



CENTER FOR JUSTICE &
RECONCILIATION

SOJOURNERS

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25th Annual Posada Sin Fronteras **Freedom to Migrate: No Forced Migration**

A cross border celebration of unity where the border meets the ocean

San Diego, CA– On Saturday, December 15th from 12:30 pm -4 pm, a group of multiracial faith leaders will gather at Friendship Park, located within Border Field State Park in Imperial Beach, to host the 25th annual *Posada Sin Fronteras*. Posada participants will gather on both sides of the border fence to commemorate Joseph and Mary’s search for shelter on Christmas Eve and the Christian call to care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger in our midst. The attendees of the posada will mournfully remember in prayer those who have died at the US-Mexico border this year. Participants will sing Christmas carols and listen to speakers from both sides of the border describe the impact of families separated by forced migration and deportations. This year’s master of ceremonies on the US side will be Rev. Melissa Tucker, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene in Mission Valley and Pastor Jennifer Guerra Aldana, La Fuente Ministries and coordinator of Multicultural Initiatives at Fuller Youth Institute. Mary Galvan of the Coalition for the Defense of Migrants will preside on the Tijuana side.

“Our theme, ‘Freedom to Migrate: No Forced Migration’ calls attention to the plight of those seeking asylum into our country because of economic and political oppression and the threat of violence in their homeland,” said one of the event coordinators Rev. Dr. Jamie Gates, Director of Point Loma Nazarene University’s Center for Justice and Reconciliation.

Co-organizers of the event include the Catholic Diocese of San Diego, First United Methodist Church, San Diego First Church of the Nazarene, First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, The Global Immersion Project, Point Loma Nazarene University’s Center for Justice and Reconciliation and numerous faith-based and human rights groups in Tijuana.

What: Bi-national faith leaders and participants lead a procession from the parking lot of Border Field State Park to Friendship Park to meet a delegation faith leaders and participants on the Mexican side of the border wall on Monument Mesa, where the Border meets the ocean.

When: 12:30pm: **Press Conference at Border Field State Park**|1250 Monument Road, San Diego

1pm: Guided walk to Friendship Park

2-2:30pm: Orientation to Posadas and this particular Posada Sin Fronteras

2:30-4pm: Traditional La Posada Sin Fronteras program

4pm: Return Walk on the US side

Where: Press Conference at Border Field State Park|1250 Monument Road, San Diego, CA
Posada will take place in Friendship Park (Monument Mesa) and Las Playas, Mexico

Who: Press Conference Speakers include:

Pastor Jennifer Guerra Aldana, La Fuente Ministries, Fuller Youth Institute

Bishop John P. Dolan of San Diego Catholic Church

Rev. Dr. Jamie Gates, Center for Justice and Reconciliation at Point Loma Nazarene University

Bishop Grant Hagiya, United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Laurie Krause – Presbyterian Disaster Release

Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Jim Wallis, Sojourners

Others

Visuals: Clergy with religious attire leading religious service on both side of the border at the same time. Faith leaders wearing clerical attire hosting traditional *posada* service. Estimated crowd of 300+ attendees processing to, singing, praying, celebrating at the border wall. Families and children will be present. Press conference will be primarily in English. Posada litany will be in Spanish-English.

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About Point Loma Nazarene University's Center for Justice Reconciliation

[Point Loma Nazarene's Center for Justice and Reconciliation](#) (CJR) at Point Loma Nazarene University exists to study poverty and oppression and teach Christian means of social engagement. The Center's work includes student-led initiatives, nationally recognized research projects, community leadership and educational outreach. The CJR is a leading regional and national voice confronting human trafficking. In 2014 the CJR founded the Beauty for Ashes Scholarship Fund to support college scholarships for survivors of human trafficking. In 2016, the CJR released the findings of a U.S. Department of Justice funded research study, "The Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego County". In 2015, the CJR was invited to lead a collaboration to develop a human trafficking awareness and prevention curriculum. KNOW MORE! is now being implemented in schools across the county.