuals who understand prophetic voice encountered at the periphery, we have resources to grow in our mission.

We pledge to use our gratitude as the engine for powering our commitment to raise the prophetic voice of hope through accompaniment of migrant workers, and education of parish communities.

Individual Doners

Fr Richard Notter, Mary Walsh Wincklebleck, Fr Gerald Waris

Organizational Doners

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, ACTA , Father Robert E. Burke Memorail Trust Fund, Redemptorists: Seelos Province of North America, UMI Society of Jesus, Diocese of Raleigh, NC

In-Kind Services

David Cody, Adan Martinez, Claudia Rivera, Sergio Pages, Ramon Calzada, Immaculate Conception Church, Chicago

CMFN FALL CALENDAR

Nov 1	All Saints Day
Nov 2	All Souls Day
Nov 5	Sembrador Formation webinar, Raleigh Diocese
Nov 14-15	USCCB Baltimore Bishops meeting, CMFN presentation
Dec 3	*Misa con los/las trabajadores agrícolas a las 3:00am con el obispo, Yuma, AZ*
Dec 4	Marco Tavares CMFN Webinar "Our Lady of Guadalupe Speaks To Us Today: *Profética"*
Jan 15	Sr Miriam Bannon joins the CMFN



Invitation flyer for the Raleigh, NC diocese Sembrador Formation webinar to be held on 11/05/26.



Invitation flyer for the Marco Tavares CMFN Webinar "Our Lady of Guadalupe Speaks To Us Today: *Profética*" 12/04/26.

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...the "rejected stones" – the poor, the sick, the migrants and the least among us – will become the cornerstone.

Encyclical, Magnificat Humanitas
Remaining Human # 15